

# ATC sector applauds high fliers

**BEN VOGEL**

A cross-section of the air transport community assembled in Madrid on 3 March to acclaim leading projects and cutting-edge technological developments in air traffic management.

This year's contenders included major consortia as well as relative newcomers to the airspace management industry, with more than 40 nominations received in total. These were shortlisted and pared down to the winning entry in each category by a panel of experienced judges, drawn from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Eurocontrol, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) and IHS Jane's.

The winners in the six categories are summarised below.

**Environment Award: Eurocontrol and Thomas Cook Airlines - Network Manager Flight Efficiency Initiative**  
Eurocontrol, in its Network Manager role, launched the Flight Efficiency Initiative in early 2013, as a means of helping ANSPs

and airlines to meet targets set under the Performance Framework of Single European Sky II. Eurocontrol worked with Thomas Cook Airlines to offer the most efficient routes on any given day, based on a system-wide picture of European route network capacity. After the initial operational usage by Thomas Cook produced environmental, operational and financial benefits, 20 other airlines began to use the Flight Efficiency tool.

**Enabling Technology Award: SESAR JU and partners - SESAR SWIM Outreach**  
The second SESAR SWIM Master Class (June-November 2013) involved 64 teams actively demonstrating their SWIM-enabled applications. The 2013 edition attracted an increased number of ATM service providers, thus offering development teams a wider scope of data and services to exploit in their SWIM-enabled applications or web services. As part of this initiative, no less than 39 proposals for services and applications were submitted.

**Service Provision Award: ASIOACG - Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean UPR Geographic Zone**  
The member air navigation service providers (ANSPs) of the Arabian Sea Indian Ocean ATS Coordination Group (ASIOACG),

working with the airline industry, have established a User Preferred Route (UPR) Geographic Zone with safety, efficiency and environmental benefits. The Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean UPR Geographic Zone was launched in October 2013; trials in mid-2013 had indicated potential annual CO2 savings of 10,000 tonnes. ASIOACG comprises the ANSPs of Australia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and Sri Lanka.

**Technology Award: Harris Corporation - SWIM solutions, powered by Data Exchange (DEX)**  
Harris has designed a network-centric deployment for System Wide Information Management (SWIM) known as DEX (Data Exchange) that is aligned with the ICAO Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU), NextGen, and SESAR goals and priorities. Harris DEX is a combination of hardware and software that enables an information sharing infrastructure with the tools and applications to consume and deliver content anywhere in the airspace management enterprise. With its ability to mediate and share information at the logic layer - rather than requiring physical, point-to-point connections - DEX greatly improves situational awareness. This, in turn, provides an evolutionary path from a



Establishing the Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean UPR Geographic Zone won the Service Provision Award for the Arabian Sea Indian Ocean ATS Coordination Group (ASIOACG). From left to right: Thabani Mthiyane, CEO of ATNS South Africa; Margaret Staib, CEO Airservices Australia; and V Somasundaram, Board Member ANS, Airports Authority of India.



SWIM solutions powered by DEX won Harris Corporation the Technology Award. Pictured on the right is Rob Coulson, Harris Government Communication Systems, Aviation Senior Executive Account Manager.

tactical operations model to network-centric, performance-based and collaborative ATM.

**Innovation Award: delair Air Traffic Systems - arosa PMS/de-icing**  
The arosa PMS and de-icing modules from delair Air Traffic Systems are pre-tactical performance management tools. The arosa PMS algorithms are based on analysis of hundreds of thousands of individual arrivals and departures; this allows traffic forecasts not only in normal or best-case scenarios, but also during disruptive events

such as adverse weather situations or runway closures. The arosa PMS tool is operational at the Dusseldorf Airport Operations Centre, and the de-icing tool is operational at Zurich airport.

**Runway Award: Midwest ATC - Kandahar runway efficiency**  
The Midwest ATC Airfield Management team developed runway crossing spreadsheets, spearheaded town hall meetings, and conducted spot inspections of personnel and vehicles to diagnose shortfalls followed by a programme to address issues

and implement remedies for runway efficiency. As a result, controlled movement area violations (CMAVs) at Kandahar Air Base in Afghanistan fell from 36 in 2011 to 10 in 2013. In 2010 the team identified a major issue of unauthorised runway crossings; in response it developed and implemented a comprehensive Airfield Driving Programme that significantly reduced incidents. Unauthorised vehicle crossings have dropped by 87% over the last four years, from 53,653 in 2010 to 7,223 in 2013. ■



Eurocontrol and Thomas Cook Airlines won the Environment Award for the Network Manager Flight Efficiency Initiative. Pictured on the left is Joe Sultana, Eurocontrol Director Network Manager.



The SESAR JU and partners received the Enabling Technology Award for SESAR SWIM Outreach. Pictured receiving the award are Dirk Janssens, SWIM project Manager from Eurocontrol, and Wim Post, SWIM Programme Manager at the SESAR JU.



The Innovation Award went to delair Air Traffic Systems for its arosa PMS/de-icing tools. Pictured receiving the award is Jurgen Barthel, Marketing and Sales Manager, delair Air Transport Systems.



Midwest ATC won the Runway Award for its work in improving safety at Kandahar Air Base. In the middle is Shane Cordes, President and CEO of Midwest ATC, and on the left is Alex Marsha, Midwest ATC site manager