Press release DC18-109

**Better and safer data flows for aviation:**

**EUROCONTROL selects BT for NewPENS**

*NewPENS, a new ultra-resilient network, will enhance the reliability and security of aviation data flows — with users only paying for the service levels they sign up for.*

*Brussels, 17 April 2018*: Following a common procurement action, [EUROCONTROL](https://www.eurocontrol.int/) and forty-one industry partners, primarily air navigation service providers (ANSPs), today launched a new contract with [BT](https://www.globalservices.bt.com/uk/en/home) for the provision and management of a secure and highly resilient New Pan-European Network Service (NewPENS). The 10-year contract has an estimated total value of more than €50 million.

The new, ultra-resilient network will connect around 100 locations across 47 countries in the EUROCONTROL area and neighbouring countries. It can be used by all air traffic management (ATM) stakeholders to transfer business-critical data reliably, securely and safely in a cost-efficient way.

It will be built on BT's IP network with mission-critical connections running on a dual core infrastructure, offering parallel connectivity that is physically and logically separated in order to provide the highest levels of availability and resilience.

NewPENS is the successor to PENS, which was launched in December 2009. It is a major upgrade – in service management as well as network architecture – and the backbone for cross-border data and voice communications for the Network Manager, ANSPs and other ATM stakeholders.

**NewPENS’ features:**

* It is **future-proof** – ready to cope with future ATM and network technology developments;
* It is open to a **wider range** of stakeholders — the military, ATM providers, airlines, airports, meteorological services as well as ANSPs;
* It offers **increased flexibility** in supporting applications;
* Its **safety** levels will be ATM-grade enabling it to support safety-critical applications;
* Its sophisticated **cybersecurity** measures will protect users’ data;
* Where needed, **availability** will be up to 99.999% — a decimal point higher than was the case for the current PENS;
* Its service management framework will feature a Europe-wide **Service Desk** with extensive monitoring and reporting services;
* It will offer **different ‘tiers’ of service** — from entry-level to mid-level, through to demanding high-end. Users will only be invoiced for the services they select.
* Its **governance** has been updated to reflect experience. Strong strategic guidance, proper supervision and full support will be provided by different managerial levels in participating organisations. NewPENS has:
  + - a Top Management Board (TMB) to drive strategic change;
    - a PENS Executive Board (PEB) for effective collaboration with user communities;
    - an Air Traffic Service Board (ATSB) with network managers from ANSPs and EUROCONTROL for tactical guidance and service management.

*“NewPENS is an unparalleled common procurement contract in pan-European air traffic management,” noted* ***Eamonn Brennan****, Director General of EUROCONTROL and Vice-Chairman New PENS Top Management Board. “With air traffic on the rise, NewPENS will provide solid support to European aviation, securing cross-border network connections and underpinning safety-critical applications,” he concluded.*

*“NewPENS will also support future ATM applications, particularly for the SWIM (System-Wide Information Management) architecture. It will be a key enabler for deploying services generated by the SESAR[[1]](#footnote-1) projects,” observed* ***Maurice Georges,*** *Chairman NewPENS TMB and Director of the French air navigation service provider, DSNA. “Its technical service catalogue will evolve with technology and business requirements. Its newly-designed architecture will ensure an increased level of end-to-end control and authority.”*

*“With air traffic expected to double in the years ahead, the need for secure and highly reliable communications has never been greater and of more importance. Many leading multinationals, such as members of the BT Radianz Cloud, the world’s largest secure networked financial markets community, already rely on BT to connect their critical global operations, people and data. The networking infrastructure we will put in place for the NewPENS community will ensure ultra-high levels of resilience and security for air traffic controllers to help them guide planes safely to their destinations,” said* ***Bas Burger,*** *CEO Global Services, BT.*

**Next steps**

The Network Manager will begin the transition to NewPENS as soon as possible after the signature of the contract. BT will set up its organisation, service management framework, service desk, processes, transition model and network between April and September 2018.

The ±100 sites belonging to the 30+ current PENS users as well as EUROCONTROL will gradually be transferred in clusters to NewPENS between October 2018 and 30 November 2019, the date on which the current PENS contract will expire.

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**Notes to editors**

**About EUROCONTROL**

*EUROCONTROL, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation, has as its primary objective to develop a seamless, pan-European air traffic management (ATM) system that fully copes with the growth in air traffic, while maintaining a high level of safety, reducing costs and respecting the environment.*

*EUROCONTROL has 41 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.*

*EUROCONTROL has Comprehensive Agreements with the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Israel.*

***About BT***

*BT’s purpose is to use the power of communications to make a better world. It is one of the world’s leading providers of communications services and solutions, serving customers in 180 countries. Its principal activities include the provision of networked IT services globally; local, national and international telecommunications services to its customers for use at home, at work and on the move; broadband, TV and internet products and services; and converged fixed-mobile products and services. BT consists of six customer-facing lines of business: Consumer, EE, Business and Public Sector, Global Services, Wholesale and Ventures, and Openreach.*

*For the year ended 31 March 2017, BT Group’s reported revenue was £24,062m with reported profit before taxation of £2,354m.*

*British Telecommunications plc (BT) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group plc and encompasses virtually all businesses and assets of the BT Group. BT Group plc is listed on stock exchanges in London and New York.*

*For more information, visit* [*www.btplc.com*](http://www.btplc.com)

1. [SESAR](http://www.sesarju.eu/) (Single European Sky ATM Research) is the technological pillar of the [Single European Sky](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/single_european_sky_en) programme of the European Union. SESAR aims to improve Air Traffic Management (ATM) performance by modernising and harmonising ATM systems through the definition, development, validation and deployment of innovative technological and operational ATM solutions. These innovative solutions constitute what is known as the SESAR concept of operations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)