BUSINESS AVIATION TO TAP INTO EGNOS AT REGIONAL AIRPORTS

Founded in 1977, the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) is an association for business aviation in Europe. It takes part in regulatory discussions at various European institutions to tackle the challenges that threaten this sector and promotes the community as vital to Europe’s economic development.

It was announced on 15th July from Brussels that EBAA and the European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency (GSA) have signed an MoU to promote the wide use of EGNOS – precision-based navigation (PBN) – at regional airports in Europe, following discussions at the European Space Solutions Conference in Prague in June.

Maintaining all-weather access at secondary and tertiary airports is becoming more and more important for the air transport community with ever increasing difficulties when it comes to access at major hubs. Business aviation is now in a position to optimise access at more of these regional airports which are often characterised by limited investment or technical innovation on the ground. By improving penetration of EGNOS, the entire air transport value chain will be enhanced.

Said Fabio Gamba, EBAA CEO, “The aviation community stands to benefit greatly from EGNOS because it means safe access to small and medium sized airports without the need for expensive ground equipment. Approach procedures have been published for around 100 airports which is still a far cry from where we should be. A move towards this technology is well overdue, and this is evident if you compare Europe to the US. We are proud to have signed this MoU with GSA and together we are committed to having many more procedures published in the near future.”

Added, Carlo des Dorides, Executive Director, European GNSS Agency (GSA), “The business aviation segment is a pioneer in the use of EGNOS and most new business aircraft are already equipped. This means that operators can start using published LPV* procedures immediately, without making any upgrades, just by obtaining the operational approval from the authority where the aircraft is registered. We are committed to working with business operators to enable opening new routes that best serve their specific needs.”

* Localiser Performance with Vertical Guidance.
Picture caption

_Illustration reproduced by kind courtesy of the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) ©._