

**iTEC partners and EUROCONTROL
to develop interoperability capabilities
essential for a Single European Sky**

It was reported from Madrid last month that EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, through its Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC), and the Founding Members of the iTEC Collaboration, some of Europe's largest Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP's), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop components that will enable interoperability between their respective Air Traffic Management systems and help deliver a Single European Sky.

This MoU will see the two organisations jointly develop the Flight Object Manager (FOM) and the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) Node that will underpin the future exchange of flight trajectory data.

Sharing of this data is essential to deliver the SESAR* concept of operations outlined in the European ATM Master plan and meet the growing demand for air travel in Europe in a safe and efficient way.

The European Commission's Pilot Common Project legislation, which outlines core functionalities required to be implemented by law as part of plans to modernise Europe's air traffic management system, includes a requirement to share flight trajectories between Air Navigation Service Providers and the Network Manager by 2025. The Flight Object Manager (FOM) and the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) components that will be jointly developed as a result of this MoU will enable that to happen.

It is understood that the SESAR IOP operational concepts are being validated in SESAR projects thanks to the collaboration between European Air Navigation Service Providers and Industry.

Outcome of these validations will be incorporated into the Standards being developed by EUROCAE, the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Equipment, which forms the basis of Industrialisation Projects that will lead to the deployment of the Flight Object Interoperability concept.

Enrique Maurer, Chair of the iTEC Board/Steering Group, said: *'This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the full commitment of the iTEC Alliance to ensuring interoperability, a key component of the Single European Sky and the European ATM Masterplan. We look forward to working with EUROCONTROL on this important initiative.'*

John Santurbano, Director of EUROCONTROL MUAC, concluded with:
‘Improving the performance of the European ATM system together with our stakeholders is our priority. With this cooperative venture, EUROCONTROL and the members of iTEC will actively develop the much-needed interoperability that will help us all cope efficiently with growing traffic demand.’

*Single European Sky ATM Research programme

Picture caption

From left: Enrique Maurer, Chair of the iTEC Board/Steering Group and John Santurbano, Director of EUROCONTROL MUAC signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).