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PRESS RELEASE

CANSO Announces New Office in the Middle East in Partnership with SANS

New Regional Director Appointed as MoU Signed at Airspace World



Lisbon, Portugal, 19 May 2025 – Big news from the show floor at Airspace World: CANSO has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Saudi Air Navigation Services Company (SANS) to open a new regional office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

This marks a major step forward for our presence in the Middle East - a region that is rapidly evolving and increasingly shaping the future of air traffic management. The new office will enable us to work more closely with Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and industry partners in the region, support ongoing transformation, and continue building a strong, connected ATM community.

Alongside the announcement, we're thrilled to welcome our new Director for the Middle East, Saad Alkahtani, who will be based in Riyadh and lead our regional strategy and engagement.

The CEO of Saudi Air Navigation Services, Eng. Abdulaziz Al-Zaid, stated: "The signing of this MoU marks an important milestone in our efforts to enhance air navigation services across the region. Hosting the CANSO Middle East Regional Office in the Kingdom reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to regional leadership and global cooperation in the aviation sector."

CANSO Director General, Mr. Simon Hocquard added: "This partnership with SANS is a great example of regional collaboration and shared ambition. By establishing a permanent base in Riyadh, we're showing our long-term commitment to supporting the Middle East's ATM ecosystem and contributing to its growth and innovation."

More to come soon- but for now, we're celebrating a milestone made possible by collaboration, shared vision, and a lot of behind-the-scenes work.



About CANSO

CANSO – the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation – is the global voice of the air traffic management (ATM) industry and is shaping our future skies. Our

members support over 90 per cent of the world's air traffic and include air navigation service providers, airspace users and operators, manufacturers and aviation industry suppliers. We raise the bar on global ATM performance by connecting the industry to share knowledge, expertise and innovation.

About Airspace World

Airspace World, taking place in Lisbon, is the leading global event for the future of aviation and air traffic management. It brings together leaders, innovators, and thought leaders from across the manned and unmanned aviation industry to shape the skies of tomorrow.

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