
FREQUENTIS and Avinor win the “Overall Excellence” Air Traffic Management Award for demonstrating safe operation of drones and air ambulance

- **Annual ATM (Air Traffic Management) Awards recognise Avinor, Frequentis, and Norwegian Air Ambulance for safe and effective integration of drones into traditional airspace**
- **Frequentis and Avinor were also runner-up for the Sustainability Award for significantly reducing carbon emissions through Continuous Climb and Descent Operations at Oslo airport**
- **The awards, in cooperation with ATM Magazine and CANSO, took place this year at Airspace World in Geneva with Frequentis and Avinor honoured for Overall Excellence**

Avinor, the airport operator and Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) of Norway has been working on a project to increase safety for the air ambulance and drone operators in Norway through data sharing. A key challenge was sharing the information of planned and active drone flights with emergency helicopters operated by the Norwegian Air Ambulance. These helicopters often operate in dynamic and high-pressure environments, and the added workload of looking for drones needed to be addressed.

“The complex and innovative project has required careful planning and coordination to ensure the safe and efficient integration of drones alongside traditional aircraft. The UTM (uncrewed traffic management) system delivered by Frequentis provides a common information system (CIS) able to distribute data from drone flight applications to third party systems, allowing pilots to visualise the airspace usage in real time,” says Hannu Juurakko, Frequentis Executive Vice President ATM Civil and Chairman Frequentis ATM Executive Board. “We are delighted that we have won the Overall Excellence ATM Award with Avinor. As airspace entrants grow, the ability to manage different types of traffic at different altitudes is becoming increasingly complex, however, our innovative solutions are helping to streamline both ATM and UTM.”

“This has been a very interesting and challenging project for all parties involved, and we are very happy to receive this acknowledgment,” says Axel Knutsen, Vice President of Avinors Drone Program. “Safety is our top priority, and we are very glad that we could develop this new feature to improve safety for both drone operators and the Norwegian Air Ambulance. This is only the first use case where we share data with a third party, many more will come as the industry continues to grow.”

Today the Norwegian Air Ambulance uses a system which provides pilots with detailed weather reports and video images from a network of cameras placed all over Norway. This information is displayed directly to the pilot in the cockpit of the helicopter in real time. The solution for drones was a collaboration between Avinor, Frequentis and the Norwegian Air Ambulance for sharing data between these systems.

This has opened the door for further innovation and development in the use of drones in aviation, which has the potential to bring significant benefits to the industry as a whole. Avinor's project to share information across the industry was a complex and innovative undertaking, and it has achieved a number of significant benefits for both police and emergency helicopters and the wider aviation industry.

In addition, Frequentis and the Norwegian airport operator and Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP), Avinor, were the runner-up for the ATM Sustainability Award for their joint initiatives to enable Continuous Climb and Descent Operations at Oslo airport, leading to an 80 per cent reduction of CO₂ emissions compared to the average at major European airports.

The annual ATM Awards acknowledge companies and projects for their work across five categories: Airspace Management, Sustainability, Collaboration, Shaping our Future Skies, and Innovation, with Frequentis shortlisted with its customers in four projects across two of the categories. There was then a final category, in which the judges rated who they thought should be the Overall Excellence winner, with Frequentis and Avinor honoured with this special accolade.

The awards, run by Air Traffic Management Magazine, aim to encourage pioneering concepts and acknowledge significant achievements in the performance areas of safety, innovation, cost efficiency, and environmental responsibility. Judges this year included a variety of representatives across the ATM and UTM industries, coming from Air Traffic Management Magazine, CANSO, EUROCONTROL, NASA, Thales, Unmanned Airspace Magazine, Verizon, and Wing.

Visit Frequentis at Airspace World, Palexpo Exhibition Centre, booth F17 until 10 March 2023.



Claudia Bacco, Assistant Editor ATM Magazine; Nikola Tufekcic, UTM & Counter UAS Specialist Avinor; Roman Stickler, New Business Development Frequentis; Simon Hocquard, Director General CANSO; © Frequentis

About Avinor

Avinor is a Norwegian air navigation service provider, operator of 43 airports and responsible for critical technical infrastructure in some of the world's harshest climates. The company is an industry leader within sustainable operations and an early mover when it comes to implementing new technology such as digital remote towers. Avinor is a public company fully owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Transport & Communications. It has about 2800 dedicated staff across Norway, with its head office located in the capital Oslo.

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About FREQUENTIS

Frequentis is a global supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. The listed family company develops and markets its "control centre solutions" in the Air Traffic Management segment (civil and military air traffic control, air defence) and the Public Safety & Transport segment (police, fire brigades, emergency rescue services, coastguards, port authorities, railways). With a market share of 30%, Frequentis is the world market leader in voice communication systems for air traffic control. Frequentis is also the global leader in aeronautical information management and aeronautical message handling systems.

As a global player with around 2,000 employees (full-time equivalents/FTE), Frequentis has a global network of companies in more than 50 countries. Its head office is in Vienna, Austria. Frequentis' products, services, and solutions are used at more than 40,000 operator working positions in around 150 countries. Shares in Frequentis are traded on the Vienna and Frankfurt stock exchanges; ISIN: ATFREQUENT09, WKN: A2PHG5. In 2021, revenues were EUR 333.5 million and EBIT was EUR 29.0 million.

Wherever Frequentis' systems are used, safety-critical operators bear responsibility for the safety of other people and goods. The company also works towards a more sustainable future through its air traffic optimisation solutions.

For more information, please visit www.frequentis.com.

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