



## HKATCA supports full implementation of new ATMS

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The Hong Kong Air Traffic Control Association (HKATCA) today is glad to learn that the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has agreed to the Civil Aviation Department (CAD)'s planned full transition of the new Air Traffic Management System (ATMS) on 14 November, 2016. Our Association members and the other ATC staff will continue to offer with dedication round-the-clock air traffic control services in a safe and orderly manner to the public by using the new system.

We also noted that the THB's independent consultant had reviewed the issue on 27 October, during which a small number of workstations not used for direct communication with flights could not process some non-conventional flight plans, and considered that corresponding effective mitigating measures were in place and the risk of recurrence of the same situation was low. Hence, the independent consultant has decided to affirm his earlier assessment on the Department's readiness for full transition, i.e. it is ready to proceed with full transition in November 2016 as planned.

As a matter of fact, since June, the Phased Functional Implementation (PFI) has been conducted smoothly as planned in a safe, stable and reliable manner. After the 27 October incident, the final stage of PFI continued and the system has been working normally. Enhancement measures were put in place to tackle non-conventional flight plan data. ATC staff have also made significant progress in their competence and confidence in the operations of the new ATMS with the experience gained in the past two weeks by using the new ATMS to handle real time traffic. As such, the HKATCA concurred with the independent consultant's findings and recommendation.

To conclude, it is an urgent and imperative improvement project to upgrade to a new system so as to meet the growing regional air traffic demand in future. In the early stage of the system transitional period, the number of arrivals and departures at Hong Kong International Airport during rush hours will be adjusted moderately in accordance with international practice. In addition, flow control measures will also be imposed to traffic overflying Hong Kong airspace. These measures are introduced to facilitate the ATC staff to accustom themselves to the new system and the associated new operating procedures. As one of the best ATC teams that acquired



international recognition, we have been through a series of training and assessment before we could operate the new ATMS for the provision of air traffic control services to airspace users. Rest assured that HKATCA will be able to live up to the general public's expectations and continue to safeguard the safety of our sky in the upcoming festive season with high air transport demand.

Mr Tommy Auyeung, President of the Hong Kong Air Traffic Control Association