



Operations

DFS deploys first step of Free Route Airspace

2 March 2018; In the night to Thursday, 1 March 2018, DFS completed the first implementation step of DFS free route airspace. Since midnight, FRA has been available in large portions of upper airspace in Germany. Free route airspace is a paradigm shift and replaces the existing air traffic service route network. Airspace users can choose from a multitude of direct route options between numerous entry and exit points, thus enabling shorter, and therefore fuel-saving and emission-saving flight routes.

In the airspace controlled by Karlsruhe Upper Area Control Centre, free route airspace is available around the clock over the northeast (above FL 285) and southeast (above FL 315) of Germany. In the more complex airspace over western (above FL 245) and southern (above FL 315) parts of Germany, the availability of free route airspace is initially limited to night-time hours (23:30 to 05:00 local time). Here, FRA H24 will be introduced at the end of 2019.

The control centres in Bremen and Munich are also involved in FRA implementation to the extent allowed by current technology. Bremen ACC, responsible for the northeast of Germany, offers additional direct route options at night for flights above FL 245 up to FL 285. Munich ACC offers such direct route options around the clock in the southeast and south of Germany between FL 245 and 315.

As part of the FABEC free route airspace project, DFS is taking a significant step towards complying with the European Pilot Common Project regulation in the very dense and complex airspace above Germany. This regulation aims to offer airspace users even more efficient and thus cost- and environmentally-friendly flight routes.

The Functional Airspace Block Europe Central (FABEC) Free Route Airspace project defines a gradual implementation approach based on a single common FABEC concept of operations, which complies with standards defined by the Network Manager. The implementation has been closely coordinated with airlines and flight planning service providers. Since December 2017, EUROCONTROL Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC) has been operating free route airspace over Belgium, northwest Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands above FL245 at night. Complementary steps are planned for the coming years.

You can find an explanatory animation of the Free Route concept on www.fabec.eu,

About DFS

DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH, the German air navigation service provider, is a State-owned company under private law with 5,400 employees. DFS ensures the safe and punctual flow of air traffic over Germany. Around 2,000 air traffic controllers guide up to 10,000 flights in German airspace every day, about three million movements every year. The company operates control centres in Langen, Bremen, Karlsruhe and Munich as well as control towers at the 16 international airports in Germany. Its subsidiary DFS Aviation Services offers products and





services related to air traffic management worldwide and provides air navigation services at nine German regional airports as well as at London Gatwick Airport in the UK.

About FABEC

The airspace of the six FABEC States of Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland is one of the busiest and most complex in the world. The majority of the major European airports, major civil airways and military training areas are located in this area. FABEC airspace covers 1.7 million km² and handles about 5.8 million flights per year – 55% of European air traffic.

For further information please contact:

Roland Beran, FABEC Communications, + 49 6103 707 4190

Boris Pfetzing, DFS, +49 721 6903 310

