



8TH FLORENCE AIR FORUM DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Matthias Finger | Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL

Conference room

Villa La Fonte, Via delle Fontanelle, 18 - San Domenico di Fiesole

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■ INTRODUCTION

Technological change in Air Traffic Management (ATM) usually develops at a slow pace, understandably so given the high safety requirements, the enormous coordination effort needed to harmonize standards around the world and the relatively small size of the global ATM technology market (e.g. compared to consumer electronics). Strong innovators and technological “disruptions” are therefore so far associated with transformation that occurred in larger sectors in which market forces play a stronger role. Yet considering the rising need to boost productivity and innovation speed across the European economy, should ATM be considered like any other business?

In Europe the SESAR project is in a central position to steer innovation in ATM with significant funding and a long term strategy. Guiding the research under SESAR is the European ATM Master Plan which has the crucial role to identify the most relevant technologies to support over the next decades. The latest edition, which contains a “SESAR Vision” towards higher levels of digitalisation, virtualisation and automation, identifies a number of potentially disruptive solutions such as virtual centers, the next generation data communication capabilities, common support services or flight-centric operations. This provides a potential foundation for breakthrough innovation in new products, services, and business models in ATM.

Both the development and the deployment of SESAR technologies heavily depend on the regulatory environment. Regulation firstly needs to allow new technologies to be developed and then needs to adapt to allow for their timely diffusion. Such change processes pose several fundamental challenges especially with regards to safety and economic regulatory issues. Yet potential ATM business model evolutions could be inspired by multiple industry analogies that share many similarities with ATM (e.g. transformation that took place in the energy, banking and postal sectors).

The 8th Florence Air Forum will discuss these challenges with high-level representatives from European Commission, SESAR JU, Eurocontrol and several other bodies and agencies, stakeholders and academics. Discussions will be structured around four discussion questions:

- What are disruptive technologies and how does the concept apply to ATM?
- What can ATM learn from other sectors to address the challenges connected to the rising need for innovation speed?
- How can innovation be supported effectively and which are the most promising solutions that SESAR should be focussing on?
- The role of regulation: Do we need to rethink the regulatory approach to ATM in light of new technologies?

■ PROGRAMME

- 08.30 - 09.00 Introduction to the Forum
Matthias Finger | Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL
Frank Brenner | Eurocontrol
Maurizio Castelletti | European Commission, DG MOVE
- 09.00 - 10.45 What are disruptive technologies and how does the concept apply to ATM? What are disruptive technologies and how does the concept apply to ATM?
Florian Guillermet | SESAR JU
Dani Weder & Klaus Meier | Skyguide Swiss Air Navigation Services ltd.
Ralf Bertsch | DFS
Round Table Discussion
- 10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 - 12.30 What can ATM learn from other sectors to address the challenges connected to the rising need for innovation speed?
Svend Leirvaag | Amadeus
Andreas Lassak | Deutsche Telekom AG
Thorsten Robrecht | Nokia
Round Table Discussion
- 12.30 - 13.30 Lunch break
- 13.30 - 15.00 How can innovation be supported effectively and which are the most promising solutions that SESAR should be focussing on?
Stephane Durand | DSNA Services
Luc Lallouette | Thales Air Systems
Kornél Szepessy | HungaroControl Hungarian Air Navigation Services Pte. Ltd, Hungary
Round Table Discussion
- 15.00 - 15.15 Coffee break
- 15.15 - 16.45 The role of regulation: Do we need to rethink the regulatory approach to ATM in light of new technologies?
Ralph Riedle | Performance Review Commission
Christian Schleifer | Eurocae
Cathal Guiomard | DCU Business School
Round Table Discussion
- 16.45 - 17.00 Conclusion
Matthias Finger | Professor, Director of FSR-Transport and of the Chair of Management of Network Industries, EPFL