

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP TO ENABLE THE LAUNCH OF DRONES IN LARGE CITIES

- **Funded by the European Union Horizon 2020 programme, the SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU) consortium is made up of 22 companies from 14 countries across Europe**
- **They will develop the solutions and procedures to integrate air traffic management (ATM) and the control of drones flying in cities at low altitudes**
- **Drones will boost the competitiveness of the entire economy and offer enormous potential for economic development and job creation in the coming years**

Madrid, X Abril, 2021.- The SESAR JU ATM U-space project, AURA, will tackle one of the main obstacles preventing drones from taking off in large cities: their safe integration into the airspace without impacting conventional air traffic operations.

Every major city in the world has one or more airports in its vicinity that establish restrictions on access to their airspace. These limitations can sometimes also affect the neighboring city's airspace, which has knock-on effects for the development of urban air mobility and all its economic growth potential and job creation.

This is where AURA comes in, a consortium made by the main air navigation service providers, technology suppliers, and leading research organizations from all over Europe coordinated by Indra. Together they aim to integrate the control of the very low-level airspace (VLL) below 500 feet (about 150 meters) with traditional air traffic management systems that use air control centers and towers.

The project will review the available state-of-the-art technology and the research carried out to date to determine the flight information that these systems must exchange in order to guarantee safe air operations.

This information exchange, which will provide an accurate view of the flight situation at all times, will be made possible thanks to the development of system wide information management (SWIM), a solution to improve air traffic coordination throughout the continent.

The entire operational concept and system developed within the AURA project will be tested in four validation exercises with real flights that will be carried out in different European countries.

The AURA project is one of several projects managed by the SESAR Joint Undertaking that are dedicated to U-space, the European Commission's initiative for the safe and secure integration of drones into the airspace. The results from these projects will facilitate the work of regulatory bodies, which are working on establishing the rules that will govern urban air mobility, and the development of technological standards and solutions shared by all manufacturers and operators.

About AURA

SESAR JU's AURA (PJ.34) project partners are Indra (coordinator), AIRBUS, DLR (AT-One), NLR (AT-One), ANS CR (B4), ON (B4) PANSAs (B4), Austro Control (COOPANS), LFV (COOPANS), DFS, DSNAs, ENAIRE, ENAV, EUROCONTROL, FREQUENTIS (FSP), HC (FSP), HONEYWELL AEROSPACE, LEONARDO, SINTEF, NATS, THALES LAS FRANCE SAS, THALES AVS FRANCE SAS. This project has received funding from the SESAR Joint Undertaking under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No. 101017521.

About the SESAR JU

SESAR is the technological pillar of the EU's Single European Sky policy and a key enabler of the EU Aviation Strategy. SESAR defines, develops and deploys technologies to transform air traffic management in Europe. The SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU) is the public-private partnership set

up to define and deliver technological solutions to make this transformation a reality. It works with all actors in the aviation value chain to agree on the research and development priorities, as well as technology roll-out plans, which are documented in the European ATM Master Plan - a collaboratively agreed roadmap for ATM modernisation.

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