

## **Iridium plans global air traffic surveillance**

McLean-based satellite communications company Iridium Communications Inc. plans a satellite-based air traffic monitoring service it says will improve air safety and save airlines billions of dollars in fuel costs.

Iridium is partnering with Canadian air navigation services provider NAV Canada to form Aireon LLC. NAV Canada will also be Aireon's first customer.

Aireon will be able to monitor air traffic from satellites globally, even over oceans and remote regions where current ground-based radar air traffic monitoring is not available. It will use a network of new satellites Iridium is scheduled to begin deploying in 2015, with the Aireon service fully available by 2017, it says.

For airlines, it will mean saving substantial fuel and time on oceanic routes from more flexible routing and more efficient use of airspace, Iridium says.

It estimates airlines will save \$6 billion to \$8 billion in fuel costs over the first 12 years the system is in use.

Aireon will be headquartered in McLean.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2012/06/19/iridium-plans-global-air-traffic.html>