



HungaroControl

Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt.

PRESS RELEASE

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New Communication Channel to Improve the Efficiency of Hungarian Air Traffic Management

Text messaging between pilots and controllers

HungaroControl launched its large-scale CPDLC (Controller Pilot Data Link Communications) project with the aim of developing the Hungarian air traffic infrastructure with the most modern technology in accordance with European integration requirements (Single European Sky, SES). In addition to verbal communication, pilots and controllers will be able to communicate using data link services, by exchanging text messages. The purpose of the high technology programme is to improve flight safety and increase the capacity of Hungarian air navigation by optimising the use of the increasingly saturated radio frequencies. The project's total budget amounts to EUR 6.8 million, 80 percent of which is financed by HungaroControl Zrt., while the remaining amount, more than EUR 1.4 million will be co-financed by the European Union through the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

CPDLC services will be launched in the Hungarian airspace in February 2015, as a function of the upgraded version of MATIAS (Magyar Automated and Integrated Air Traffic System), one of the world's most advanced air traffic control systems.

With the introduction of CPDLC, an additional communication channel will be available for pilots and controllers to send non-time critical messages. Thus, in addition to verbal dialogues, information can be exchanged within a shorter time, and as opposed to the previous practice, controllers will be able to communicate with several pilots simultaneously, which will greatly increase air traffic management capacity. CPDLC will accelerate routine performance, and the congestion of voice channels used in air traffic control may be reduced if the radio frequency load is released. Data link communication will also reduce misunderstandings caused by interferences as well as errors due to aircrew fatigue, as a result of which flight safety will further be improved. HungaroControl's MATIAS Build 10.1 air navigation software will also be able to prevent accidental posting of messages as a result of 'misclicking'.

The project includes setting up the communication infrastructure and the establishment of the Hungarian regulatory background, which is in accordance with relevant recommendations of EUROCONTROL (European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation) and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). The project also contains the selection of the network telecommunication service provider, as well as educational and simulation activities.

"HungaroControl has always been a pioneer in the adoption of new technologies: it was the first in the world to process and display complex data downloaded directly from aircraft for controllers (Mode S technology), and in the Central European region the Hungarian air navigation service provider's system was the first that was capable of the new, call signal-based identification, which will be mandatorily used all over Europe by 2020. HungaroControl



HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt. | 1675 Budapest, Pf. 80

ceo@hungarocontrol.hu | www.hungarocontrol.hu

E-mail: info@hungarocontrol.hu

Telefon: (06 1) 293 4444



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is also in the vanguard of developing the CPDLC technology in Europe, and we are convinced



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that using data link communication may considerably improve flight safety and the capacity of air navigation service providers”, said Kornél Szepessy, Chief Executive Officer of HungaroControl as an evaluation of the project.

Introduction of data link services for controller–pilot communication (CPDLC) between the systems used by air traffic control systems and aircraft is required by Commission Regulation (EC) No 29/2009 laying down requirements on data link services for the SES. The European Union’s SES objective mandatorily requires the introduction of this service in the entire European airspace as from February 2015. HungaroControl’s project also meets the expectations of SESAR European ATM Master Plan, which encourages the modernisation of air traffic services.

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About HungaroControl

Due to its state-of-the-art technology, cutting-edge developments and services, HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Services 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 statistics and forecasts, the number of flights above Europe is close to 10 million per annum; however, in the next 20 years this figure may even double. During the last few years, HungaroControl launched several significant projects to improve its air navigation services, guarantee the safe management of the increasing air traffic, and promote the success of the soon-to-arrive 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. Handing over the new air navigation centre allowed HungaroControl to relocate its innovative businesses to a single place, in 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, partly generated by European integration and the establishment of functional airspace blocks.

HungaroControl’s purpose in all of its 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.

For further information feel free to contact

*Katalin Szőke, HungaroControl Zrt.
Head of Communication Department
E-mail: katalin.j.szoke@hungarocontrol.hu
Telephone: +36-1-293-4034*



HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt. | 1675 Budapest, Pf. 80
ceo@hungarocontrol.hu | www.hungarocontrol.hu
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