COVID-19 Recovery & Aviation

Air Traffic Management Software

In response to the uncertainty that COVID-19 has caused the aviation industry, Metron Aviation partnered with the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO) to aid air navigation service providers (ANSPs) to effectively respond to the global community's recovery phase as travel restrictions are lifted.

The result of this collaboration is the *CANSO-Metron COVID-19 Recovery Program of 2020* (the Program), which provides free access to key components of Metron Aviation's unparalleled Horizon system to ANSPs worldwide—including non-CANSO members. In addition, the Program includes online training and technical support, for the duration of the Program.

Horizon is a web-based platform that provides demand predictions for arriving, departing, and enroute traffic based on scheduled, planned, and actual data. Its advanced air traffic flow management software provides high accuracy of all aspects of traffic demand predictions to aid in traffic management decisions.

One of the main objectives of the Program is to help the industry prepare for the post-pandemic recovery phase in an informed and globally coordinated manner. Horizon is designed to help strengthen the efforts of ANSPs, airlines, and airports worldwide and ensure a smooth transition back to normal capacity as COVID-19 flight travel restrictions are lifted. Because this is uncharted territory, the traffic volumes, patterns, and fleet mixes are much less predictable. This makes enhanced situational awareness of active and predicted traffic flow, cross-border collaboration, and properly resourced teams more important than ever.

The CANSO-Metron partnership makes it easy for ANSPs to sign up and use Horizon's state-of-the-art technology—even if they are not CANSO members. The Program initially provided access to Horizon through October 31, 2020; however, due to the extent and complexity of operational recovery from COVID-19 and the success of the Program, it has been extended to December 31, 2020. Access also includes free-of-charge online training by world-renowned Metron Aviation operational experts on Horizon's capabilities so that each user receives the most out of their experience.

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Metron Aviation's Horizon provides demand predictions that can be viewed via a map interface, demand graphs, and flight lists, allowing vast dynamic demand monitoring capabilities. An understanding of predicted demand supports planning and decision-making and provides common situational awareness and aligned goals for key industry stakeholders. The benefits of air flow traffic management systems will be more relevant now than ever before as the industry works to fully recover from the impacts of the pandemic to air traffic.

Moving Forward – Partners and Training

A strategic addition to the Program is Metron's partnership with [FlightAware,](#) a leader in flight data services. FlightAware's enhanced air traffic demand surveillance provides Metron Aviation access to the world's largest flight tracking network and data fusion platform. This includes data from FlightAware's terrestrial Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast receivers in more than 195 countries, which enables Flight Aware to deliver extensive flight data and surveillance position updates. The broad coverage of the world's air traffic that FlightAware provides Metron Aviation has served as a highly valuable resource for Metron Aviation. Moreover, it gives Program users highly accurate demand predictions, which creates a more accurate and comprehensive operational picture, many hours in the future.

[AvFinity,](#) another key partner for the Program, provides the ANSP's Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network (AFTN) data for departure, arrival, and flight plan messages to Metron Aviation for integration with the Horizon data.

Horizon Demand Monitoring Tools

The Traffic Situation Display (TSD) provides an interactive map view of active demand and the ability to create Flow Constrained Areas to understand the active and predicted demand in user-defined airspace or over globally defined fixes or waypoints. Demand Graphs provide an aggregated view of demand that is binned by time and compared against capacity, while Flight Lists show a tabular view of flight-specific information that can be organized by resource and filtered to provide a data-specific view of demand.

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To enable Program participants to use Horizon to its maximum potential, Metron Aviation's industry experts provide every new user a detailed training session on using Horizon to monitor and evaluate demand to capacity imbalances. This training also provides an opportunity for operational and technical questions, and answers. Assistance is available for continued operational and technical support throughout the Program. The Metron Aviation team also works with the ANSP's technical staff individually to determine the best ANSP data integration option and to provide the most value with the least amount of effort required for the ANSP to participate.

Horizon Assists ANSPs with:

- Pre-tactical and tactical evaluation of the expected demand at airports, user-defined airspace, waypoints and fixes, and flight information region boundaries

- Common situational awareness platform for neighboring ANSPs and stakeholders

- Demand awareness to facilitate available staffing resources or realignment of airspace sectors to meet the predicted demand

- Understanding of when an increase in airport and airspace capacity is needed

- Reduction of unnecessary delays and airborne holding

- Understanding of when and where rerouting a flight or flights is needed

To date, approximately twenty (20) ANSPs have signed up for complimentary access to Horizon to facilitate the gradual return to the full capacity of their airports' and airspace. These ANSPs represent European, North American, South American, Caribbean, Asia, Pacific, and Middle East regions. The list of ANSPs that are taking advantage of the temporary, free access to Metron Aviation's Horizon grows daily.

Plans are underway to develop an analysis of the *CANSO-Metron COVID-19 Recovery Program of 2020*. CANSO and Metron Aviation are proud to use their partnership to offer help for the aviation community so that, together, recovery is collaborative, smooth, and efficient.

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