

Air traffic control at the WEF in Davos – a special challenge

Geneva, 31 January 2013. Skyguide has been responsible for providing safe and efficient air traffic control services at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos for the last 10 years. Each year a temporary control tower (known as Davos-Stilli) is built, which is manned by four air traffic controllers during the WEF. This year the air traffic controllers cleared around 300 helicopters for take-off and landing.

Structure of the control tower in Davos

The temporary air traffic control tower is built every year at the beginning of January in Davos-Stilli on the shores of Lake Davos. It consists of three containers stacked on top of one another. One of the containers is the control room, where the air traffic controllers manage all the incoming and outgoing flights. The entire temporary heliport is built and operated by the canton of Graubünden. As the tower is inside the police security zone, it is not accessible to external visitors.

A special experience for the air traffic controllers

The air traffic controllers working in Davos this year are normally employed at the airfields in Grenchen, Emmen and Altenrhein. Two controllers are on duty at any one time. Helicopters can take off and land between 8.00 in the morning and 22.00 in the evening. Working as an air traffic controller at the WEF is always a special experience because of the prominent guests from the worlds of business, politics and culture.

Weather conditions caused no problems for helicopters

The air traffic control service cleared around 300 helicopters for take-off and landing in Davos this year. The good weather conditions ensured that everything went smoothly. In previous years, visitors leaving Davos have had to travel by train or car instead because of poor weather, with the resulting journeys taking much longer.

Coordination

This year the effective collaboration and coordination between the police force of the canton of Graubünden, the Swiss Army and the pilots once again ensured that many of the guests in Davos experienced a pleasant arrival and departure.

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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services in Switzerland and in parts of neighbouring countries. It has 1400 employees working in 14 different locations and safely and efficiently guides around 3270 civil and military flights a day, or 1.2 million a year, through the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide focuses on continuous improvement, targeted innovation and creative cooperation. Together with its partner organisations in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the company forms part of the FABEC alliance, which is responsible for managing Central Europe's airspace. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. It is majority-owned by the Swiss Confederation.
