

Budapest, 8 May 2015

Air Navigation Research and Development Platform Established in Hungary

HungaroControl and thirteen Hungarian institutes lay the foundation of a regional knowledge centre

On 8 May 2015, HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Services Pte. Ltd. concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with eleven higher education institutes and with the Institute for Transport Sciences (KTI) and the Institute of Computer Science and Control of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (SZTAKI) about the establishment of a Research and Development Platform. The purpose of the cooperation is to explore areas of research, development and innovation closely related to air navigation activities, to coordinate common projects, to support the research work of students and teachers, to support the development of international relations, and to use the benefits of possible EU funding.

Initiated by HungaroControl, the development of a national air navigation knowledge base will start by coordinating Hungarian universities and institutes active in the development of the aviation industry. The purpose of the cooperation is to support research work in Hungary, to create the link between Hungarian research and development efforts and European initiatives, and this way to lay the foundation of a regional air navigation knowledge centre. By supplementing each other's knowledge capital, participants of the platform will perform successfully in national and international research and development programs, will test new methods more efficiently, and will implement new technologies faster. By improving its research, development and innovation activities, HungaroControl will respond to challenges that the air navigation service providers of Europe are facing due to the increase of air traffic on the continent and the efforts of the regulatory framework of the European Union's Single European Sky (SES) for integration and for the improvement of efficiency.

Within the framework of the cooperation HungaroControl will work together with the renowned experts of the Institute for Transport Sciences (KTI) and the Institute of Computer Science and Control of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (SZTAKI), as well as with the researchers from the following higher education institutes: Corvinus University of Budapest, Department of Marketing and Institute of Management; Budapest University of Technology, Faculty of Transportation Engineering and Vehicle Engineering and Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics; University of Debrecen; Kecskemét College; National University of Public Service; College of

Nyíregyháza; University of Pannonia; Széchenyi István University. The international air navigation research, development and innovation centre of HungaroControl will offer unique training and simulation infrastructure opportunities for the experts of the institutes participating in the cooperation platform.

'With its constant innovations, and with the use of its research and development results, HungaroControl is one of the leading ANSPs in Europe in the field of flight safety improvement, capacity increase, cost reductions for airlines, and environmental protection. The intensive cooperation with these higher education institutes will give a new boost to our developments, and it will contribute to the establishment of a regional air navigation knowledge centre. Furthermore, the effective use of the common knowledge capital will encourage the development of high added-value products and solutions that can be interesting for international markets as well' – says Kornél Szepessy, CEO of HungaroControl.

The cooperation between HungaroControl and Hungarian higher education establishments has in recent years contributed to the quality improvement of university education related to technical developments in aviation. It has also contributed to providing well-prepared teachers based on the human resources demands of the industry. The cooperation partners have achieved significant results internationally by developing tools which serve flight safety and help determine the exact route and position of aircraft more accurately. The new agreement will further improve the opportunities provided by the synergy between Hungarian and European institutes.

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About HungaroControl

Due to its state-of-the-art technology and cutting-edge developments and services, HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt is one of the most accurate, most efficient and most reliable service providers in international aviation, and an active regional initiator and co-operating partner of the European Union's integration efforts under the Single European Sky.

According to EUROCONTROL's statistical data and forecasts, the number of flights in Europe is 10 million per annum, and in the next 20 years this figure may even double. During the past few years HungaroControl has launched several significant projects to improve its air navigation services, guarantee the safe management of the increasing air traffic, and promote the imminent success of the integration undertaken by the European Union.

In addition to improving its traditional air navigation services and technical and technological background, one of HungaroControl's strategic objectives is the establishment of a Central European air navigation knowledge centre in the next two to three years in a joint effort with its partners. The handing over of the new air navigation centre allowed HungaroControl to relocate its businesses engaged in innovation to a single site, the building vacated by ANS. The establishment of a knowledge centre is justified by increasing international market demand for research and development, simulation and training to support air navigation, which is partly generated by European integration and the establishment of functional airspace blocks.

The purpose of HungaroControl's capital investment projects is to enable the Central European Functional Airspace Block (FAB CE), a regional co-operation of seven Central European countries, to provide excellent services and operate at the highest technical and technological standard.

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