



It is often said that the air traffic management industry is like a family. We know each other well, we support and help each other and sometimes we even disagree! Like many families we all come together from time to time at major family events where we are delighted to see old friends, make new ones and be stimulated and enriched by each other's company. One such is the gathering of our industry for a series of events, meetings and social occasions in Madrid in early March.

The centrepiece of this gathering is World ATM Congress, now in its fifth year. It is the largest global air traffic management event and has rapidly become the must-attend occasion for our industry. There is something for everyone. From commercial companies demonstrating their latest products and services and signing deals; to air traffic management staff learning about the latest technologies and best practice; to leaders from across the industry sharing ideas and working together to improve the efficiency and enhance the safety of airspace.

Everyone leaves Madrid having gained value and this is demonstrated by the growth of the event year after year. In 2016 there were 7,175 registered participants and a record 225 exhibitors, an increase of 22 since the previous year.

There is a first class conference with speakers of the calibre of European Transport Commissioner, Violeta Bulc and IAG CEO, Willie Walsh. In addition, experts from 55 organisations will be delivering over 80 hours of demonstrations, presentations, and panel discussions on a wide range of relevant issues across five education theatres.

World ATM Congress serves the entire needs of the global ATM industry. But it also serves our industry for a different reason; because it is organised by the industry for the industry and the money generated by the Congress is ploughed back into the industry. It helps fund activities, including training, guidance on key issues and forums for exchanging best practice.

I hope as many of you as possible will join us 6 to 10 March in Madrid for World ATM Congress, as well as other events including the CANSO ATM Gala Dinner in an exciting and spectacular new venue, the CANSO CEO Strategy Summit and the CANSO Global ATM Operations Conference. This is a family occasion not to be missed!

Jeff Poole
CANSO Director General