SESAR REMOTE TOWER SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 WHAT ARE REMOTE TOWERS?

Remote towers facilitate air traffic management around a runway through the use of a series of well-placed and powerful cameras capable of covering 360°. The cameras are operated by air traffic controllers who, from a remote location, guide aircraft to the runway in question.

2 HOW DOES THE TECHNOLOGY WORK?

Enhancing the controller's situational awareness in normal, as well as low visibility conditions, through integrated use of features such as:

- Object tracking (display of flight labels on the main image) and alerting (live animals, birds and foreign object debris (FOD))
- Infrared vision
- Digital image magnification
- Hotspots monitoring (local cameras)

3 HOW DOES THE TECHNOLOGY HELP IN SITUATIONS OF LOW VISIBILITY?

Air traffic procedures in situations of low visibility are understandably hazardous and often cause delays. With remote tower features, air traffic controllers have access to a full range of good quality information, which allows them to handle low visibility operations, resulting in improved safety and operational efficiency.

4 HOW CAN THE TECHNOLOGY HELP REMOTE REGIONAL AIRPORTS?

Remote tower technology is ideally suited to airports with low traffic volumes. In this regard, airports in isolated areas and regions with low population density and irregular traffic have the most to gain. For them, remote tower technology helps lower the operating costs of the airport, allowing it to run more efficiently. With lower costs and better efficiency, the airport's total visiting costs (airport charges, plus air navigation service charges) fall as well. The fall in the total visiting costs means that in some cases airports and smaller airfields can avoid closure or reducing opening hours, instead operating more competitively and potentially attracting new air services.

SESAR REMOTE TOWER SERVICES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WWW.SESARJU.EU

5 HAVE THE BENEFITS OF REMOTE TOWER TECHNOLOGY BEEN PROVEN?

Yes. SESAR has invested significantly in proving the real utility of Remote Tower Services and the gains that can be achieved from it. Trials have been conducted in Sweden, Norway and Germany on validating Single Remote Tower Operations. Because the vast territory and variety of small airports, Scandinavia has proved to be an excellent test bed for SESAR Remote Tower Services. The trial executed at Bodø in Norway late 2013 as part of SESAR validation efforts included testing in extreme conditions in Værøy heliport and Røst airport. The results were very promising.

6 WHAT ARE CONTINGENCY TOWERS?

Airports are an essential component in the air transport supply chain – which is highly exposed to crises, shocks and dramatic incidents. As part of increasingly expansive contingency planning by larger airports, SESAR Remote Tower Services can play a role for them too, facilitating a back-up for air traffic management.

7 WHEN WILL SESAR REMOTE TOWER SERVICES BE IMPLEMENTED?

In carrying out many trials of the technology, SESAR has provided sufficient evidence of the concept's operational feasibility. The single remote tower concept is already at an advanced stage of implementation by some Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs). In parallel plans are underway in SESAR to validate multiple aerodrome remote tower operations.