

Skyguide takes over weather radar maintenance under new collaboration with MeteoSwiss

Geneva, 12 January 2012. Skyguide, Switzerland's air navigation services provider, has newly assumed responsibility for technical maintenance activities at the weather radar facilities of MeteoSwiss, the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology, at La Dôle, on Monte Lema and on the Albis Ridge. The new collaboration also extends to providing maintenance for two further MeteoSwiss radar stations which are currently being planned for sites in the Valais and Grisons regions.

From this year onwards, it is planned that skyguide will make twice-yearly maintenance visits to the various weather radar stations that are operated by MeteoSwiss. The first such visit is scheduled to take place in April 2012 for the Monte Lema facility. The new-generation radars which MeteoSchweiz began to install last year provide, among others, higher resolution pictures and more detailed information on storm cells and areas of precipitation. The data supplied are of great importance to numerous domains of activities such as aviation, insurance, agriculture, civil protection and tourism.

Skyguide will also be offering an on-call exceptional maintenance service under the new collaboration. "We have been working closely with MeteoSwiss for some time," says Robert Stadler, Head of Skyguide Technical Services. "So we're delighted that they have chosen us as their partner to maintain their weather radar stations, and we look forward to further intensifying our collaboration."

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services within Swiss airspace and in the airspace of certain adjoining regions in neighbouring countries. The company guides the civil and military aircraft entrusted to its care – around 3,170 flights a day or 1.16 million a year – through the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe.

Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation. The company generated total operating revenue of over CHF 365 million in 2010, and employs some 1,400 people at 14 locations in Switzerland. Skyguide is also a member, together with its partner organizations in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, of the FABEC initiative to create a common functional airspace block that will bring greater efficiency to Central Europe's air traffic management services and activities.
