

Honeywell awarded iFly ATM research

Honeywell announced in November that it had been awarded a research contract from the European Commission to support the development of an automated air traffic management system in Europe based on advanced airborne communication, navigation and surveillance technologies.

Honeywell will support the iFLY research project with an analysis of safety, complexity and pilot/controller responsibilities as well as a subsequent assessment of ground and airborne system requirements. The programme, led by the National Aerospace Laboratory in the Netherlands, aims to

improve efficiency and reduced delays in Europe for aircraft operating in high density traffic areas.

During recent years research in air traffic management has tended to direct large airborne self-separation research projects to situations of less dense airspace, though the solutions were meant to be for high density airspace. Typical examples of this trend are the EC research projects MFF (Mediterranean Free Flight) and ASSTAR (Advanced Safe Separation Technology and Algorithms).

iFly aims to develop a step change in this trend, through a systematic

exploitation and further development of the advanced mathematical techniques that have emerged within the HYBRIDGE project of the European Commission's 5th Framework Programme.

For en-route traffic, iFLY aims to develop both an advanced airborne self-separation design and a highly automated ATM design for en-route traffic, which takes advantage of autonomous aircraft operation capabilities and which is aimed to manage a three to six times increase in current en-route traffic levels.

This incorporates an analysis of safety, complexity and pilot/controller responsibilities and assessment of ground and airborne system requirements and which make part of an overall validation plan.

The proposed iFLY research combines expertise in air transport human factors, safety and economics with analytical and Monte Carlo simulation methodologies providing for "implementation" decision-making, standardisation and regulatory frameworks. The research is aimed at supporting SESAR and actively disseminates the results among the ATM research community.

iFLY was initiated under the Sixth Framework Programme for Research (FP6), an EC effort to develop an advanced airborne self-separation design and a highly automated air traffic management system. The programme will use autonomous aircraft operation capabilities to help manage the continuing increase in en-route traffic levels.

European air traffic is forecast to grow three-fold by 2020. ■

SkyTrac updates SkyWeb software

SkyTrac has released its latest version of SkyWeb, its web-based software product for aircraft flight following and data viewing.

"With our in-house software engineering group, we have the ability to continually advance our software products to meet the current and evolving needs of our customers," said SkyTrac president and CEO, Kathleen Wallace. "With access to the internet, our customers, and in some cases our customers' customers, can use SkyWeb to track their aircraft in real-time from wherever they might be."

SkyWeb provides interactive mapping overlaid with satellite imagery. ■

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