CANSO and Aireon announce data-driven partnership to understand COVID-19 impact on aviation industry

Partnership will provide insights and critical information necessary to understanding the epidemic’s impact on a broad range of stakeholders.

Amsterdam, Netherlands – 8 April 2020: Today, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) and Aireon announced an initiative to produce data-driven insights and analysis to better understand how COVID-19 is impacting a broad range of stakeholders within the aviation industry, with a particular emphasis on how the pandemic is impacting the Air Traffic Management (ATM) and the flow of essential goods and services.

This partnership comes at a time when the aviation industry faces a crisis unlike any throughout its history. Starting in March 2020 the aviation industry saw the erosion of traffic from a daily average of approximately 100,000 flights to just 32,000 flights on 4 April 2020. Daily flight hours have fallen 78 percent from typical global averages captured in January 2020.

“Since the pandemic first started, we’ve seen a dynamic air traffic picture: travel restrictions, changing air cargo patterns, the complete closure of international airports and the grounding of airlines,” said Simon Hocquard, Director General of CANSO. “At the same time, however, there are still many aircraft in the sky, and CANSO remains dedicated to supporting the air traffic control organisations that enable these to continue to fly safely, including the transport of critical services.”
The COVID-19 crisis has shown the important role the ATM industry plays in ensuring safe air transport. While global flight totals have seen significant drops in daily averages, the data also shows that a significant number of global traffic remains. On 7 April 2020, for example, approximately 22,000 aircraft flew nearly 71,000 flight hours.

“From the start, good data has been fundamental to tracking the spread of COVID-19, and it is clear that jurisdictions making decisions based on strong data have been the best prepared,” said Don Thoma, CEO of Aireon. “Air traffic management is all about safety, performance and predictability through collaboration, and Aireon is proud to partner with CANSO to deliver data-driven insights in the hopes our efforts will provide answers in the face of growing questions.”

In the coming days and weeks, CANSO, its Members and Aireon will work to produce further assets that provide expanded and extraordinary access to global ATM data—statistics and information that have never before been available to CANSO Members and the public at this level of fidelity, using Aireon data. These insights will be shared to keep Members and the public up-to-date on the latest traffic pictures, regional comparisons and trends.

CANSO will host a webinar for members of the media on 16 April 2020, from 3:00PM CET to 4:00PM CET. To RSVP for the webinar, please click here.

ENDS

About CANSO
About CANSO – the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation - is the global voice of air traffic management worldwide. CANSO Members support almost 90 percent of world air traffic. Members share information and develop new policies, with the ultimate aim of improving air navigation services on the ground and in the air. CANSO represents its Members’ views in major regulatory and industry forums, including at ICAO, where it has official Observer status. CANSO has an extensive network of Associate Members drawn from across the aviation industry. For more, visit www.canso.org.
About Aireon LLC
Aireon has deployed a space-based air traffic surveillance system for Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) equipped aircraft throughout the entire globe. Aireon is harnessing next-generation aviation surveillance technologies that were formerly ground-based and, for the first time ever, is extending their reach globally to significantly improve efficiency, enhance safety, reduce emissions and provide cost savings benefits to all stakeholders. Space-based ADS-B surveillance covers oceanic, polar and remote regions, and augments existing ground-based systems that are limited to terrestrial airspace. In partnership with leading ANSPs from around the world, like NAV CANADA, the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), Enav, NATS and Naviair, as well as Iridium Communications, Aireon is providing a global, real-time, space-based air traffic surveillance system, available to all aviation stakeholders. For more information, please visit www.aireon.com.

For more information, please contact:

Deborah Seymour
CANSO
+31 63 047 5595
Deborah.Seymour@Canso.org

Jessie Hillenbrand
Aireon
+1 571 401 1407
Jessie.Hillenbrand@Aireon.com