

DSNA and Thales on track to deliver 4-FLIGHT in winter 2021/2022



Faced with significant traffic increase across France, the French air navigation service provider DSNA and Thales, the world leader in ATM, have been working together to implement 4-FLIGHT, a new-generation ATM system for en-route control. Two area control centres (ACCs) located in Marseille and Reims are due to be operational in the winter of 2021/2022. The Paris ACC will be operational in the winter of 2022/2023.

4-FLIGHT is a complex ATM programme that encompasses the development of a new-generation stripless control system for high-density airspace. It incorporates the Coflight advanced flight data processing system, a user interface offering a range of innovative control tools, and an advanced simulation environment. This new platform is a major enabler for the integration of the innovative solutions developed for SESAR, the technical pillar of the Single European Sky. 4-FLIGHT will ultimately equip all five French ACCs.

This long-term programme, co-financed by Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA), the European Union agency in charge of harmonising and modernising European transport links, is designed to meet the challenges of the Single European Sky. 4-FLIGHT achieved a number of significant milestones in 2018 based on incremental deployment principles, live system trials, which began in 2017 at the Marseille and Reims ACCs during reduced night-time service hours, and have continued successfully, even with the complexity of these trials progressively increasing. Software version validations are also taking place incrementally, and feedback on the latest release has been very positive. Three additional versions are planned to provide the system with the full operational capability required for routine operations.

"The 4-FLIGHT programme deployment is progressing well and the latest software upgrades and system trials have been a great success, with the first operational deployment expected in the winter of 2021/2022. 4-FLIGHT benefits from the latest technologies available, in line with the Single European Sky objectives, to optimise the efficiency of European Air Traffic Management, and we are proud to be contributing to this important undertaking."

Jean Ferré, Thales Vice President, Air Traffic Management activities

"The operations rooms of our two pilot centres are subject to further transformation in order to accommodate sufficient 4-FLIGHT suites without downgrading capacity. At the Reims ACC, half of the control suites are already equipped. We are also focused on the launch of conversion training for our operational Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) and Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel (ATSEPs). This is another big challenge that the ACCs must deal with at the same time. With 4-FLIGHT, DSNA will offer higher quality, more competitive and fully SESAR-aligned services to all aircraft operators in some of Europe's busiest airspace."

Maurice GEORGES, CEO DSNA



DSNA

THALES

World ATM Congress, Madrid, 13 March 2019

About Thales

The people we all rely on to make the world go round – they rely on Thales. Our customers come to us with big ambitions: to make life better, to keep us safer. Combining a unique diversity of expertise, talents and cultures, our architects design and deliver extraordinary high technology solutions. Solutions that make tomorrow possible, today. From the bottom of the oceans to the depth of space and cyberspace, we help our customers think smarter and act faster - mastering ever greater complexity and every decisive moment along the way.

With 66,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €15.9 billion in 2018.

About DSNA

DSNA (Direction des Services de la Navigation Aérienne), the French Air Navigation Service Provider, handled 3.2 million flights in 2018 and reached the traffic peak day record in Europe on 6 July 2018, handling a total of 11,105 flights.

Key Data: 5 ACCs & 75 Control Towers & 3 overseas regional structures / Staff: 7,400

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