SKYbrary
From idea to reality

Bengt Collin, EUROCONTROL ATC operational expert, reports on the conception and development of SKYbrary – the single point of reference in the network of aviation safety knowledge.

The idea

The idea for SKYbrary popped up some time ago. Searching for information on the Web, Tzvetomir Blajev, Safety Manager at EUROCONTROL, found that although the information was available, it was difficult to find out exactly where. For example "controlled flight into terrain" produced 213,000 hits on Google. On Wikipedia on the other hand, you would get one definition. However, you can never be certain that the information is fully accurate.

On that occasion Mr Blajev found what he was looking for, but realised at the same moment that some information was missing, while some was slightly out of date. What would happen if he looked for aviation safety-related material, and found incorrect information? The idea: to create a webpage where safety managers, instructors and controllers could search for information - brilliant!

The name

The idea stayed in his head and resurfaced the next weekend when he searched Wikipedia. The idea was in place, but still no webpage. Where to start? It needed a name, something short and attractive, something like Allclear, the Air

Ground Communication Safety Tool Kit (www.allclear.aero). Mr Blajev found the name in a hotel lobby. It was at a Flight Safety Foundation Meeting and, creative as always, he got some of the meeting participants to propose names. The rest is history.

The development

The first idea developed into a knowledge base for aviation safety. So far some 500 articles have been produced, a number which is increasing every day. Visitors searching for information will, like in Wikipedia, find other search words inside the articles leading to even more information.

As a second step it was decided to highlight one article, allowing it, in partnership with the customers, to focus on a specific subject. The highlighted article will change periodically and the webpage will stay active. To support this, visitors will also be able to contribute with articles, but more importantly with opinions. An open discussion will enhance people's awareness and interest in safety.

With the permission of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), an ICAO search engine is now under construction for this purpose. It will answer your questions with relevant paragraphs and text

(not full documents!). On the launch date of SKYbrary, 9 May 2008, Annexes 2, 10 and 11, plus Doc. 4444 and 8168 are expected to be covered.

Partnership

SKYbrary could not have been achieved without partnership; from the start, ICAO and the Flight Safety Foundation have supported EUROCONTROL's work.

Inside EUROCONTROL, experts from various spheres have contributed to the initiative. The overall design of the website has been developed by a EUROCONTROL graphic designer, Seppe Celis, the legal aspects are catered for by Judith Schmitz, a lawyer from the Legal Service, and marketing is supported by Bènédicte Montauriol, with previous marketing experience.

"We also have external partners, who are actively providing input and articles," Tzvetomir adds. "The strength is that everybody is working together. We believe we have everything we need to create, maintain and develop a unique product much searched for by the aviation community. You have a lot to look forward to".

Why not check the work in progress yourself; www.skybrary.aero

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| d Flight rrain | Fire | Ground Occurences | Human Factors | Level Bust | Loss of Control | Loss of Separation | Runway Excursion | Runway Incursion | Wake Vortex Turbulence | Weather | Other |