



## PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 27 September 2011

### Successful take-off: Entry Point Central Air Navigation Academy opened

The next generation of air traffic controllers will receive world class training

The training of the first students has started at Entry Point Central International Air Navigation Academy in Budapest established by collaboration of HungaroControl and Scandinavian Entry Point North. The opening ceremony was held with the participation of dr. Pál Völner, Minister of State for Infrastructure, the Swedish, Danish and Norwegian ambassadors in Hungary as well as the Hungarian and foreign professional representatives on 27 September 2011.

Four months after the Agreement of Cooperation was signed, the students who wish to become the air traffic controllers of the future and receive training at the Academy, which was founded by one of the most renowned training centres in Europe, were now able to take their seats behind the school desks. Entry Point Central will begin training Hungarian students at first, but the doors are open to people from other countries as well.

The opening ceremony not only saw prominent Hungarian and foreign figures of the profession, but also had distinguished guests such as Siri Ellen Sletner, ambassador of Norway and Mads Sandau-Jensen, ambassador of Denmark as well as Eddy Fonyódy, secretary responsible for political issues, representing Sweden.

**Dr. Pál Völner**, Hungary's Minister of State for Infrastructure emphasized: "Even after its term of the Presidency of the European Council, Hungary continues to treat the question of strengthening international relations in the transport sector as a priority. The partnership of HungaroControl and Entry Point North is exemplary because it creates professional cross-border cooperation in the very important area of training, while serving the interests of the entire region, and hence accomplishing one of the objectives of the European Union."

*"Training may have never been as important as it is today when the organisation of aviation is undergoing major transformation. The Single European Sky programme will change air navigation services which will lend outstanding significance, beyond technical and technological harmonisation and the human factor, to the high-standard training of professionals",* said **Kornél Szepessy**, CEO of HungaroControl.

**Ms Anne Kathrine Jensen**, Managing Director of Entry Point North said: *"The way I see it is that Entry Point Central serves as another good example of how Air Traffic Management will develop in Europe. Everywhere we look around – partnerships is the way forward. It becomes*



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increasingly difficult to stand alone, demands are high to work together creating synergies and harmonized cost-effective solutions.”

“Students will be trained to become air traffic controllers by the application of internationally accepted training materials and special methodology”, described the training **Gábor Menráth**, head of the new Academy operating in the Central Office of HungaroControl. He added that “the Scandinavian training system is unique in the sense that students, parallel with classroom training, are given practical tasks from the very beginning, which is missing in modern radar and tower simulators. The instructors closely monitor the progress of each student, and this individually-tailored support enables us to reduce the number of examinations students are required to take each year, and at the same time, it has proven to increase the efficiency of training. The young students acquire the basic elements of the profession in English language. The ones that pass the strict final examination will obtain highly-prestigious qualifications recognized by all Member States of the European Union.”

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#### Background:

#### **HungaroControl**

Owing to its state-of-the-art technology, top-ranking developments and services, HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Services Pte. Ltd. Co. is one of the most accurate, efficient and reliable service providers of air traffic control. The company is an active regional initiator and cooperating partner in the Union integration planned to be accomplished under frameworks of the Single European Sky.

One of the strategic objectives of HungaroControl is to establish a Central-European air navigation knowledge centre jointly with its partners. The endeavours of the Hungarian Air Navigation Services are justified by the increase in demand for simulation, research-development and training, which is partly generated by the establishment of the European integration and the Functional Airspace Blocks (FAB). The first stage of the establishment of the knowledge centre was the opening of the Budapest research-development and simulation centre (CRDS) on 10 May 2011; the second step is the launch of Entry Point Central International Academy. With the establishment of the knowledge centre, HungaroControl aims to make regional cooperation of 7 Central-European countries formed as a part of the Single European Sky programme the most highly acclaimed Functional Airspace Block providing one of the best services in Europe and operating at the highest technical-technological level.

#### **About Entry Point North**



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Entry Point North is an award winning Air Traffic Management academy certified throughout Europe by national civil aviation authorities. Entry Point North was the first ATM academy accredited under the European Commission's directives towards the vision of the Single European Sky by 2020.

The academy is a total training solution provider, providing a wide range of services:

- Training for air traffic controllers and air traffic services personnel,
- Selection and recruitment according to EUROCONTROL FEAST testing
- Certified aviation English testing,
- Various consultancy services for ANSPs.

Every year up to 100 aspiring ATCOs from various countries begin their ab-initio training at its modern facilities in Malmö, Sweden. Specialized courses within Human Factors and Safety areas are also offered to the entire range of ATM personnel. These courses develop the individual's non-technical skills such as decision-making and interpersonal communication. In addition, they also provide a broad range of related ATM training courses and consultancies.

The customers served are both regional and international public and private ANSPs, airports, airlines as well military clients, and services are delivered throughout Europe, Middle East and the Far East.

Entry Point North is a recognized international academy with more than 70 employees and consultants from across 8 countries. It has more than 180 state-of-the-art simulator positions, and furthermore two 360° tower simulators from 2010 and thirteen new 180° tower simulators – all with high resolution 3D image generation. In addition, the academy has a CBT facility with 40 positions to ensure and reinforce the maximum learning capability throughout the courses.



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