



# Annual Activity Report 2014

## Executive Summary

31 March 2015

The SESAR Joint undertaking was established in 2007 to ensure the modernisation of the European air traffic management system by coordinating and concentrating all relevant research and development efforts undertaken by its Members and the related financing until 2016.

In recognition of the need to foster Research and Innovation on Air Traffic Management beyond the organisation's original mandate of 2016, and in appreciation of the SESAR partnership's ability to respond to evolving business needs and fast track technological and operational improvements in Europe's ATM system, Regulation 721/2014 of June 16<sup>th</sup> extends the SJU up to 31 December 2024 to continue research and innovation on air traffic management ATM and in particular the coordinated approach in the context of the Single European Sky to achieve the performance targets there defined (see section 1.1 of the Annual Activity Report 2014).

In July 2014, the SJU launched a second Call for Expression of interest to become a candidate member of the SJU and participate in the SESAR 2020 Programme (see Chapter 5) and consequently selected 19 candidate Members as part of an on-going procedure.

The execution of the SESAR R&I Programme continued in 2014, in particular through the execution of Release 4 exercises, defined with a top down approach to concentrate the resources to progress on the five Priority Strategic Business Needs related to the European ATM Master Plan Key Features (see Chapter 3).

As regards the SJU Programme execution in 2014, the rate of actual completion versus plan has progressively increased to 91% and as of 31 December 2014 all projects have been initiated and 295 out of 369 were in the execution phase.

SESAR demonstration activities on AIRE and RPAS continued in 2014 and an overview of the projects' status and content is presented in section 4.7.

As the previous years the SJU continued in 2014 the Programme specific activities, ranging from the update of the European ATM Master Plan to the launch of the call for tender for the RPAS Definition Phase (see Chapter 6).

The coordination with other Programmes and Organisations continued successfully throughout the year, and the SJU particularly engaged in external relations through several channels and stakeholders to create awareness of the SESAR JU work programme (see Chapter 7).

During 2014, the SJU continued to support the EC in activities related to the preparation for deployment under their leadership. The content of the Pilot Common Project (PCP) was finalized and incorporated in the publication of the PCP Implementing Rule.

To further improve the SJU's effectiveness and efficiency, the new Executive Director, appointed in February 2014, has revised the organisational structure with a focus on clear accountabilities and continuity of operations; this was endorsed by the Administrative Board at the meeting of December 2014.

In 2014 the SJU paid EUR 89.7 million to the Members for operational activities. To ensure the legality and regularity of transactions the SJU applied a rigorous segregation of duties, as required by the SJU Financial Rules, and provided operations' ex ante control. Besides that, the SJU performed ex post controls, through its Projects Audit Sector with the support of an external audit firm (see Chapters 8, 9 and 10). All audit observations have action plans and are under control; the management of the SJU believes the recommendations issued are minor and do not raise any

assurance implications. Action plans are being implemented as part of the on-going continuous efforts in terms of further improvements.

The added value of the SJU for the European Union has also been documented by the second mid-term evaluation conducted by independent experts on behalf of the European Commission. Consistent with its establishment mandate, the SJU adds value in avoiding duplication and lack of coordination in the European ATM R&I environment and reduces fragmentation of expenditure on ATM innovation research. This will result in clear definition of SESAR Solutions, the economic case for these and the preparation for their deployment through Common Projects and direct industrial deployment.

The Executive Director in his capacity as Authorising Officer has signed the Declaration of Assurance with no reservations, as sufficient assurance and controls are deemed to be in place and effective, risks are properly managed and continuous improvements are sought and applied.