

Vienna, November 2011

SESAR: FREQUENTIS hosts the iCWP club to coordinate the future of the integrated controller working position

SESAR project managers and other interested parties met in Vienna in September to coordinate work on a cornerstone of the single European sky: the iCWP (integrated controller working position). Frequentis hosted the meeting and is one of the leaders and main contributors behind SESAR's iCWP projects.

The skyguide representative, Martin Lüthi, opened the workshop with a passionate speech on the needs and expectations of an innovative ANSP, given the demands of customers, airlines and other airspace users. He explained why Europe's ATM system is reaching the end of its useful life and demanded six paradigm shifts. These ranged from seamless airspace (enabled through virtual centres and service-oriented ATM infrastructure) to standardised working procedures (as represented in the "common controller cockpit").

Frequentis responded to Lüthi's call-to-arms with a presentation on the combined Frequentis/DFS iCWP prototype, which is one of the SESAR deliverables. In contrast to traditional system approaches, this prototype is based on an open framework architecture loaded with appropriate applications. These applications support each new role in an optimal way. The concept is not new, but the success story of Android smartphones demonstrates how such an open approach would rapidly accelerate progress towards a "new" European ATM system. This solution was discussed further, and most attendees accepted the concept as a vision for the future: skyguide also acknowledged the suitability of the approach.

The SESAR style guide was also presented. This guide is one of the key requirements needed for a harmonised controller working position.

The afternoon was then used to coordinate the schedules of all projects contributing to the SESAR iCWP. At the end of the meeting, Frequentis thanked the participants for their openness in addressing the challenging topics discussed. The next iCWP club meeting is scheduled for February 2012 – again in Vienna.

About Frequentis

For more information about Frequentis, please see www.frequentis.com

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