

Greek Civil Aviation Authority

Navigation Aids infrastructure modernisation

It was announced last month that the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority had awarded Thales a contract to support the modernisation of the Greek civil aviation navigation aids infrastructure.

This turnkey contract includes the supply of ten Doppler VHF Omnidirectional Range (DVOR) beacons, thirteen Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and six Instrument Landing Systems (ILS). It also comprises installation of instruments on eighteen different sites across the country, from remote mountain peaks, to major hubs such as Athens International Airport.

The Navigation Surveillance capabilities will ensure all-weather, en route navigation and approach services and will significantly increase both safety and air traffic efficiency.

Navigation Aids (NAVAIDS) are physical devices on the ground that assist pilots defining an aircraft's position during landing, take-off as well as during the flight to accurately navigate through the airspace.

The DVOR and DME are ground-based radiofrequency and processing beacon systems that provide bearing and distance to the aircraft crew to verify the position and to navigate in the air space within the predefined routes and flight procedures (the sky highways) in full situation awareness and safe conditions.

The ILS (Instrumental Landing System) is a ground-based radiofrequency system, installed at the airport runway that generates an electromagnetic path for the pilots to follow during the critical landing manoeuvre. The ILS increases safety and reliability and, as a result, enhances the efficiency of approach and landing procedure especially under poor weather and visibility conditions.

All these instruments must run twenty-four hours a day, week in, week out without any unpredicted service interruptions to ensure the safety of air travellers. These systems are fully designed and manufactured by Thales to ensure the highest level of precision, interoperability and reliability.

Over 60% of this project will be executed locally in collaboration with Greek Industries including Thales Hellas, highlighting the country's technical expertise in delivering critical infrastructures.

To quote Christophe Salomon, Executive Vice President, Thales - Land & Air Systems: *'This award is a testament to the Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority's*

renewed confidence in Thales as a partner to provide advanced ground-based air navigation systems. We are proud to support Greece's initiative to provide an even safer and more efficient airspace for travellers.'

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