

# Aviation Think-Tank: The European Center for Aviation Development

Founded in December 2004, the European Center for Aviation Development (ECAD) is a joint-venture of Fraport, Lufthansa, the State of Hesse and the Technical University of Darmstadt. The German ATC, Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS), later accompanied the university's share. ECAD consults, and promotes civil aviation on the one hand, researches and organizes training on the other. ECAD is an aviation-think-tank, following the ideas of the German „Initiative Luftverkehr“<sup>i</sup>.



European Center for  
Aviation Development – ECAD GmbH

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Main objectives of ECAD, situated in the heart of Europe in Darmstadt (Germany), are the following three. The first is to strengthen the system partnership between airlines, airports, air navigation services as well as political institutions. Second objective is to focus competence and know-how of various branches of the aviation industry. And third objective of ECAD is to strengthen the position of civil aviation in general.

In order to reach that aims, ECAD has installed two directors. Scientific director Prof. Dr. Uwe Klingauf, head of the institute „Flugsysteme und Regelungstechnik“<sup>ii</sup> and managing director Michael Stumpf, economist and former partner of an international consultancy. Mid of 2006, ECAD runs with nine employees. „We are positive to raise that number constantly. Obviously there is a demand for our product“, says Stumpf.

ECAD stands at a crossroads, a defining moment in aviation. Today, aviation companies feel a strong pressure of competition, coming from the customer, the competitors, the global market and the law. Therefore it is necessary to link knowledge of all players concerned. The advantage of providing the whole supply chain means bringing together inspiration and ideas from different points of views. This advantage is fully realized in the initial study of ECAD, which is about liberalization and deregulation of civil aviation. ECAD consultants analysed the liberalization and deregulation of commercial aviation in Germany,



Headquarters of ECAD

France, Sweden, UK and the United States in comparison to the same processes in the railway sector, as well as the telecommunications sector. From the results of this analysis ECAD gained some helpful hints, how civil aviation could do it better.

As already mentioned, ECAD is not only consulting, but also researching. ECAD's current areas of interest are competition, transportation policy, logistics and value-chain. Topics are alliances, low-cost-carrier, airport development (terminal operations, business models, etc.), airline management (marketing strategies, network planning, product-design, etc.), models of regulation (noise abatement, emissions trading, etc.), concepts for ground services and apron control or risk-sharing models.

Besides researching and consulting, ECAD is promoting its points through forums, working groups, congresses, panel discussions and press information. In March this year ECAD organised for example an aviation-symposium in cooperation with the „Deutsche Verkehrswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft“<sup>iii</sup> on „Growth-protection in civil aviation – technologies and concepts for sustainable growth-protection in civil aviation“<sup>iv</sup>. Earlier, in December 2005, ECAD realized a workshop on „the role of modelling and simulation of systems within complex and interacting programs“<sup>v</sup>. With this kind of events ECAD is not only lobby-making for its own ideas, but is primarily developing competence and exchanging thoughts with other experts.

To obtain further information please visit [www.ecad-aviation.de](http://www.ecad-aviation.de)

## References

<sup>i</sup> For further information on the German „Initiative Luftverkehr“, brought into life by Fraport, Lufthansa, Munich Airport Authority and DFS, visit: [www.initiative-luftverkehr.de](http://www.initiative-luftverkehr.de).

<sup>ii</sup> Translation: flight systems and automatic control.

<sup>iii</sup> Translation: German association for transport science.

<sup>iv</sup> 2 March 2006, Symposium: „Wachstumssicherung im Luftverkehr – Technologien und Konzepte zur nachhaltigen Sicherung des Wachstums im Luftverkehr“, Frankfurt/Main.

<sup>v</sup> 9 December 2005, Workshop: „Die Rolle von Systemmodellierung und –simulationen in komplexen interagierenden Programmen“, Darmstadt.