

Press release, Borealis Alliance

North European Air Navigation Service Providers form new commercial alliance

20th June 2012 – Nine northern European Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) have today signed a formal commercial alliance to improve efficiency, and reduce costs and environmental impact.

The new alliance, called Borealis Alliance, includes the ANSPs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and the UK. They provide air traffic services for 3.5m flights a year, across 12.5 million Km² of north European airspace. Between them, they form Europe's major transatlantic gateway.

Borealis Alliance is a unique move to enable joint initiatives to improve flight efficiency and reduce environmental impact, delivered across the whole area in a move which will also streamline cost of services and operational/technical infrastructure.

Borealis Alliance will focus on strategic business cooperation between the member ANSPs, seeking economies of scale and projects that can be achieved on a commercial basis, complementing the work of the northern European Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs) but without the need for regulatory or State involvement.

In a joint statement the CEOs of the nine ANSPs said: "We are delighted to form Borealis Alliance, which is a binding agreement to deliver efficiencies that we cannot achieve on our own and through which we can share the expertise of all our members."

"We all face a common challenge to improve quality of service to our customers, implement greater standardisation of infrastructure and overall to do all we can to ensure we deliver value for money. This also helps achieve Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) deployment, in service of Single European Sky (SES)."

"Borealis Alliance will require hard work, commitment and an open and trusting relationship between all our members. Its success depends on our ability to integrate joint activities across our individual business strategies and plans – and sharing control of joint activities with our partners."

Lance Stuart has been recruited from NATS in the UK to be the new Executive Director. Knut Skaar of Norway's Avinor, Chairman of the Borealis Alliance Board, said: "Lance has a strong ANSP background and vast international experience. I am confident he is the right person to lead the Borealis Alliance in the challenging and exciting years to come."

An executive management team will be recruited over the summer and Borealis Alliance will operate an initial proving period to the end of 2013.

Lance Stuart said: "I am very excited to have the opportunity to lead this unique alliance. This is a really challenging time for the aviation business, and it has never been more important for ANSPs to do all they can to deliver best value to our customers. I strongly believe that Borealis Alliance, based on the principles of business to business cooperation, has the potential to deliver real benefits to customers and to our members."

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Notes to Editors

- Borealis Alliance recognises and respects its members' existing alliances and FAB commitments. The approach to collaboration in the alliance will be flexible so different members can collaborate on different projects depending on what option offers them best value
- Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Norway have agreed to concentrate on gaining formal FAB status under the name NEFAB
- Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and the UK have signed a MoU to explore specific efficiencies in their area, including possible integration of their existing FABs, the Denmark-Sweden FAB and the UK-Ireland FAB
- Iceland is at present not subject to FAB requirements but has a close working relationship with neighbouring airspaces
- Lance Stuart (44) is currently Head of Information Strategy at NATS Information. He has held a number of management positions at NATS, including Head of Aviation Data Services and Head of Business Support Unit, Airport Services. Lance has an educational background within maritime communications and radar. Lance will take over the Borealis Executive Director role from the current Executive Director (Tim Johnson) later in summer 2012. As Executive Director of Borealis Alliance, Lance will be responsible for leading the small alliance Executive Team. The remaining roles, likely to be a mixture of full and part time, will be recruited from member ANSPs
- The Borealis initiative was established informally a year ago to explore the potential for commercial economies of scale. Today's signing of a formal agreement cements the alliance
- Borealis Alliance is headed by the Borealis Alliance Board where all nine alliance members are represented. Knut Skaar, Director of ATM in Avinor has been selected Chairman of the Borealis Alliance Board.
- One of the first projects is to establish a coordinated approach to the implementation of data link infrastructure in the region. Members have appointed a small cross-ANSP project team to develop a harmonised implementation plan; expected benefits include:
 - Cost savings through joint development of the necessary infrastructure and systems, avoiding duplication of effort
 - Direct savings to the customer airlines across the Borealis Alliance region through common implementation across all airports
- Borealis Alliance membership includes:

Avinor (Norway)

- Avinor provides air navigation services and operates airports across Norway.
- Avinor handled 794 000 flights and 44 million passengers in 2011.
- The Air Navigation Services Division of Avinor provides air traffic services within Norwegian airspace, including designated parts of North Atlantic airspace. In addition, air traffic services are provided at 21 controlled aerodromes, including Oslo Airport, the main airport in Norway.
- Air traffic services are provided to both civilian and military operators. The Division also manages ATM/CNS equipment to control centers and 52 aerodromes in Norway.

