airservices
australia

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Airservices Australia commences build of Australia's cutting-edge drone traffic management system

Airservices Australia is preparing for an anticipated influx of drones over the next 20 years with the appointment of Frequentis Australasia to develop world-leading, digital air traffic management to safely integrate millions of uncrewed aircraft flights into Australia's busy airspace.

A new analysis commissioned by Airservices predicts that drone flights in Australia will surge from around 1.5 million currently to more than 60 million by 2043, requiring the latest technologies to manage the significant increase in air traffic.

Frequentis has been selected to develop a Flight Information Management System (FIMS) that will enable Airservices to seamlessly incorporate drones, air taxis and other uncrewed aircraft into Australian airspace.

The FIMS will be at the core of Australia's Uncrewed Aircraft Systems Traffic Management (UTM) ecosystem. It will enable Airservices to share flight information between air traffic control, traditional aircraft, and uncrewed airspace users.

Frequentis was selected after a comprehensive selection process, which included prototype development and in-field trials. The company has proven experience in the delivery of operational UTM systems around the world.

Jason Harfield, Airservices Australia Chief Executive Officer, said the new system would support the safe integration of current and future air traffic with the rapid growth of uncrewed aircraft.

"Drones are the biggest growth area in aviation and our partnership with Frequentis to develop a FIMS will enable us to integrate traditional and new airspace users into increasingly busy airspace," Mr Harfield said.

"With Frequentis, we will develop a FIMS that meets the needs of Australian airspace users and ensures we can safely integrate millions of drone flights with other users. I'm confident the new FIMS will encourage the growing drone market to reach its full potential in Australia."

Martin Rampl, Managing Director, Frequentis Australia said the company was delighted to have been chosen to develop the new system.

"Frequentis is the only company worldwide to have successfully delivered UTM solutions to multiple Air Navigation Service Providers. This strategic partnership with Airservices Australia represents another important milestone in our mission to support the Australian airspace ecosystem with safe, efficient and compliant integration of drones while fostering innovation and economic growth," Mr Rampl said.

"We are looking forward to working with Airservices to jointly develop the system, pushing technological innovation in the uncrewed aviation domain, including the ability to integrate new services in the future."

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About Airservices
Airservices Australia is Federal Government-owned organisation responsible for the safety of 11 per cent of the world's airspace and the provision of aviation rescue fire fighting services at Australia's busiest airports. We work closely with our customers and industry to support the long-term growth of the aviation industry and are investing in technologies to position Australia at the forefront of innovation in the global aviation industry.

About Frequentis Australia

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 services, emergency rescue services, railways, coastguards, port authorities). With a market share of 30 per cent, 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.