



ENAIRe successfully coordinates Europe's first long-distance stratospheric flight operation in the Canary Islands

- ENAIRe, in coordination with the Spain's State Aviation Safety Agency, has authorised the safe integration into conventional air traffic of a high-altitude platform and a stratospheric balloon
- The operation aims to validate technologies that will enable real-time data transmission to optimise emergency service response
- The test, led by Telespazio Ibérica and operated by CATEC from the stratoport at the Fuerteventura Technology Park, consolidates the Canary Islands as a benchmark in new air mobility

Madrid, 30 January 2026

ENAIRe, Spain's national air navigation service provider, and the State Aviation Safety Agency (AESA) have made possible the first high-altitude, long-range stratospheric flight of a HAPS (High Altitude Platform System) platform in Europe. The operation was successfully carried out last December at the stratoport of the Fuerteventura Technology Park, located within Canary Islands airspace, which is managed by ENAIRe's Control Centre in the Archipelago.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in national air traffic management by integrating operations involving large unmanned vehicles (HAPS) with commercial aviation, while ensuring the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency at all times.

The operation is part of the ISSEC project, led by Telespazio Ibérica (Leonardo Group) together with Pegasus Aero Group under a temporary joint venture.

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The project aims to procure R&D services focused on the development of innovative solutions in the fields of biodiversity, security, emergencies and other public services, through the use of unmanned aerial platforms. The technical execution of the flight involved the collaboration of the Advanced Centre for Aerospace Technologies (CATEC) as the authorised operator, demonstrating the capability of Spanish industry and institutions to lead the European aerospace sector. To enable the take-off of the Apus Neo 18 aircraft, developed by MIRA Aerospace, ENAIRe air traffic controllers deployed specific coordination procedures, supervising the ascent of the platform.

Technology in support of emergency services

The objective of these flights, which also include the deployment of a free-floating balloon operated by TAO, is to validate the use of stratospheric platforms as critical support tools. ENAIRe supports the development of these technologies, which will make it possible to transmit data to the Geoinformation Centre in real time, optimising the response of emergency services in the fight against forest fires and in disaster management.

Through this operation, ENAIRe reaffirms its commitment to the development of the Higher Airspace Operations (HAO) concept, positioning Spain and the Canary Islands at the forefront of aeronautical innovation in Europe.

About ENAIRe

ENAIRe is the air navigation service provider in Spain.

As a company of the Ministry of Sustainable Transport and Mobility, it provides air traffic control services during the en route and approach phases of all flights to and from Spain and overflights. In addition, it manages communications, navigation and surveillance services from ENAIRe in the airspace and the entire AENA airport network in Spain and provides aerodrome air traffic control services in 21 airports, including the busiest.

ENAIRe is the fourth largest European air navigation service provider, and it is a member of international partnerships A6 Alliance, SESAR (Single



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European Sky ATM Research) Joint Undertaking, SESAR Deployment Manager, iTEC, CANSO (Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation) and collaborates closely with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization).

ENAIRe has obtained the highest rating in the key performance indicator for air safety at European scale for six consecutive years, the last five with the maximum possible score of 100%. It has also been awarded the EFQM 600 Seal for its safe, efficient, innovative and sustainable management of air navigation services.

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