

## **Tenth anniversary of Überlingen accident: approach to safety has changed radically**

**Geneva, 26 June 2012.** Sunday 1 July 2012 marks the tenth anniversary of the mid-air collision in the skies above Überlingen. These days, the personnel of skyguide is in thoughts with the victims of the disaster and their loved ones, as well as with the people from the region who brought their help after the accident.

It was on 1 July 2002 that a passenger aircraft of Bashkirian Airlines collided with a dedicated freighter of logistics provider DHL in the skyguide-controlled airspace above Überlingen in Southern Germany. Seventy-one people lost their lives. Ten years on, the tragedy remains a source of strong emotions to skyguide and all its employees; and the victims, the bereaved and the people from the Überlingen region who helped will be much in their thoughts on this anniversary day.

### **Skyguide profoundly transformed its safety culture**

The Überlingen accident transformed attitudes and approaches to safety in both the Swiss and the international aviation world. All the safety recommendations formulated by the investigating authorities were implemented by skyguide in full. Switzerland's air navigation service provider has also consistently further developed and expanded its own Safety Management System in the intervening decade.

Today at skyguide, some 40 specialists are dedicated exclusively to safety issues, and the Safety department is directly attached to the Executive Board. At the same time, skyguide cultivates and promotes an open and broad supporting safety culture. All the company's 1,400 employees are sensitised to safety issues and concerns in appropriate training courses. Each staff member is entirely free to report without prejudice and to request the investigation of an incident or any matter they have observed. Open exchange about safety issues is also fostered with partners, customers and authorities. Air navigation services thus substantially contribute to constantly further reinforcing safety and safety culture within the aviation industry.

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services in Switzerland and in certain parts of neighbouring countries. With its 1,400 employees active at 14 locations in Switzerland, skyguide safely and efficiently guides some 3,270 flights civil and military aircraft a day – or 1.2 million a year – through the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide stands for continuous improvement, focussed innovation and creative cooperation. Together with its partner organisations in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the company forms the FABEC alliance in charge of managing Central Europe's airspace. 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.

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