



Immediate release
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Collaborative Decision-Making pilot study starts at Heathrow Airport

Brussels, Belgium - *EUROCONTROL, together with BAA, National Air Traffic Services (NATS) and members of the airline community, have launched an Airport Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) pilot study at Heathrow Airport.*

Following three years of research and trials at selected European airports by EUROCONTROL, Airport CDM has now been developed into a low-cost but high-benefit solution for enhancing airport efficiency. CDM involves sharing highly accurate and relevant data with those who need it at precisely the right moment, whilst taking into consideration the requirements and preferences of all involved or affected by any operational decision. CDM does not require any large-scale investments, and implementing CDM applications will improve punctuality, maximise infrastructure usage and operational efficiency whilst at the same time being cost-efficient.

This pilot study is led by the BAA and fully supported by both the National Air Traffic Services and the Airlines. Support will be provided by EUROCONTROL, using the extensive knowledge gained from earlier trials and development work.

"We are extremely pleased to have the full support of the key Heathrow Airport partners," said Paul Wilson, Head of Airport Throughput Business Division at EUROCONTROL. "The implementation of Airport CDM applications enables airports to improve punctuality, maximise infrastructure usage and operational efficiency whilst at the same time not requiring any large investments, which makes this a low cost high return project."

Airport CDM is one of the projects of EUROCONTROL's Air Traffic Management Programme (EATM). The methods applied create common situational awareness and predictability between air traffic management, airport and aircraft operators, the Central Flow Management Unit, ground handlers and other service providers.

Mr Ian Taylor, Head of Group Airside Operations for BAA, said that this is an exciting opportunity for Heathrow which builds on all of the work undertaken over the last few years to improve the operation and reduce delay for airlines using the airport. The lessons learnt can also be used to develop CDM applications at both Gatwick and Stansted airports and it is hoped that similar studies will be carried out at these locations as the Heathrow study is progressed.

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Note to Editors:

EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has 31 Member States: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

The Organisation's primary objective is to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the constant growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment.

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