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Saab's Technology Makes London City Airport First Major UK Operator of Remote Air Traffic Control Tower

Technology pioneered by Saab Digital Air Traffic Solutions has enabled London City Airport to become the first major international airport in the world to be fully controlled by a remote digital air traffic control tower.

Saab's Digital Tower is a next-generation air traffic control system that significantly improve controllers' situational awareness, enabling quick and informed decisions that advance safety and operational efficiency. The Digital Tower has also allowed London City Airport to expand its area of operations due to the increased coverage it provides, thereby allowing the airport to maximise its air traffic capacity.

The technology presents increased levels of information to air traffic controllers on digital window screens: such as identifying flight and radar data, the ability to zoom in and out, as well as additional graphics and augmentation to enhance visibility. These functionalities can be used by control rooms that are offsite.

At London City, sixteen high-definition cameras and sensors mounted on the mast capture a 360-degree view of the airfield. This is relayed through a high-speed fibre connection to a new control room in NATS' air traffic control centre, 85 miles away in Swanwick, Hampshire. A dedicated team of controllers use the live footage, an audio feed from the airfield, and radar readings to instruct aircraft movements in and out of the airport.

Magnus Lewis-Olsson, Chairman and President of Saab UK, commented: "This is an important milestone for Saab in the implementation of remote air traffic solutions at major civil aerospace hubs with dense traffic in a complex airspace. We look forward to seeing the technology take off at London City Airport, giving controllers new tools and safety features which demonstrate the benefits Digital Towers can bring."

Alison FitzGerald, chief operating officer at London City Airport, added: "We are immensely proud to become the first major international airport to operate this pioneering technology from Saab. This investment in smart infrastructure will help us meet future growth in passenger demand, improve air traffic management and give us future capability as the aviation industry bounces back from the pandemic."

Saab AB (publ)Postal address
SE-581 88 Linköping
SwedenTelephone
+46 (0)13 18 00 00Telefax
+46 (0)13 18 72 00Registered office
LinköpingRegistered No
556036-0793VAT No
SE556036079301Internet address
www.saab.com

The Digital Tower is a flexible and scalable solution for a broad range of use cases, both civil and military, and has already been successfully implemented at airports in Sweden, UK, Netherlands, Germany and the USA, while also being selected by the Royal Navy for their naval air stations in the United Kingdom.

Video footage of the Digital Tower at London City Airport is available from <https://saab.screen9.tv/>

For further information, please contact:

*Saab Press Centre,
+46 (0)734 180 018,
presscentre@saabgroup.com*

*Nicolas Clark
Head of Saab UK Corporate Affairs
+44 (0)7856 001 858
nicolas.clark@saabgroup.com*

*www.saab.com
Twitter: @Saab
Facebook: @saabtechnologies
LinkedIn: Saab
Instagram: Saab*

Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions within military defence and civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents around the world. Through innovative, collaborative and pragmatic thinking, Saab develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers' changing needs.

Saab AB (publ)

Postal address
SE-581 88 Linköping
Sweden

Telephone
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