



For immediate release

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## **AIRPORTS AND SESAR TOGETHER TO MODERNISE EUROPEAN AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

**Lisbon, 16 June 2011:** The SESAR Joint Undertaking, a unique public-private partnership in air traffic management, has signed a contract and cooperation agreement with ACI EUROPE – the European airports’ trade body - to engage its technical expertise in the SESAR programme in order to modernise together the European sky. The two organisations signed a contract today during the 21<sup>st</sup> ACI EUROPE Annual Assembly to involve ACI EUROPE on various research projects, development and communications activities, specifically focussed on the role and contribution of airports in SESAR. Building upon the work of the Single European Airports Consortium (an established member of SESAR comprised of Aéroports de Paris, BAA, Flughafen München, Fraport, Schiphol, Flughafen Zurich), today’s agreement will yield a better integration of the entire airport community into the SESAR JU’s work with the aim of making the European aviation system more efficient.

**Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE** said *"We are delighted to be joining forces with the SESAR Joint Undertaking today. SESAR is the technological enabler of the Single European Sky and this cooperation reflects a strong focus on integrating airports within the ATM system. Much of SESAR’s work involves airports and many of our member airports are already engaged, with significant investments in the SESAR programme, to help optimise airport operations for the benefit of airlines and passengers today and tomorrow."*

**Patrick Ky, Executive Director of the SESAR Joint Undertaking** commented *"Our collaboration with ACI EUROPE will undoubtedly bring more technical expertise on airport operations and open doors for validation in day-to-day activities. Airports are a key contributor to SESAR and one of the most beneficiaries of the SESAR results. SESAR will maximise capacity and bring better operations on the ground and in the air as well as environmentally friendly solutions for Airport operators; clearly vital to every single European airport."*

**ENDS**

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### **Notes to the Editor:**

**ACI EUROPE** is the voice of Europe’s airports, representing more than 400 airports in 46 European countries. It is also the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators.

ACI EUROPE's member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming nearly one and half billion passengers each year.

The **SESAR** programme is the operational and technological answer to the major challenges of European air traffic growth. The aim of the SESAR Joint Undertaking is to ensure the modernisation of the European air traffic management system by coordinating and concentrating all relevant research and development efforts in the European Union. Partnership, sustainability and user-drive are key concepts of the SESAR Joint Undertaking approach. Founded by the European Commission and by Eurocontrol, fifteen companies are direct members of the SESAR JU: Aena, Airbus, Alenia Aeronautica, the DFS, the DSNA, ENAV, Frequentis, Honeywell, INDRA, NATMIG, NATS (En Route) Limited, NORACON, SEAC, SELEX Sistemi Integrati and Thales. New associate partners have recently joined the SESAR family: Avtech, Belgocontrol, Boeing, Consortium LVNL, Nav Portugal, ONDA, Lockheed Martin, NATS Services, PANSAs, SEA Aeroporti di Milano, Skyguide, Thales Raytheon Systems and Thales Australia.

For more information, please contact:

Eric Platteau, Chief Communication Officer, SESAR Joint Undertaking

email: [eric.platteau@sesarju.eu](mailto:eric.platteau@sesarju.eu), tel: + 32 (0)2 507 80 12, or

mobile: +32 (0)493 51 09 46

[www.sesarju.eu](http://www.sesarju.eu) [www.seac.aero](http://www.seac.aero)

Robert O'Meara, Communications Manager, ACI EUROPE at

e-mail: [robert.omeara@aci-europe.org](mailto:robert.omeara@aci-europe.org), tel: +32 (0)2 552 09 82, or

mobile: +32 (0)486 54 14 71.

[www.aci-europe.org](http://www.aci-europe.org)