

AIRPORTS ARE ENABLING A SMARTER EUROPEAN SKY

Airports play a crucial role in the modernisation of the EU's Air Traffic Management (ATM) system. Together with Air Navigation Service Providers, airlines, the Network Manager, MET providers and the military, they are responsible for advancing ATM transformation benefitting passengers.

Through coordinated SESAR deployment, airports are enabling **a safer, greener and more efficient European sky as leaders of operational change**. For ACI EUROPE members, SESAR deployment delivers concrete improvements to daily airport operations, **strengthening operational performance, environmental sustainability, capacity and passenger experience, predictability and safety, and system resilience**.

BENEFITS OF SYNCHRONISED ATM MODERNISATION

Efficiency in the air translates directly to savings on the ground. The **343 currently completed SESAR deployment projects will generate €27.8 billion of benefits by 2040**. When you consider all **359 projects**, these benefits rise to **€35.7 billion**. Once Common Project One is fully deployed, the total economic benefit reaches **€51.8 billion**. A transformational return on investment.

Thanks to SESAR deployment, European passengers are arriving earlier at their destinations. The 343 completed projects collectively **save 428.6 million minutes of passenger time**.

This means **fewer delays, shorter flight times, lower costs, and happier passengers**, and it translates into **a saving of €19.1 billion**.

Measured in environmental impact, **we save 6.7 million tonnes of fuel and 21.1 million tonnes of CO₂**, which together translates into **a saving of € 8.7 billion**.

And all those savings will only grow as more SESAR projects reach completion.



A EUROPE-WIDE AIRPORT COMMITMENT

- 67 out of 73 airport-related Implementation Projects completed (CP1 scope)
- Over 30 airports deploying **AOP** (Airport Operations Plan)/**APOC** (Airport Operations Centre) concepts
- **SWIM** (System Wide Information Management) infrastructure deployed across multiple Member States
- Cross-border initiatives reinforcing network synchronisation

Airports across Europe – large and medium hubs alike – are actively shaping ATM modernisation.

AIRPORTS ARE INVESTING

SESAR deployment represents a major industry commitment. Overall SESAR deployment investment represents:

€3.1 billion total: €1.4 billion EU grants + €1.7 billion stakeholder investment

Airport CP1 Scope:

- €834 million total airport cost
- €508 million already invested (as of 2023)
- €556+ million planned investments
- €259+ million planned EU funding

Airports represent a substantial share of this transformation effort – demonstrating strong industry ownership and long-term commitment.

Importantly, SESAR benefits are system-wide. CP1 was designed to deliver value primarily to passengers and airspace users through reduced delays, improved punctuality and lower environmental impact.

IMPACT FOR PASSENGERS, AIRLINES AND ENVIRONMENT



Efficiency

- Reduced taxi times
- Improved punctuality
- Fewer delays



Environment

- Measurable CO₂ reductions
- Lower fuel burn
- More sustainable airport operations



Capacity

- Better use of existing airport infrastructure
- Increased throughput



Safety

- Improved situational awareness
- Reduced runway risks
- Stronger operational resilience

AIRPORTS AS ATM TRANSFORMATION ENABLERS

Airports sit at the interface between ground and air operations. They uniquely connect local performance with network-wide efficiency.

Through SESAR deployment, airports are:

- Driving digital transformation
- Investing in advanced operational systems
- Enabling cross-border coordination
- Supporting Europe's sustainability objectives

Example: SESAR deployment at Vienna Airport

Vienna Airport implemented Collaborative Decision-Making (CDM), an ATM modernisation process where all airport stakeholders – airlines, ground handlers, ATC, and the airport operator – share real-time data to jointly optimise flight departure sequencing, reducing delays and improving predictability across the European ATM network.

At Vienna Airport, CDM reduced delays, and better predictability of events had a positive impact on the use of services. This led to better take-off time accuracy, more efficient use of its runway capacity, shorter taxi times for planes, and an overall improvement of passenger experience.

LOOKING AHEAD

ATM modernisation does not stop at CP1. Airports will continue to play a leading role in:

- Deeper AOP-NOP integration
- Expanded SWIM services
- Enhanced cybersecurity
- Greater resilience to disruption
- Continued environmental optimisation

As Europe advances towards a smarter and more sustainable aviation ecosystem, airports – represented by ACI EUROPE – will remain at the forefront of enabling a modern, high-performing European ATM.



About SESAR Deployment Manager (SDM)

The Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) project is a key EU initiative aimed at modernising Europe's air traffic management (ATM) system, contributing to a fully digital and efficient Single European Sky. SESAR focuses on defining, developing, and deploying technologies to improve ATM performance, efficiency, and environmental sustainability.

The SESAR Deployment Manager oversees the coordination and synchronised deployment of SESAR solutions, ensuring they are implemented across Europe on schedule. Since the deployment phase began in 2014, SESAR has delivered 343 projects and is currently developing a further 16. These advancements are delivering measurable benefits to the aviation sector, passengers, and the environment, supporting the EU Green Deal and efforts to strengthen EU competitiveness. For more information and the latest updates, visit:

WWW.SESARDEPLOYMENTMANAGER.EU

WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/SESAR-DEPLOYMENT-MANAGER/



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