

[Contributed news article. Contact: Jacqui Gibson, communications advisor, Airways New Zealand]

Airways New Zealand Wins Global Award for Operational Efficiency

Airways New Zealand has won an international award for an operational efficiency project saving airlines nearly a million dollars of fuel a year and reducing delays by around 400 percent.

The Southern Performance Based Navigation (PBN) Installation Project makes flying into the mountainous and difficult Queenstown airport safer and more efficient.

Airways won the prestigious Jane's ATC Awards in the Operational Efficiency category. More than 70 submissions were received from air navigation service providers, regulatory bodies and private-sector companies around the world.

Speaking from ATM World Congress in Madrid, Spain, where he received the award, Airways chief executive Ed Sims said this project was further evidence that Airways was truly a world-leading organisation.

"Airways is a small but smart air navigation service provider. It is brilliant to be recognised for the high level of service and technical excellence that we've achieved."

The Southern PBN project uses GPS technology to maximise the use of airspace. In Queenstown, this means increasing the number of flights per hour in poor weather from 4 to 12, and reducing delays from 2,000–2,600 minutes a month to only around 400 minutes a month.

"We worked with the airlines, with Queenstown airport and with some overseas suppliers to make this happen. It's the beginning of a nation-wide programme to maximise New Zealand's airspace and make flying safe and efficient for airlines, and the flying the public," said Sims.

The judging panel included industry experts from around the world.

This is the second year in a row that Airways has won an award. Last year it won the Service Provision category for keeping New Zealand's skies open after the Christchurch earthquakes.

[Side bar (1)]Operational efficiency gains of PBN

More than a million people a year fly into Queenstown, with passenger numbers increasing by 30 percent in the past three years.

Queenstown has some of the most challenging terrain in the world, characterised by high terrain, extreme weather and increasing numbers of visitors to the region.

Airways' PBN project ensures Queenstown's increasingly busy skies remain safe by applying Required Navigation Performance Authorisation Required (RNP AR) procedures, which allow aircraft to fly precise paths with a high level of accuracy - improving efficiency and safety and enabling jet operators to fly in a range of weather conditions.

The PBN project took more than two years from start to finish, resulting in the redesign of the entire Queenstown ATC system using PBN-based procedures.

Airways is now rolling out PBN procedures across the country, with work under way in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland airports.

[Side bar (2)] **Fast facts on PBN**

- Queenstown Airport Company Limited can now handle up to 12 aircraft per hour, compared to the previous four aircraft per hour.
- All airlines operating in Queenstown are benefiting from dramatically reduced delays – from 2,000 to 2,600 minutes a month to only around 400 minutes a month (based on December 2012 data).
- The reworked RNP AR departures have provided a large increase in take-off payload – about 1,700kg off runway 05.
- Airways can safely manage more than double the traffic with no requirement to tactically separate arrivals from departures.

Airways has calculated the following possible savings of PBN per year, based on December 2012 data:

- Reduced delays: 19,200 to 28,800 minutes
- Reduced fuel usage: 480,000 to 720,000kg
- Dollars saved through reduced fuel and reduced delays: \$630,000 to \$950,000
- CO2 saved: 2,000,000 to 2,250,000kg.

Ends.