

The Future of Safety in ATM

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A Strategy for Safety in ATM

- How has ATM safety evolved?
- How do we currently measure how safe we are?
- How do we assure the safety of our systems, processes and procedures?
- How is safety delivered in the operation?
- What do we mean by safe in the future?
- How will we predict hazards and calculate risk?
- How do we address the challenges of regulation and the pace of change?
- What is the role of the human in delivering safety and how do we protect this?
- How do we prioritise what actions we should take to ensure a safe ATM operation?



People Create Safety



The use of advanced automation will see greater integration between human and technical support systems in the operation.

We need to equip our people to make even better decisions, based on better information and improved capability.



Safety Intelligence



The traditional approach to safety monitoring and measurement that NATS has evolved to use has been one which identifies and counts the number of times we fail to provide a safe service. We then investigate each failure in order to learn the lessons to eliminate a reoccurrence.

Going forward we need to:

- Redefine safety to be not just the absence of things going wrong but the presence of things going right;
- Develop new measures of everyday performance;
- Develop new understandings of how the ATM system produces a safe operation to anticipate and control safety in the operation.



Tailored & Proportionate

Understanding the real operational risks and addressing them proportionately – focusing on what really matters.

The ATM world is undergoing a significant revolution in technology, automation, airspace and regulations. We need to understand the safety implications of the increasing dependency on automation and the increased complexity of future systems.



Challenging & Learning

We all operate within a wider world with increasing collaboration with between organisations on, for example, systems development or sharing or airspace.

We must learn from and collaborate with others where a risk or a benefit is truly shared so that we can ensure it is properly addressed to the benefit of aviation safety.

