

The European Commission recommends Hungarian ATM development projects for funding

Budapest, 20 September, 2016 – The European Commission recommends two Air Traffic Management (ATM) development projects – elaborated by HungaroControl's experts – for funding. One project aims to extend Free Route Airspace (FRA) across European borders, the other aims to support the safe and efficient flow of aircraft arriving at Vienna airport while in the Hungarian airspace.

HungaroControl submitted its proposals with the professional support of the Ministry of National Development. The total budget for the two projects amounts to EUR 3.1 million, 85% of which (more than EUR 2.6 million) is co-financed by the European Union's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

One project recommended for funding is an extension to the FRA (Free Route Airspace) feasibility study, co-financed in 2015. This will enable MATIAS (HungaroControl's air traffic management system) to handle cross-border Free Route Airspace and thus to support the introduction of extended cross-border Free Route Airspace in selected FAB CE (Functional Airspace Block Central Europe) countries. The project also aims to upgrade MATIAS' FDP (Flight Data Processing) functionality to make the system capable of supporting flexible airspace planning and use – as this is a pre-requisite to introducing cross-border Free Route Airspace.

The other project recommended for funding by the European Commission aims to upgrade MATIAS by adding new functionality to support the safe and efficient flow of aircraft arriving at Vienna airport in the Hungarian airspace. The objective of the project is to support the AMAN (Arrival Management) system serving Vienna airport by adding AMAN and E-AMAN (Extended AMAN) functionality to the MATIAS system. This project will be accomplished by a consortium led by the Austrian air navigation service provider (ANSP), with HungaroControl and the Czech and Slovak ANSPs as further participants.

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About HungaroControl

Due to its state-of-the-art technology and developments and services, HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt is one of the renowned 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.

As a result of combined efforts and on commission from NATO, since 3 April 2014, HungaroControl has been managing civilian air traffic overflights in the upper airspace over Kosovo. In February 2015 HungaroControl was the first to adopt Free Route Airspace use without any limitations in Hungary's entire airspace, well before the deadline (1 January 2022) set by the European Commission.

In addition to improving its traditional air navigation services and technical and technological background, one of HungaroControl's strategic steps is the establishment of a regional, Central European air navigation knowledge centre in joint effort with its partners.

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 competitive services and operate at the highest technical and technological standard.

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