

FOREWORD

EUROCONTROL

By David McMillan, Director General



EUROCONTROL is a civil/military inter-governmental organisation comprising 38 Member States with a mission to harmonise and integrate air navigation services in Europe. Its focus is on the evolution of a safe and efficient pan-European Air Traffic Management network to facilitate the sustainable growth of aviation in Europe.

It has recently undergone a restructuring process in which a Directorate was created to reflect part of its core business: Cooperative Network Design, CND. The new CND Directorate unites all the service units or directorates dealing with this core business - from EUROCONTROL's centres in Brétigny-sur-Orge, France; Luxembourg; Budapest and Brussels. These have been centralised, consolidated and strengthened. Bringing their combined knowledge and expertise together will make for greater synergy, as well as cutting overlap and costs.

With the ultimate aim of integrating civil UAS safely into general air traffic, EUROCONTROL is developing UAS air traffic management (ATM) requirements into a comprehensive set of globally interoperable certification and operational approval criteria. These will require UAS to fit in with the existing ATM system, rather than adapting the system to accommodate UAS.

In providing the lead on ATM for UAS flight in Europe, EUROCONTROL is following a number of well-established principles. Firstly, UAS operations should not increase the risk to other airspace users; secondly, ATM procedures should mirror those applicable to manned aircraft; and, thirdly, the provision of air traffic services to UAS should be transparent to air traffic controllers. Naturally, the safety of all airspace users remains paramount.

Looking further ahead, it is equally important to ensure that UAS are fully integrated into the ATM regulatory, operational and technical environment of the SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) programme, now in its development stage, following the adoption of the ATM Master Plan in spring 2008.

Indeed, the unique capabilities of UAS may be particularly well suited to some aspects of SESAR, such as 4-D trajectory management. UAS also complement the SESAR concept in areas such as improved Sense and Avoid; advanced communications; autonomous flight and new collision avoidance systems.

EUROCONTROL is providing direct support for UAS integration into SESAR.

With regard to near-term integration activity, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) recently asked EUROCONTROL to address ATM for Global Hawk when it begins to fly in European airspace from 2010 onwards. EUROCONTROL is drafting a document that builds upon - and is one level down from - its previously published

«Specifications for Military UAS as OAT Outside Segregated Airspace».

The stated objective is to formulate ATM specifications to enable the safe operation of Global Hawk in certain categories of European airspace, with the voluntary status of the specifications leaving states free to decide on the extent of their incorporation into national rules and procedures.

The specifications will have an important secondary role of informing, educating and providing guidance to air navigation service providers, Global Hawk operators and other stakeholders on the safe application of ATM for Global Hawk in European airspace.

EUROCONTROL does not work in isolation on UAS. Indeed, progress would stall very quickly without effective coordination and cooperation between the various national and international bodies concerned with UAS integration.

EUROCONTROL works in extremely close collaboration with EUROCAE (the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Equipment), ICAO (the International Civil Aviation Organisation), NATO, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the European Defence Agency (EDA).

Cooperation with the United States' Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be taken a step further with a new Memorandum of Cooperation to be signed between the European Commission and the FAA to coordinate the development of SESAR and the FAA's NextGen programme for the future ATM systems in both continents.

EUROCONTROL's overall aim in this cooperation is to support the safe, secure and efficient integration of UAS into non-segregated airspace. Because of its unique civil-military composition, EUROCONTROL is well able to assist with both current and future UAS developments, while it continues to support the needs of other airspace users.

EUROCONTROL values the wide-ranging coordinating role played by UVS International, and appreciates that organisation's support for EUROCONTROL's UAS activities.

