



The HERMES Project has been working successfully since 5 September

## ENAIRe improves approach operations to the Gran Canaria Airport

- It helps sequence aircraft more efficiently, increases predictability and reliability, reduces aircraft wait times and optimises flight distance
- It saves fuel and lowers atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- It boosts efficiency in air control sectors and provides more space for non-commercial aviation
- ENAIRe gets ahead of the European Regulation, which requires this type of airspace procedure to be operational by 2030

**Madrid, 27 September 2024**

ENAIRe, the national air navigation service provider, has improved approach operations at the Gran Canaria Airport.

Since 5 September, it has been successfully using the HERMES project, which involves modernising and improving air navigation procedures by employing the latest technologies.

The approach service at the airport, which ENAIRe provides from its Canary Control Centre, manages the arrival and departure trajectories from the time an aircraft flies beyond the visual range of the control tower until it reaches an approximate altitude of four kilometres.

Before the new HERMES project to redesign the airspace was implemented, its design relied on conventional navigation concepts, which are based primarily on nav aids and ground equipment, as well as on vector guidance dependent on said equipment and provided by air traffic controllers, who directed the approach to Gran Canaria.

This information can be used, in whole or in part, without citing the source.

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PRESS RELEASE





The HERMES Project modernises and improves the take-off and approach procedures to and from Gran Canaria using the latest technologies, such as precision navigation known as RNP, in which an aircraft determines its position using information based on signals emitted by satellites. This system has been used in the design of the manoeuvres and it proactively complies with European Regulation 2018/1048, which will apply to arrival, approach and departure routes and whose implementation deadline is 2030.

### Aircraft sequencing aid

The Gran Canaria Airport sees periods with very busy operational traffic. HERMES, using the AMAN arrivals manager, provides assistance with sequencing inbound aircraft, enhances predictability and reliability in the planning of arrivals, allows waiting traffic to be more efficiently managed during busy periods, and it streamlines flight paths, paving the way for radar approaches to prepare for future traffic growth.

Arrival trajectories to runway 03, the main runway used at the Gran Canaria Airport, use the technique known as vector to merge, which reduces the number of vectors assigned to each flight by allowing traffic to fly a semi-circular and equidistant path with respect to a reference point. The result is more regular spacing between successive aircraft and fewer pilot/controller communications, which are also shorter and simpler.

In addition, the vector guidance to runway 21, when there is a change in wind direction, entails greater standardisation in the process of guiding traffic to provide the necessary space to preceding traffic.

Managing the altitudes and speeds authorised by ENAIRE's control staff enables lower fuel costs and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by keeping traffic at optimum altitudes and speeds as long as possible, and allowing for more continuous descents by arriving aircraft.

Another benefit of the HERMES project is the reduction in the CTR, the volume of airspace surrounding the Gran Canaria Airport, which is an area that is set up to manage and control air traffic near take-off and landing points. This allows greater freedom of flight for non-commercial general aviation, with less need for authorisations from the controller in the Control Centre, and it streamlines the workload for the sector involved.

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### Improvements for controllers and pilots

For air controllers and pilots, navigation is now more predictable, and both the number and content of voice messages have been reduced. This decreases the workload for both parties.

Similarly, as the number of operations increases sustainably at the airport, ENAIRE will be ready to handle it with the best technology.

HERMES symbolises ENAIRE's commitment to ensure the air navigation at the Gran Canaria Airport adapts early to the new European regulation, based on an environmentally friendly design and facilitating the work of pilots and controllers through more standardised manoeuvres.

### About ENAIRE

ENAIRE is the air navigation service provider in Spain.

As a company of the Ministry of Sustainable Transport and Mobility, 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, 46 airports receive communication, navigation and surveillance services from ENAIRE, which also maintains their air traffic control systems, and 21 of them, including the country's busiest airports, rely on its aerodrome air traffic control services.

ENAIRE is Europe's fourth largest air traffic manager and participates in 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 responsible agency identified by the Ministry of Sustainable Transport and Mobility to implement the U-Space system in Spain, will, through its digital platform, provide the Common Information Services (CIS), which are essential to facilitate U-space services to drones and Urban Air



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Mobility in cooperation with local air traffic services, so that all types of aircraft can fly safely in the same airspace.

ENAIRe has received the highest score in Europe on the aviation safety key performance indicator for four years in a row. 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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