



ENAIRe explained in La Gomera how drone management in airspace will be automated

- Javier Delgado, ENAIRe's Canary Islands Regional Director, and Raquel Moldes, from the Drone Business Development Department, spoke at the 1st International Aeronautical and Aerospace Congress in La Gomera, which is being held on the island under the title "Canary Islands, the sandbox that looks to the sky"
- At this congress, ENAIRe discussed how unmanned aircraft are integrated safely with conventional air traffic
- The Island Council, PROEXCA - Sociedad Canaria de Fomento Económico S.A, the Canary Islands Aeronautical and Aerospace Cluster and IUMA/University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria organised this first congress
- The Canary Islands ranks second among Spain's regions in coordinated drone operations, with 1,185 so far this year

Madrid, 25 November 2022

ENAIRe took part yesterday in the International Aeronautical and Aerospace Congress in La Gomera, being held on the island under the theme of "Canary Islands, the sandbox that looks to the sky". Yesterday and today, at the headquarters of the Island Council, experts and institutions tackled initiatives in air and space systems, robotics and the role of government agencies in relation to new aviation, among other aspects.

The congress was organised by the Island Council, together with PROEXCA - Sociedad Canaria de Fomento Económico (Canarian Company for Economic Development) S.A, Canary Islands Aeronautical and Aerospace Cluster and IUMA/University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Intervening on behalf of ENAIRe were: Javier Delgado, ENAIRe's Canary Islands Regional Director, and Raquel Moldes, from the Drones Business

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Development Department, who presented the company's plans to safely integrate drones into airspace with the rest of conventional traffic.

Javier Delgado and Raquel Moldes took part in "Roundtable III: Legislation and use of UAS in Spanish airspace", where they shared how unmanned aircraft flights affect ENAIRe's air traffic control service, how UAS flights are coordinated, if an airspace area has to be reserved while aerial work is being done, and other topics.

In addition, in "Roundtable V: R&D in other air and space settings. Unmanned aircraft, the creation and transition to vertiports", Raquel Moldes presented the projects ENAIRe is carrying out to test the integration of drones with other air traffic.

The growth of these operations demands that they be safely integrated with all other traffic. In the Canary Islands alone, ENAIRe coordinated 1,185 operations in the Canary Islands through October, out of over 9,200 in all Spain. The Canary Islands ranks second behind Catalonia (2,006), and ahead of Madrid (1,174), in the number of drone operations managed by ENAIRe.

The European Commission has set up a regulatory framework that will allow UAS traffic to be automatically managed and integrated with manned aviation. This concept is known as U-space.

U-space is the set of services and procedures that are being developed in a coordinated manner to enable a high number of operations with unmanned aircraft, especially complex operations, in a way that is orderly, fluid, safe and attainable.

In order to comply with this European regulation, the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda (MITMA) has set up a National Action Plan for the Deployment of U-space (PANDU). The document was developed under the leadership of the Civil Aviation General Directorate (DGAC), and jointly authored by the National Aviation Safety Agency (AESA) and ENAIRe. The Ministry of Defence also played a key role in its creation.

This plan calls on all the parties involved in the sector to promote the development of infrastructure and the implementation of U-space services in a coordinated and efficient manner throughout the country.

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As part of the Plan, ENAIRE aims to be certified as the sole common information services provider (CISP) to disseminate static and dynamic data that will allow U-space services to be provided.

ENAIRE, through various projects and with European financing, is studying how the benefits of the U-Space system in controlled airspace will allow processes that are now manual to be automated, and response times to be improved. Similarly, the desired safe integration of drones and manned traffic will be subject to coordination between air navigation service providers.

About ENAIRE

ENAIRE is the air navigation service provider in Spain.

As a company of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda, it provides en route control services for all flights and overflights from five control centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Gran Canaria and Palma, as well as approach services to every airport in the country.

In addition, 45 control towers receive ENAIRE's communication, navigation and surveillance services, and 21 airports, including the country's busiest, rely on its aerodrome control services.

ENAIRE is Europe's fourth largest air traffic manager. Since 1 January 2022, it has chaired the A6 Alliance, a coalition of air navigation providers responsible for over 80% of European air traffic, and which is seeking to modernise the air traffic management system. It is also a member of other international alliances promoting the Single European sky, such as SESAR Joint Undertaking, SESAR Deployment Manager, iTEC, CANSO and ICAO.

ENAIRE, as the agency appointed by the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda to implement the U-space system in Spain, will be the provider of the Common Information Services (CIS), which are essential for administering U-space services to drones and Urban Air Mobility, in interaction with local air traffic control services, so that all types of aircraft can fly safely in the same airspace.

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