Press Release

Langen, 22 April 2021

Cloud-based air traffic control at Adolf Würth Airport in Germany

The aerodrome in Schwäbisch Hall has been successfully monitoring its air traffic for about a year using a cloud-based air situation display system from DFS Aviation Services GmbH.

Since July 2020 a cloud-based air situation display system called PHOENIX WebInnovation has been used at Adolf Würth Airport to facilitate safe air traffic management. The tool runs in an on-premise cloud in the airport control tower and was developed by DFS Aviation Services GmbH in Langen, a subsidiary of DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung.

Cloud solutions are currently still fairly unusual in the ATM sector. With the installation of the web- and cloud-based air traffic control system PHOENIX WebInnovation, the control tower at Adolf Würth Airport is the first of its kind in Germany and now uses this system to efficiently carry out its AFIS (Aerodrome Flight Information Services), which the aerodrome has been obliged to provide for several years. Due to an increased volume of IFR traffic and the resulting rise in complexity in recent years, the need arose to upgrade the aerodrome's air traffic control systems and introduce additional radar monitoring.

Peter Wohlleben, Managing Director of Flugplatz Schwäbisch Hall GmbH, explains: "The substantial mix of IFR and VFR traffic, as well as business aviation and air sports, presents a major challenge in Schwäbisch Hall. PHOENIX WebInnovation enables our AFIS officers to always have a complete picture of the overall traffic situation."

PHOENIX WebInnovation is suitable for a wide range of applications in the aviation industry. The tool has been on the market since the end of 2018 and offers users an innovative way to monitor the air and ground situation of air traffic in real time and with the usual high level of quality demanded by ATM. It is also a very flexible solution that is hardware and location independent thanks to the use of an online cloud and access via the internet (for example from a tablet), but also with the option for local installation, such as in Schwäbisch Hall. Here, the system was integrated into the existing system infrastructure of the airport control tower. This high level of flexibility in terms of location offers new application possibilities not only to airports and ATM companies but also to emergency forces, such as helicopter squadrons.

Andreas Pötzsch, Managing Director of DFS Aviation Services, says: “Air traffic control along with its infrastructure is a highly safety-critical industry. We ourselves are an air navigation services provider and we also develop and sell international air traffic control systems. Therefore, we have the same high requirements for our systems and infrastructure as the rest of the aviation industry. We are convinced that cloud technology today has advanced so far that it is able to reliably fulfil these high safety and performance criteria. Now, during the current difficult economic situation caused by the coronavirus pandemic, it is time to take advantage of this great potential and adopt new approaches. Cloud solutions enable greater flexibility, simplify processes and reduce costs.”

Adolf Würth Airport is an important part of the air traffic infrastructure in the state of Baden-Württemberg and with its all-weather flight operations, it contributes significantly to the economic power of the Heilbronn-Hohenlohe-Franken region. **Flugplatz Schwäbisch Hall GmbH** as the operator of Schwäbisch Hall Airport is a wholly owned subsidiary of the WÜRTH group and has been certified as an Air Navigation Service Provider for the Aerodrome Flight Information Service since 2017.
www.edty.de

DFS Aviation Services GmbH (DAS) is a subsidiary of DFS, the German air navigation service provider (ANSP). It employs more than 400 members of staff worldwide. DAS is a certified ANSP, provides air traffic services at regional airports in Germany and markets its ATM products and services worldwide. Its customers include air navigation services provid9ers, airport operators, airlines and aeronautical authorities from around the globe.

Through its UK subsidiary, Air Navigation Solutions Ltd. (ANSL), DAS is also responsible for the provision of air traffic control at Edinburgh and London Gatwick. In the Middle East, the subsidiary DFS Aviation Services Bahrain Co WLL supports the local air navigation service provider. In Asia, DAS maintains a representative office in Beijing and a branch in Singapore. DFS Aviation Services additionally offers turnkey remote tower solutions via its Joint Venture Frequentis DFS Aerosense GmbH, together with Frequentis AG from Vienna.
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