

FAA and Spain's Aviation Service Provider Participate in GBAS Technical Interchange Meeting

In September 2008, representatives of the FAA met with Aeropuertos Españoles y Navegación (AENA) in Madrid for a technical interchange meeting and update on FAA and AENA ground-based augmentation system (GBAS) planning and implementation activities. The FAA and AENA, the Spanish service provider, have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the mutual exchange of information for development and implementation of GBAS. AENA is one of the leading air navigation service providers (ANSP) in Europe for the implementation of GBAS capability, along with DFS Germany.

At the meeting, the team discussed every aspect of LAAS/GBAS implementation and certification which included general program status, GBAS system design approval, GBAS integrity, safety regulation/safety management system (SMS) compliance, GBAS facility/service approval and operational implementation status for Malaga and for the U.S. airports in Memphis and Newark. FAA and AENA shared documents and processes which will support interoperability and contribute to GBAS coordination initiatives.

AENA has a contract with Honeywell for a GBAS installation at Malaga airport and has installed a Honeywell SLS 4000. AENA has performed several flight and ground testing activities. Excellent results were obtained during interoperability flights including autoland approaches performed with an Airbus A320 aircraft.

AENA is building upon FAA experience and certification processes and using this information to support their decision to proceed with the implementation of GBAS in Malaga. In addition to the technical meeting, the FAA participated with AENA in a separate meeting to address GBAS certification with the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority (Dirección General de Aviación Civil (DGAC), the Spanish Regulatory Agency.

- *Dieter Guenter, FAA ATO-W/GPS TAC*