

Air Traffic Controllers to remotely navigate Budapest Airport's traffic

15 November 2017, Budapest – as a result of HungaroControl's latest innovation, the so called Remote Tower system, Budapest Airport (BUD) will be the first among the world's medium-capacity airports, where the arrival and departure air traffic control can be independent from airport environment.

The arrival and departure air traffic at the Budapest Airport (BUD) is currently controlled from the 34-year-old emblematic control tower of the once called Ferihegy Airport. With the help of the new concept of HungaroControl's latest innovation, the 'virtual' tower (rTWR), Hungarian air traffic controllers are ready to navigate from a remote centre instead of a tower located at the airport – as pioneers among the medium-capacity airports.

The basis of the Hungarian concept is the integration of the existing surface-based navigation system and camera network, which enables long-term solutions for safe and adequate services to airport operations. With the help of the rTWR controllers can watch the images of the airport environment on a video wall. The virtual tower utilizes opportunities provided by the latest technology. Out of 14 cameras 3 have a zoom function as well as an infra technology that enable eligible visibility even in extreme weather conditions. Both runways and the whole apron are displayed by controllers' needs. As an additional innovation, the live picture can be labelled with graphic symbols and data that help the staff in service provision. As a result of the innovation aviation becomes even safer and also the situational awareness of air traffic controllers can be improved.

'I naturally encourage every innovation, this time HungaroControl dared to dream big, and was the first among the world's medium-sized and medium-capacity airports to develop a remote tower solution. This 21st century innovation is not only giving answer for the actual challenges at the air navigation systems but it is also a pioneer in the sector. The success of the project was guaranteed by HungaroControl's professionalism, reliability and commitment.' - said Miklós Seszták, dr., Minister for National Development at the inauguration ceremony on Tuesday.

'HungaroControl is planning a constant live operation with remote technology by 2020. As the remote tower solution is a cost-efficient business development platform for regional and seasonal airports, several international partners has already shown their interest to our concept.' - said Kornél Szepessy, CEO of HungaroControl

According to the forecast the number of flights in Europe will reach 16.9 million by 2030. Air navigation systems need to follow the trends generated by the rapidly increasing air traffic and the challenges regarding flight safety and capacity. The mission of HungaroControl is to meet these expectations with continuous innovations.

HungaroControl is one of the leading ANSPs in Europe aiming for the improvement of flight safety, increasing efficiency of air traffic management, reducing prices of flight tickets and developing procedures supporting environment protection.

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About HungaroControl

HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Services Pte. Ltd. Co. is one of the world's leading air navigation companies due to its world class technology, developments and services. It is the initiator and cooperative partner of the EU integration program Single European Skye (SES).

According to EUROCONTROL statistics and forecasts, nearly 10 million flights a year are in operation in Europe, but this number may be doubled in the next 20 years. EUROCONTROL has anticipated a 5-6% yearly growth in the area managed by HungaroControl. However, the 7.8% increase in the overall summer traffic and the 9.8% expansion of the Liszt Ferenc International Airport goes far beyond that.

As a result of its complex efforts, as of 3 April 2014, NATO entrusted HungaroControl with the management of the traffic in the upper airspace of Kosovo. In February 2015, well ahead of the 1 January 2022 deadline set by the European Union, HungaroControl was the first in Europe to introduce the Free Route Airspace without restrictions to the full domestic climate.

With all of its investments, HungaroControl aims to grant the regional cooperation of the seven Central European countries, the Central European Functional Airspace Block (FAB CE), providing competitive services and working at the highest technical and technological level.