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Europe

EASA chooses Egis, Unisphere and ESSP to advance Higher Airspace Operations

Egis, Unisphere and the European Satellite Services Provider (ESSP) have been awarded a contract by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to support the development of Higher Airspace Operations (HAO) under a new project called ASCENT.

ASCENT will examine the communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS), meteorological (MET) and space weather service requirements needed to enable safe and efficient operations in higher airspace. It will provide EASA with an assessment of the current landscape and the future service ecosystem required to accommodate aviation activities above conventional air traffic levels.

Under the contract, Egis, Unisphere and ESSP will:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of existing capabilities that can support HAO.
- Identify gaps, limitations and safety risks in current CNS, MET and space weather capabilities at very high altitudes.
- Formulate recommendations for alternative solutions and mitigation measures to address these gaps.
- Assess the economic and financial implications of the proposed options.
- Engage stakeholders involved in the development of HAO and disseminate the project findings to support HAO development across Europe.

Charlène Mari, Project Director, Egis said: "We are proud to support EASA in shaping the future regulatory framework for Higher Airspace Operations. As new types of vehicles emerge and operations move into ever higher altitudes, Europe needs a clear, forward-looking approach to ensure safety, efficiency and interoperability. We look forward to contributing to a robust set of recommendations that will help Europe remain at the forefront of innovation in the upper airspace."

Egis will be the consortium and technical leader, drawing on its long-standing expertise in civil CNS and economic analysis. Unisphere, as a consortium partner and specialist in weather intelligence, will lead the analysis of meteorological requirements. The European Satellite Services Provider (ESSP) will contribute specialised expertise on space weather phenomena and services. The consortium was selected thanks to its established relationships with industry players and the breadth of its aerospace expertise, covering all aspects of the project.

Christoph Schlettig, CEO, Unisphere said: "Higher Airspace Operations demand reliable and highly specialised meteorological services. We are delighted to work alongside Egis and EASA to help define the service capabilities and data frameworks needed to support emerging activities such as airship missions, balloon and rocket launches, and supersonic flights."



ASCENT (Assessment of System Capabilities and Environmental Needs for higher-airspace Traffic) forms part of a wider European Union-funded programme led by EASA to develop a draft regulatory framework for [Higher Airspace Operations](#) in EU airspace. This work aims to support future civil aviation activities above Flight Level 650, where conventional air traffic services are not typically provided. These activities include sub-orbital flights and high-altitude uncrewed aircraft systems, all of which require new regulatory approaches to ensure safe integration with the existing aviation system.

More information on HAO is available on the [EASA website](#) and in the [HAO-related FAQs](#).

About Egis

IMAGINE. CREATE. ACHIEVE.
a sustainable future

Egis is a leading global architectural, consulting, construction engineering, operations and mobility services firm. We create and operate intelligent infrastructure and buildings that both respond to the climate emergency and contribute to balanced, sustainable and resilient development.

Our 22,000 employees operate across 70 countries, deploying their expertise to develop and deliver cutting-edge innovations and solutions for clients. Through the wide range of our activities, we are central to the collective organisation of society and the living environment of citizens all over the world.

[LinkedIn: Egis](#) | [Instagram: @egisgroup](#) | [Facebook: @egisgroup](#)

About Unisphere

UNISPHERE

Unisphere GmbH was founded as a specialist in the flight operations of innovative aircraft and unmanned flight operations. With a background in the Solar Impulse project — the first solar-powered flight around the globe — the company builds on two decades of experience in developing novel concepts of operation and combining simulation technologies and weather data to enable the safe flights from low-level drones to HAPS in the stratosphere.

[LinkedIn: Unisphere](#) | [YouTube: Unisphere](#)

About ESSP

ESSP is compliant to the highest regulations & standards, being the only private pan-European Air Navigation Service Provider certified by EASA. ESSP's core business is the provision of Pan-European space-based Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) services. As multi-service CNS provider, we operate complex space-based systems and deliver critical services under strict regulation conditions. ESSP is also EGNOS Service Provider. EGNOS is the European regional satellite augmentation system (SBAS) used to improve the performance of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS).

ESSP offers specific engineering expertise including performance and network management of the latest space-based technologies. We operate high-end systems, delivering our customers safe and secure performances for greener and connected worlds.

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