

Press Release

COCHIN Air Traffic Control goes High-Tech with New RADAR system

14th September, 2013, New Delhi.

A new state-of-the-art Radar system installed by Airports Authority of India at a cost of 16 crores has been inaugurated at Cochin International Airport. The Honourable Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri. K.C. Venugopal has dedicated the system to the nation on the 13th Sept 2013. Implementation of Radar at the airport will provide significant benefits to the Airlines and the travelling public. The use of radar will aid the air traffic controllers to give direct and shorter routes for aircraft thereby reducing the delays for flights landing and taking off from the airport as well as minimizing the fuel consumption and environmental impact.

Airports Authority of India which provides Air Navigation Services over the Indian Airspace has made significant ANS infrastructural Improvements at Cochin Airport, which is one of the high priority ATC centers in the country. The Instrument Landing System which permits aircraft landings in poor visibility of up to 650 meters is already functional at the airport. Advanced Air Traffic Control Automation System has been implemented at Cochin which has improved the functioning of Air Traffic Control by providing safety features that permit early detection of conflicts by the controller. The system will also reduce the need for voice coordination among ATC centers.

As part of the restructuring of Indian Airspace towards enhanced operational efficiency and safety, AAI has established an Enroute air traffic control centre at Cochin. Aircraft flying in the airspace up to south of Mangalore, north of Coimbatore as well as a large airspace over the Arabian Sea to the west of the Kerala coastline are controlled from this ATC Centre.

AAI has also implemented procedures based on Performance Based Navigation (PBN) at Cochin and in the Airspace controlled by Cochin ATC. These procedures permit predictable and shorter flight path for aircraft thereby reducing the workload for pilots and air traffic controllers apart from enhancing safety and airspace capacity.

The latest ANS up gradation at Cochin is the implementation of a Modern Radar System consisting of an Enroute Radar and an Airport Surveillance Radar. The Enroute Radar at Cochin will bring the entire airspace up to 250 Nautical Miles from Cochin under radar coverage. The Airport Surveillance Radar will facilitate safe and efficient Departures and Arrivals with reduced separation thereby avoiding delay for aircraft in the air as well as on the ground .This will ultimately result in considerable fuel savings and reduction in Carbon emission. The system will also support meeting traffic growth at Cochin Airport in future.



Shri K.C. Venugopal, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation unveiling the plaque on the occasion of Inauguration of New Radar facility at Cochin Air Traffic Control Centre, Cochin International Airport. Also seen in the picture are Shri V. Somasundaram, Member (ANS) (Right) and other dignitaries (Left).