EANS (Estonia)

- Estonian ANS provides services to domestic and international air traffic in Tallinn TMA and Flight Information Region (it covers the airspace over Estonian territory and some assigned segments over the high seas).
- Air traffic services are provided from a centre in Tallinn and at two airports in Tallinn and Tartu.
- Estonian ANS provides Aeronautical Information Management Services (including preparation of aeronautical information, its publishing and distribution); CNS/ATM services (Communication, Navigation, Surveillance and data processing systems).
- In the 2011 calendar year EANS handled over 182 000 flights in Estonian airspace.

Finavia (Finland)

- Finavia handled 540 000 flights, carrying over 19 million passengers in 2011.
- Finavia provides en-route services for the entire Finnish airspace as well as providing air traffic services at 25 airports.
- Finavia maintains a nationwide air navigation system, including engineering and airport services.

ISAVIA (Iceland)

- Isavia Ltd is the ANSP for Iceland. State owned company, providing air traffic management, airport operations and air/ground communication services across the most northerly part of the North Atlantic and associated Arctic areas as far as the North Pole.
- Isavia controls an area of 5.4 million square km².
- Isavia handled 111 489 transatlantic flights in 2011, a 9% increase from 2010, with an average control time of 1 hour 40 minutes.
- Isavia provides Air Traffic Control Services at Keflavik, Reykjavik and Akureyri international airports as well as AFIS services at multiple other airports in Iceland.

IAA (Ireland)

- The IAA is a commercial semi-State company responsible for the provision of air traffic management and related services and is the safety regulator for the Irish civil aviation industry.
- The IAA receives no funding from the exchequer. Its revenues are generated through charges and fees raised from its airline customers and regulatory clients.
- In Irish controlled airspace during 2011 523 000 flights were handled, up 2% on 2010 levels.
- The IAA is both concerned and proactive to ensure that its activities are as environmentally friendly as possible. In 2011 the IAA won an award from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for its work in optimising airline routes to cut distances travelled by 2.2 million kilometres, saving 16 million litres of airline fuel per annum.

LFV (Sweden)

- LFV handled 700 000 flights carrying 35 million passengers in the 2010 calendar year in Swedish airspace.
- LFV provides en route air traffic control services from its control centers in Stockholm and Malmö.
- LFV also provides local air traffic control services at 34 airports including Stockholm Arlanda, Gothenburg Landvetter, Malmö Sturup and all military airports
- LFV is a state-owned enterprise.

LGS (Latvia)

- LGS is Latvian ANSP and state-owned enterprise stock company.
- LGS provides services throughout entire Latvian airspace (Riga FIR) and has handled over 236 000 flights in the Year 2011.
- LGS provides air traffic control from its Area Control Center in Riga.
- LGS also provides air traffic control services at three airports – Riga, Ventspils and Liepaja.

NATS (UK)

- NATS handled almost 2.2 million flights last year in UK and eastern North Atlantic airspace, and carried more than 200 million passengers safely through some of the busiest and most complex airspace in the world.
- NATS provides en-route air traffic control from centres at Swanwick, Hampshire and Prestwick, Ayrshire; and provides air traffic control services at 15 of the UK's major airports including Heathrow and Gatwick, the world's busiest two-runway and single-runway airports.
- NATS Services sells engineering, consultancy (including training), defence and aviation information management services in the UK and to more than 20 customers overseas.

Naviar (Denmark)

- Naviar handled 600 000 flights carrying 45 million passengers in the 2011 calendar year in Danish airspace.
- Naviar provides air traffic control from its control centre in Copenhagen.
- Naviar also provides air traffic control services at six airports including Copenhagen and Billund.
- Furthermore Naviar provides flight information and SAR in Greenland and aerodrome flight information service in Vágar airport on the Faroe Islands.
- Naviar owns 50% of NUAC (Nordic Unified Air Traffic Control). From 1 July 2012 NUAC is operating the air traffic control centres and provides en route and support services in the common airspace of Denmark and Sweden (DK-SE FAB) on behalf of the designated ANSPs, LFV and Naviar.