

For immediate release, 21 October 2008

First Airlines obtain ADS-B Airworthiness Approval

Brussels, Belgium – Air France, Air One and Volkswagen, three of the 18 aircraft operators participating in EUROCONTROL's ADS-B Pioneer Airlines project, have become the world's first airlines to obtain EASA's approval to use ADS-B in airspace not covered by radar.

The airworthiness approval, covers Airbus, Boeing and Dassault airframes and allows ADS-B messages broadcast via 1090 MHz Extended Squitter to be used as the sole surveillance source for an air traffic control service. Currently Portugal, the Netherlands, Greece, Italy and Turkey are committed to implementing ADS-B in those parts of their airspace not covered by radar. The EASA approval is also valid in the Hudson Bay area of Canada where the ADS-B operational service will commence in November 2008.

"Approval by EASA of ADS-B use in European airspace is a major step forward and will create opportunities for fuel and emission savings, whilst enhancing safety levels," said Alex Wandels, Manager of EUROCONTROL's CASCADE programme. "Following the approval from EASA, we know that the airlines are eager to begin using ADS-B in their daily operations, in addition to participating in trials."

ADS-B relies on aircraft broadcasting their identity, position and velocity (both GNSS-based). This signal can be captured by receivers on the ground ("ADS-B out") or on board other aircraft ("ADS-B in"). ADS-B is recognised as an essential element in SESAR and in the FAA's NextGen programme.

A Single European Sky Implementing Rule mandating the carriage of ADS-B from 2015 onwards will be published for consultation in the coming weeks. Similar rules are being developed in Canada, Australia and the United States.

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EUROCONTROL's CASCADE programme co-ordinates the implementation of initial ADS-B applications in Europe. It performs trials, clarifies operational scenarios, drives the production of global standards and produces both safety and business cases, paving the way for operational approval. Implementation of "ADS-B out" is expected to start in Europe from 2009 onwards.

For more information on the CASCADE programme, please visit the Web site:
www.eurocontrol.int/cascade

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Note to Editors:

EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment. EUROCONTROL has 38 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland,

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Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. On 8 October 2002, the Member States and the European Community signed a Protocol on the Accession of the European Community to the revised EUROCONTROL Convention. Pending its entry into force after ratification by all Parties, certain provisions of the Protocol are already being provisionally applied.

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GLOSSARY:

ADS-B: Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast

ANSP: Air Navigation Service Provider

ATM: Air Traffic Management

CASCADE: Co-operative ATS (Air Traffic Services) through Surveillance and Communication Applications Deployed in ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference)

CRISTAL: Cooperative Validation of Surveillance Techniques and Applications

GNSS: Global Navigation Satellite System

SESAR: Single European Sky ATM Research Programme