

UK airspace change programme

ACOG briefing to PSG

13 October 2020

Background

Airspace is a crucial part of the UK's infrastructure; however while our roads and railways have seen significant investment and upgrades over the years, our underpinning airspace structures have remained largely unchanged for over a generation.

The Government and CAA set out their plans to modernise airspace in the UK's Airspace Modernisation Strategy published in December 2018. Their objective is to create quicker, cleaner and quieter journeys.

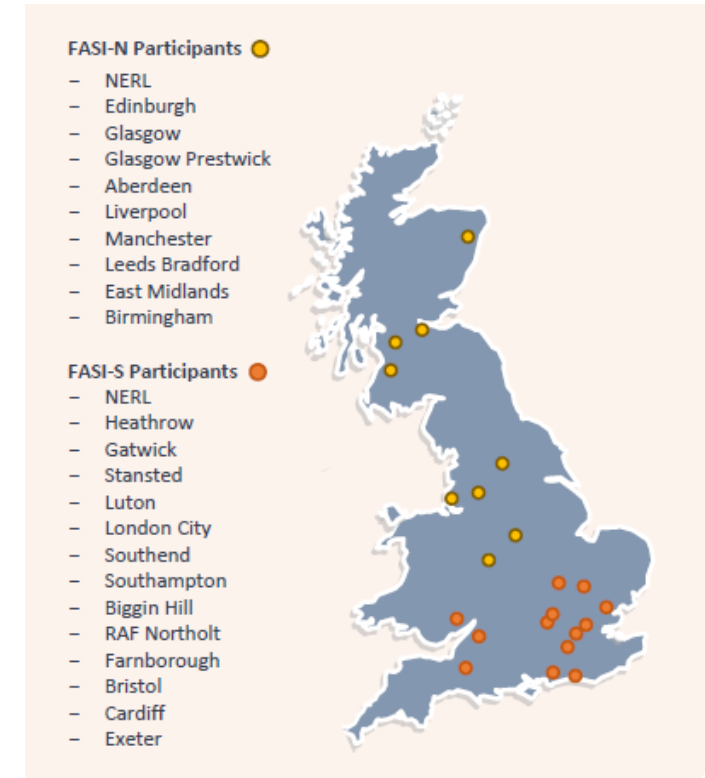
Modernisation will also enable the introduction of the latest technology across the UK, enabling airlines to make the best use of the full capability of modern aircraft.

These improvements in technology are driving changes to airspace across the world – programmes of airspace modernisation are already happening in Europe, the US and other major countries across the globe.



FASI South and FASI North

- FASI-S is a wholesale redesign of the airspace structure in Southern England and FASI-N is a programme with a similar scope covering the airspace in northern England and Scotland.
- Both programmes consist of several lined airspace change proposals sponsored by the airports (up to 7,000ft) and NERL (above 7,000ft).
- For the millions of passengers that will return to the skies in the future, upgrading UK airspace will help prevent potential delays, reduce congestion and make travel easier and more efficient for all.
- The programme will also make it easier for today's modern aircraft to fly more direct routes, with quicker climbs and later descents to help reduce emissions, as well as provide opportunities to reduce the noise footprint on the ground.



FASI-N and FASI-S Participants

The Programme paused in March 2020 when COVID-19 hit the UK

ACOG is working with the Industry, Government and Regulator to understand the impact of the crisis and tackle the challenges it is creating:

- Most ACPs were in Stage 2 of CAP1616 when the Programme paused
- The Investment to date will be wasted if the proposals are not progressed
- Significant risk that the airspace will not be efficient, sustainable and resilient when the sector recovers and returns to pre-crisis traffic levels

Airspace modernisation is a critical national infrastructure programme

The DfT & CAA (as AMS co-sponsors) have confirmed the ongoing imperative to modernise the UK's airspace despite COVID 19, in order to:

- Support aviation's commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050
- Increase capacity and reduce delays as traffic levels recover
- Improve the management of aircraft noise around airports
- Open-up the airspace for all users including General Aviation and Drones
- Enable the removal of outdated ground-based navigation infrastructure

ACOG is tasked by DfT and CAA with coordinating the Airspace Change Programme through a Masterplan that aims to:


- Identify and understand the dependencies between the core set of ACPs required to modernise the UK air transport network
- Strike efficient trade-offs and compromises that are needed to integrate and optimise the overall design at lower altitudes & across the network
- Build a broad base of support for the airspace changes and join-up the industry's approach to stakeholder consultations and engagement
- Quantify the collective impacts of the airspace changes and identify opportunities for all stakeholders to share in the benefits

A consistent approach to communications: Our Future Skies



The **Our Future Skies** campaign has been set up to raise awareness of the national programme of airspace change. It is coordinated by ACOG and brings together key members of the aviation sector, including the UK's national air traffic controller NATS, over 20 airports and trade bodies representing the nation's airlines and airports.



The logo for the Airspace Change Organising Group (ACOG) is displayed vertically on the left side of the image. It consists of the letters 'A', 'C', 'O', and 'G' stacked from top to bottom. Each letter is white and has a unique, stylized design. The 'A' is a simple block letter. The 'C' is a circle with a vertical line extending downwards from its center. The 'O' is a solid circle. The 'G' is a circle with a vertical line extending downwards from its center, similar to the 'C' but with a different internal shape.

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