skyguide factsheet

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Skyguide to conclude Virtual Centre programme by the end of 2027

The Swiss air navigation service provider will conclude its Virtual Centre programme as such at the end of 2027 and transfer the remaining elements to its regular IT project portfolio. This will ensure further modernisation of its air navigation services.

Skyguide's Board of Directors has decided to conclude the Virtual Centre programme structure by the end of 2027. The programme will then have reached a level of maturity that meets Skyguide's strategic objectives. At the same time, the Swiss air navigation service provider will thereby ensure that it can continue to pursue the necessary technological and operational developments in a targeted and efficient manner. This decision is based on ongoing internal evaluations as well as recommendations from the Swiss Federal Audit Office.

Virtual Centre generates benefits of 17 million Swiss francs per year

Skyguide remains committed to its strategic goal of managing the forecast growth and increasing volatility in air traffic safely, efficiently and flexibly with modern, virtualised systems. The location-independent management of the entire Swiss airspace remains at the heart of Skyguide's future strategy.

Since 2017, the Virtual Centre generates benefits of around 17 million Swiss francs per year. The programme will have paid for itself by the end of 2027. In addition, Skyguide has made technological advances in the course of this programme that enable air traffic controllers to handle growing air traffic more efficiently. It thus provides lasting proof of the benefits of modernisation. Outstanding, strategically relevant components – such as the harmonisation of flight plan data systems in the control centres in Geneva and Dübendorf – will be implemented by 2027. These will form the basis for further efficiency gains. Skyguide will transfer the remaining elements of the Virtual Centre to its regular IT project portfolio.

High pressure for modernisation worldwide

Skyguide is not alone when it comes to the challenges posed by ageing technology and growing and increasingly volatile air traffic. In recent months, air traffic control services around the world have been confronted with disruptions and failures in their systems. These events clearly demonstrate how great the pressure to modernise is, also in an international context. The adjustment of the internal IT project structure that has now been initiated should enable Skyguide to introduce technologies safely, in a targeted manner and with stability.