



Media Release

AIRSERVICES
AUSTRALIA

Aviation Internet to be the focus of multi-million dollar Aust R and D Project - 25/96

From the offices of Airservices Australia and Thomson Radar Australia Corporation

Airservices Australia and Thomson Radar Australia Corporation Pty Ltd (TRAC), the contractors for Australia's new Air Traffic Management system, have today signed an agreement for a multi-million dollar R and D project confirming Australia's commitment to the future development of a global aviation communication system. The agreement was signed today by Mr Peter Hider, Airservices' General Manager of Projects and Mr Lionnel Wonneberger, TRACS's Managing Director.

Also attending the signing ceremony was Jean-Loup Picard, Chairman and CEO of Thomson-CSF Airsys, TRAC's international parent, along with a representative of the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Science and Tourism, Patricia Kelly.

The co-operative R and D project will involve the implementation of an Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) Validation Platform which will support the panning and analysis required for Airservices to successfully prepare for the future evolution of its data communications infrastructure. The co-funded project, commencing in December 1996, is expected to be completed in 18 months.

The ATN is the internationally standardised global data communications network proposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to provide safe, reliable and efficient data communications between suitably equipped aircraft and ground systems and between different ground systems.

Similar ATN platforms have already been established in Europe and the US. The new Australian platform, to be located in Canberra, will be the first in the Asia-Pacific region and will link with its European and US counterparts to form a global validation network.

The project will be jointly managed by TRAC and Airservices. TRAC will also contribute ATN expertise and communications and Air Traffic Management software valued at over \$10 million, whilst Airservices will provide specialist staff, platform equipment and software integration valued at approximately \$2.6 million.

TRAC will be supported by Thomfans, a new entity of Thomson-CSF in charge of the architectural design of Thomson-CSF's Air Traffic Management systems.

Telstra and AWA Limited will also be involved in the project; Telstra providing satellite communication services and AWA bringing its expertise in VHF radio communications.

Dr Rosalind Dubs, Airservices' General Manager of Planning and Development, explained that "This project will enable Airservices to address the complex issues involved in the introduction of these new technologies. It is the first step in our planning process which will also involve cost-benefit analysis to determine the extent and pace of the transition to the ATN in Australia".

TRAC Managing Director, Lionnel Wonneberger described the R and D project as another benefit to Australian industry, technology and R and D resulting from TRAC's involvement in the development of The Australian Advanced Air Traffic System (TAAATS).

"The new ATN platform will ensure that Australia is at the forefront of developments in the Future Air Navigation System" Mr Wonneberger said.

"ATN can be likened to an aviation internet, providing secure data communication with aircraft anywhere in the world. When introduced, the new system will provide enhanced safety for aircraft and passengers as well as bringing economic benefits to the world's airlines" he said.

Under the TAAATS contract, TRAC and its parent company Thomson-CSF Airsys, support and promote Australian industry involvement not only in the implementation of TAAATS, but through R and D, technology transfers and opening up of world-wide markets for Australian designed and manufactured products and technologies.

The involvement of AWA and Telstra in this R and D project is the latest example of Australian participation and benefit from TAAATS.

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Airservices Australia is a Government owned organisation responsible for the safe and efficient management of air traffic