THE FRAMEWORK FOR OUTSTANDING AVIATION PERFORMANCE

Hannu Juurakko, Vice President ATM and Chairman of the ATM Executive Board at Frequentis believes in the open and integrated ATM ecosystem combining operational efficiency, business continuity for operational infrastructure, and the highest degree of safety. He shared his views ahead of Airspace World in Geneva.

FREQUENTIS
FOR A SAFER WORLD

Frequentis is redefining the world of ATM with its new integrated ATM ecosystem approach and its impact on the industry. Can you tell us more?

Over the years Frequentis has placed an enormous effort into the development of its portfolio. We have done this by introducing new innovations, acquiring new companies and forming partnerships with leading market players. This has allowed us to build up an impressive portfolio that addresses the key requirements of air navigation service providers (ANSPs), airports and, with our uncrewed traffic management (UTM) approach, public services. Our aim has always been to listen to our customers and to support them with their challenges. When it comes to integrating new technologies, this could involve moving to new operational models and securing the business continuity while implementing sustainable aviation initiatives. Following this, the next step in our strategy is to bring together market leading technologies as one integrated ATM ecosystem. This creates superior operational efficiency whilst still delivering the highest degree of safety and security blueprint.

Are we right to say that the ecosystem can be seen as the collaboration model of the future? How do you define the ecosystem?

I do believe that the way we work together with ANSPs, airports or other aviation stakeholders is changing. The same can be said for a lot of players in the ATM industry, whether this is vendors that have been on the market for a long time or start-ups. We see the ecosystem as a collaboration model. Here, Frequentis can integrate third party solutions with its own set of solutions into one operational environment. This creates significant productivity benefits and reduces operational risks. A good example of this is digitalisation with artificial intelligence where multiple data sources can be combined into one comprehensive overview for the air traffic controller (ATCO). This makes their work more efficient, guiding them to the right decisions faster.

Frequentis has always had a very solid focus on technology, are we right to say that there is a stronger willingness to become the leading integrator in the ATM world?

We have always had, and will continue to have, a solid focus on technology and engineering. Developing technologies and solutions for a safer world has been our goal for over 75 years and will remain a key aspect for our company. Just looking at the many projects we have delivered over the years, you can see that our role is to ensure that all components from technology to applications work perfectly, and we are known that we always complete our projects and deliver our obligations. This is to ensure that customers can start operations or move to new platforms within the agreed timeframe.

One of the strongholds of Frequentis as a company is having a clear focus on the evolution of the technology, and the ability to integrate these into a complete offer that fully supports our customer goals. The result is that the customer can rely upon one company to assume full responsibility to optimise traffic, set up the digital tower or integrate all aspects of voice communications. Whatever the project, our ambition remains to deliver the optimal solution to the customer, maintaining full responsibility to make it work.

Hannu Juurakko is Frequentis Vice President ATM and Chairman of the ATM Executive Board. His background includes more than two decades in the telecoms industry, holding various roles in high availability, mission-critical system development.

FREQUENTIS: 75 YEARS OF SUPPORT TO PUBLIC SERVICES

Frequentis' safety-critical communication and information solutions leverage more than seventy-five years of cross-industry experience in civil aviation, defence, public safety, and public transportation markets. Frequentis ATM helps ANSPs worldwide deliver safer and more secure capacity for airspace users in a cost-efficient way. Frequentis ensures the safety of 95% of the world's passengers and aircraft.

What would you say are the foundations to realise this strategy?

As I mentioned earlier, our experience with projects in safety-critical environments has been ongoing since 1947. This has resulted in an extensive expertise and a deep understanding of customers' needs, which will always be a solid basis for what we do.

Part of this is also how we deal with innovation and the role it plays in any development, both in the operational aspects and the integration of products. We use innovation daily, in all projects, and do not confine it purely to an Innovation Lab setting. Customers then benefit sooner from state-of-the art technologies and solutions.

Another aspect is our approach to products and solutions acting as an integrated portfolio, allowing products to be operated in a stand-alone solution but also integrated with third party products into one overall system. This creates more operational advantages and systems become more user friendly because of this harmonised operational platform and controller user interfaces.

How will this one ecosystem adapt to the ever-changing demands of the ATM industry?

We work with open interfaces to allow easy, fast and safer integration with systems installed within ATC, the operations centre and many others. The end goal should always be to help our customers seamlessly and efficiently move to new systems and operational models. This can only be achieved by collaborating both with customers and other players on the market in integrated project teams. Here we have a world where ANSPs, airports and other stakeholders being locked-in to one vendor is a thing of the past. Now the provider that can bring all solutions together to create a unified end-to-end view with a choice, is the one that will be the most successful.

The other foundations are optimising operations and increasing performance through digitalisation. Here we think of a better data exchange and the combination of data from multiple sources. When we bring these together, and we use technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) we can help the controller make faster, fact-based decisions.

Meet us at Airspace World in Geneva, stand F17 to find out more.