

AAI bags the International Jane's ATC Award 2012

Airports Authority of India as an Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) has won the prestigious Jane's Award for the year 2012 for achieving the best Operational Efficiency through its upper airspace harmonization program. The award was presented to AAI in an impressive ceremony at Amsterdam on the 5th March 2012 in the presence of CEOs and top executives of major ANSPs of the world.

Jane's ATC Awards have established a reputation for recognizing and rewarding excellence within air traffic control industry. India had sent in the nomination for the coveted Jane's Award under the operational efficiency category featuring Indian upper airspace harmonization program. The upper airspace harmonization program involves redesigning the airspace to increase airspace capacity through operation of multiple ATC sectors enabled by ATS Automation, networking of Radars and VHF frequencies. The redesigned airspace would cater for future growth of air traffic and contribute to enhanced efficiency and safety. The redesigning of airspace is being taken up in phases in the 4 FIRs with Chennai FIR being the first one.

Our entry focused on achievements/benefits associated with upper airspace restructuring of Chennai FIR as it has been completed and commissioned in September 2011.

The salient features of upper airspace harmonization in Chennai FIR include complete ATM Automation, Operation of one Upper ACC Center with 5 dynamic sectors from Chennai enabled by successful integration of 10 Radars, cross-coupling of VHF frequencies and implementation of AIDC. Some of the benefits are marked improvement in ATM operational efficiency, availability of user preferred flight profile, on-time performance of aircraft and increased airspace capacity. The restructuring of Air space in Chennai FIR alone would result in Fuel Savings of 22.3 Million Liters per Annum to the Operators on a conservative estimate, apart from substantial reduction in Carbon emission.

Similar nominations on the Category of Operational Efficiency from various ANSPs across the world were assessed by a high level panel of judges from Federal Aviation Administration, ICAO, Euro-Control, CANSO, IATA and Jane's. Airports Authority of India was initially short-listed along with Russia and ERA .

The defining moment was witnessed on 5th March 2012 at Amsterdam, when the Jane's award, out of these short-listed entries, was conferred on AAI, drawing appreciation and glowing tributes from major ANSPs of the world. Mr. V. Somasundaram, Member (Air Navigation Services) received the prestigious award on behalf of AAI to a well-deserved standing ovation.

The award not only adds another feather on the cap of AAI but also marks the rare distinction of AAI being the leader among many major ANSPs in achieving ATM operational efficiency.

