**What do we know for sure about ATM? Partnerships are essential**

 Madrid, 7 March 2017 – ***Whether it’s tackling runway safety, passenger security, drone proliferation, a capacity crunch or the broader regulatory, social and commercial issues underlying Europe’s aviation ecosystem, there is one thing for sure… partnerships and cooperation are the way forward. This is the key message to come out of the SESAR sessions at the World ATM Congress (WAC).***

“Today I think that "togetherness" is reflected in our work on the Single European Sky and approach to international cooperation. Sometimes the process of moving forward can be slow and frustrating and it might be tempting to go it alone. But we should remember that while alone we move faster, together we go further,” said Henrik Hololei, Director General of DG MOVE, who delivered the keynote at the opening session, ‘Setting the scene – partnering for ATM excellence in global aviation’.

In fact, ‘Partnering for excellence in global aviation’ is the theme for all activities taking place at the SESAR stand and theatre during the World ATM Congress. Activities are being hosted by the SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU) and the SESAR Deployment Manager (SESAR DM) in collaboration with the European Commission, Network Manager, European Defence Agency, European Aviation Safety Agency and EUROCAE, the European leader in aviation industry standards.

SESAR and its support of the Single European Sky (SES) is recognised in the EU Aviation Strategy as key to boosting Europe’s economy and securing its leading role in international aviation. Through public-private partnerships and regional outreach, including universities, industry and experts, SESAR’s unique platform is transforming Europe’s vision of a SES into a reality.

Indeed, results coming out of the SESAR pipeline are already prompting uptake by all stakeholders across Europe and worldwide. This is providing better connectivity and mobility, safety and security, passenger experience, as well as meeting wider social and environmental expectations to further decarbonise our economy. The development and implementation of the solutions are also generating more jobs and growth for Europe.

* Other highlights at the SESAR stand during this year’s World ATM Congress
* Official opening of the SESAR stand, keynote by Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport
* Single European Sky Awards ceremony (#SESAwards), presented by Henrik Hololei, European Commission
* Panel sessions on global interoperability, SESAR 2020 and deployment
* Technical sessions on flight efficiency, automation and exploratory research, and the Data Link Services recovery plan for Europe
* Information sessions on EU ATM funding, technologies and deployment
* Meet and greet SESAR partners, including the European Commission, Network Manager, EUROCAE, EDA and EASA
* Insights into SESAR technologies, demos and Solutions Catalogue

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**STATEMENTS FROM SESAR PARTNER**

**Florian Guillermet, Executive Director, SESAR Joint Undertaking**

“*ATM is a complex ecosystem, where each stakeholder has its own priorities and plans, but without strong partnerships ATM modernisation is impossible. The delivery of a Single European Sky can only happen through a collective approach and consensus, in our case around delivering operational and technological solutions*.”

**Massimo Garbini, Managing Director, SESAR Deployment Manager**

“*As the SESAR Deployment Manager, we were established to deliver ATM modernisation in time to achieve the Single European Sky goals. The fact that SESAR benefits are a daily reality for EU passengers would not have been possible without strong industry partnerships and all SES stakeholders present at the SESAR stand today. So, let’s keep on delivering SESAR together!*”

**Joe Sultana, Director, Network Manager**

“*The primary objective of the Network Manager is to contribute to the performance of the European aviation network. It is there to address operational network issues while ensuring that performance targets are met. Our unique view of the pan-European air traffic management network – its hotspots and their impact on performance – will be instrumental in achieving the vision of the SESAR 2020 programme for a high-performance, integrated European aviation.*”

**Jorge Domecq, Chief Executive, European Defence Agency**

*“The military recognises and acknowledges the crucial importance of the Single European Sky (SES) initiative. Military aviation significantly contributes to ensuring the required secure environment in Europe. It is crucial for security and defence that any development in air traffic modernisation takes military requirements fully into account, in order to avoid any adverse impact on national and collective defence capabilities. The Military Aviation Strategy in the context of SES reflects the shared view on military aviation as an integral part of the air traffic in Europe for the coming decades.”*

**Luc Tytgat, Strategy & Safety Management Director, European Aviation Safety Agency**

*"SES and SESAR are key to deliver a modern cost-effective ATM to airspace users. EASA being the safety pillar of SES has a major role to play. The Agency and the system put in place aim to ensure the highest safety standards in civil aviation. The role of a strong European safety regulator is therefore key for the success of SES and SESAR. EASA role in SESAR is increasing as facilitator of safe implementation of operational concepts by providing the necessary regulatory means to the operational stakeholders and ensuring a standardised oversight of those.”*

**Christian Schleifer-Heingärtner, Secretary General, EUROCAE**

*“Cooperation with our European partner organisations is essential for EUROCAE in all our activities, which include chairing and hosting the European air traffic management standardisation coordination group (EASCG), to coordinate all standardisation and regulatory activities in ATM – a European success story and example of how we can work together for global harmonisation and worldwide interoperability.”*

**NOTE TO EDITORS**

Press breakfast at the SESAR stand, Wednesday 8 March 8:30-9:15

Enjoy a breakfast while catching up on the latest news from the SESAR Joint Undertaking and the SESAR Deployment Manager.

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The Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) project, set up in 2004 as the technological pillar of the Single European Sky to modernise Europe’s air traffic management (ATM) system, is now making significant progress in transforming the performance of Europe’s ATM network. The goal of SESAR is to contribute to the SES High- Level Goals of tripling capacity, halving air navigation service costs, reducing emissions by 10% and improving safety by a factor of 10.

Established in 2007, the SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU), a public-private partnership, is responsible for defining, developing and validating solutions in preparation for their deployment. The SESAR JU does so by harnessing the research and innovation expertise and resources of the entire ATM community, from the Network Manager and civil and military air navigation service providers, to airports, civil and military airspace users, staff associations, academia and research centres.

Established in 2014, the SESAR Deployment Manager is the official title of the organisation that is coordinating the upgrading of Europe’s air traffic management infrastructure. The main task of the SESAR Deployment Manager is to develop, propose and maintain the Deployment Programme of SESAR concepts and technologies and ensure efficient synchronisation and overall coordination of implementation projects, as well as the related investments in line with the Deployment Programme. The tasks of the Deployment Manager are specified in Article 9 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 409/2013.