



ACI EUROPE ensures effective airport participation in SESAR Deployment

For immediate release

8 December 2014

ACI EUROPE

10 Rue Montoyer (Box 9)

1000 Brussels, Belgium

www.aci-europe.org

Brussels, 8 December 2014: Last Friday, a unique industry consortium representing airlines, airports and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) signed a partnership agreement with the European Commission for the modernisation of Europe's ATM system.

According to this agreement, the *SESAR Deployment Alliance* which comprises 4 airline groups, 25 major European airports and 11 ANSPs will - as of 1 January 2015 - become the SESAR Deployment Manager, the EU-mandated body tasked with the development and implementation of a plan for the deployment of a set of initial Air Traffic Management (ATM) processes and technologies developed by the SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU).

ACI EUROPE has coordinated and ensured the participation of the airport industry in the *SESAR Deployment Alliance* through the creation of the *SESAR Airport Grouping* - a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG). SESAR includes innovations that will directly enhance airports (airport throughput and automation), enabling the optimisation of their operations and their better connection to the wider European network. Implementation will require the active involvement of airport operators and significant investments.

The *SESAR Airport Grouping* is initially focused on the top 25 European airports, which are considered as the nodes of the ATM network and where congestion has the widest impact. However, it can be extended overtime to all ACI EUROPE airport members that would fall within the scope of the SESAR deployment. Through the *SESAR Airport Grouping*, ACI EUROPE has ensured that its airport members will be entitled to receive European financial support for implementation of the technologies and processes that will become mandatory under the Deployment plan. In total, the EC has earmarked €3 billion for the deployment of SESAR by airlines, airports and ANSPs.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General, ACI EUROPE commented *"The fact that the airlines, airports and ANSPs are now in charge of collaboratively deploying SESAR is a significant and meaningful step forward for the Single European Sky. We are entering an exciting new phase - moving from concepts to real life operations. As part of this challenge, we will be focusing on making sure that airports are required to deploy what is truly necessary for improving performance - the "must-haves" rather than the "nice-to-haves". For airports, deploying SESAR will be primarily about optimising safe ground operations with all operational stakeholders involved. This will allow us to sweat our assets and deliver capacity gains - which will translate into tangible cost efficiencies for airlines and improved punctuality for passengers."*

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For more information, please contact:

Robert O'Meara, Director, Media & Communications, ACI EUROPE

mobile: +32 (0)486 54 14 71 or tel: +32 (0)2 552 09 82.

Email: robert.omeara@aci-europe.org

ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents more than 450 airports in 45 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming over 1.7 billion passengers each year.

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.