Press release

RPAS : demonstration of the capability to integrate a remote piloted aircraft demonstrator with a safety pilot on board in air traffic at Bordeaux-Merignac airport

Paris, February 21st, 2015

The TEMPAERIS consortium, as part of the demonstration projects SESAR RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System), demonstrated the capability to integrate a remote controlled aircraft commonly called a RPAS in the civil traffic. This evaluation was performed with air traffic to and from the Bordeaux-Merignac airport, from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 6th 2015. The TEMPAERIS consortium is led by DSNA, the French ANSP, with the following partners: Airbus Defense & Space, Airbus Prosky, Sopra Steria and ENAC, the French academy for civil aviation.

The system used in the demo exercises was a UAV demonstrator UAV representative of a real UAV system. It was developed by Airbus Defense & Space, based on a plane MCR4S controlled from the ground by a remote control station through a data link. The system is functionally and operationally representative of a tactical or MALE drone system. A pilot called “safety” was on board.

The experiments conducted included an assessment of the feasibility of such an aircraft to operate in traffic from a regional air hub, especially with radar vectoring. Failure procedures and unusual situations were also tested such as loss of radio link, failure of the GPS navigation system, loss of RPAS control link. These procedures are essential to insure the seamless integration of RPAS into non segregated airspace.

The flight programme was successfully carried out, despite adverse weather conditions. The results will be published by June 2015.

About TEMPAERIS

TEMPAERIS is a consortium formed by the DSNA, the French Air Navigation Service Provider, the Airbus Group (Airbus Defense and Space and AirbusProsky), a world leader in aircraft manufacturing, the ENAC (the French National Civil Aviation Academy), the European leader in aviation training, and Sopra Steria, the European leader of digital transformation. For more information, find us on www.tempaeris.org

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