

**ENAIRe** 


# "WE WANT TO TURN ENAIRe INTO A GLOBAL AIR NAVIGATION OPERATOR"

## ENRIQUE MAURER

CEO of ENAIRe, a global operator of efficient, safe and sustainable air navigation services

Enrique Maurer, the new CEO of Spain's air navigation service provider, ENAIRe, has accepted the challenge of leveraging the company's leadership in its sector to turn it into a global operator by including new services such as drones and space traffic.

### ON 10 JUNE, YOU BECAME ENAIRe'S GENERAL MANAGER AFTER LEADING THE AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES DIRECTORATE. HOW WOULD YOU SUMMARISE THE PAST FEW MONTHS?

On the whole they have been very positive and give continuity to ENAIRe's strategic commitments. Our mission is to provide air navigation services with the maximum safety, quality, efficiency and sustainability, without ignoring the company's innovation and internationalisation.

### ON 25 AUGUST, THE NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT FOR AIR CONTROLLERS HAS COME INTO FORCE. WHAT DOES THIS AGREEMENT ENTAIL?

This new Agreement has a lot to offer ENAIRe and its 2,100 air traffic controllers. This is the first Agreement signed with controllers in 24 years, since the First Control Agreement. It is a great deal for stability as we seek to make ENAIRe more competitive and improve their careers. The Agreement will allow us to continue strengthening the path to transform and improve our services, while striking a work-life balance.

### HOW WAS THE SUMMER SEASON, AND HOW IS THE AIR TRAFFIC FORECAST SET TO EVOLVE?

We have to wait for the September data, but we're going to close out an outstanding summer season. On 22 July, with 7,449 operations, we beat the single-day record set in 2019, which was being used as the reference year. The July and August figures confirm the sector's recovery following the standstill brought on by the pandemic in 2020, as well as ENAIRe's leading role among European air navigation service providers. This year is expected to be one of a series of new highs for aviation. And for 2027, the forecast for Spain points to growth of 15% over the 2019 baseline.

Last year, with traffic equivalent to the record year of 2019 during the high summer season, ENAIRe was congratulated by EUROCONTROL for our contribution to the recovery of air traffic and the quality of our service. This year, Spain will surpass the cumulative traffic figures for 2019 much more so than other European countries, with notable traffic increases in several regions.

### WHAT DRIVES ENAIRE'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONALISATION?

We view internationalisation as a challenge and as an opportunity. We can compete successfully and become a benchmark operator for the provision of new services on a global level, as well as for new players in the sector, such as drones and space traffic. The challenge is to integrate these new actors safely, effectively and sustainably.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS SAFETY TO ENAIRE?

Safety is in our DNA. Since 2015, we have held over 128 safety management committee meetings, led by General Management; we have created specific work groups with trade unions and professional associations to promote safety; an observatory with the Official Pilots Association and multiple Just Culture initiatives to promote incident reporting with a focus on improvement and prediction, using big data to analyse causal factors. ENAIRE has received the highest score in Europe on the operational safety key performance indicator for four years in a row. Our level of safety is a measure of our quality as an operator.

### WHAT ROLES DO TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT PLAY IN DIGITISATION AT ENAIRE?

I would highlight the changes in the controllers' workstation, with the implementation of important features to assist in air traffic management through digital links, security networks, as well as advanced conflict management and decision-making tools.

### HOW IS ENAIRE POSITIONED TO PROVIDE NEW SERVICES?

In terms of efficient and flexible use by civil and military users, the application of new concepts such as Free Route procedures will yield increased environmental sustainability through optimised routes. In the field of drones, the U-space concept is being implemented in Spain, which will enable operational areas to be phased in for this type of unmanned vehicle alongside conventional airspace. ENAIRE is in the process of being certified and designated a provider of common information services (CIS) for all drone service providers (USSP). In the field of space management, we are working hard on various initiatives and working groups, in coordination with various ministries. The challenge is to integrate drones, Urban Air Mobility (air taxis) and aerospace aviation as safely as possible.

The [planea.enaire.es](http://planea.enaire.es) website allows professional drone operators to submit their aeronautical safety study so their request can be processed by the Operations Management units, towers and air control centres involved in the operation.

ENAIRE Planea is also integrated with other tools from ENAIRE's aeronautical information service, such as ENAIRE Drones ([drones.enaire.es](http://drones.enaire.es)) and Insignia ([insignia.enaire.es](http://insignia.enaire.es)).

### HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE GROUPS WITHIN ENAIRE TO THE ORGANISATION'S INITIATIVES?

Our people are our real driver of change. Technological modernisation, our new modes of operation, new services; all these initiatives can only be viewed through the involvement and teamwork of our people. I would also note the devotion of ENAIRE and its entire team to serving our customers: they are our *raison d'être* and are, together with safety, in our DNA.

### WHAT DOES ENAIRE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE EXPODRÓNICA AIR SHOW AT THE WORLD SPACE SUMMIT AND IN THE FIRST EDITION OF AIRSPACE INTEGRATION MEAN?

These three events are a very important meeting point for professionals in the global aviation sector and industry. The Airspace Integration Congress is an opportunity to showcase our commitment to sustainability and to present our new catalogue of services. At this forum, ENAIRE is presenting the new features of the iFOCUS control station, and a novel 360° virtual control experience developed by our controllers that enables real-time interaction and simulation of control training activities (dealing with emergencies, interacting with drones, etc.). ■

