



JPDO “Snap Shot” Series: Global Cooperation

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International from the Start

From its earliest days, aviation has been international in scope. The first international passenger services began in Europe in the 1920's. A decade later, the Pan Am Clippers were crossing both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. By the 1950's, major airlines were providing regular transoceanic jet services. Today, there are thousands of international flights each year that carry passengers and cargo all over the world. However, as the world's air traffic control systems modernize and move towards new technology, integration and harmonization of these new capabilities become progressively important.

The JPDO and NextGen

The Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO) was chartered by the U.S. Congress in 2003. With an unprecedented level of inter-governmental cooperation—which includes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Departments of Transportation, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy—the JPDO is responsible for facilitating and coordinating the planning and implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen is a wide-ranging initiative designed

to transform the air traffic system. NextGen leverages existing technologies—many already in use in other industries—while at the same time tapping new and emerging capabilities. These include satellite-based navigation systems, digital communications, net-centric operations, advanced automation systems, and substantially improved weather forecasting capabilities. The overall objective of NextGen, while never losing sight of the need to maintain a safe and secure air traffic system, is to develop a system that has the ability to expand to meet future capacity, and the flexibility to adapt to new styles of aircraft.



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Developing Relationships

To foster harmonization worldwide, NextGen has developed a regional approach. Key to this has been establishing regional steering groups to identify joint initiatives that are aligned with NextGen’s performance-based systems. The JPDO and its government partners are working to develop relationships to bring about an enhanced and mutual understanding of the varying objectives, and regulatory and policy approaches being applied in different parts of the world.

The FAA, which has the primary mission of providing a safe and efficient domestic airspace system, considers developing global cooperation and harmonization a top priority. According to Hank Krakowski, Chief Operating Officer of FAA’s Air Traffic Organization, the FAA is working to “ensure comprehensive alignment between NextGen and similar international efforts as a way to build and support bilateral and multilateral partnerships with foreign air navigation service providers.”

Some of the more significant harmonization efforts that the FAA is engaged in center on Europe, the leading destination for U.S. citizens traveling abroad; the Asia Pacific region, the most populous region in the world (accounting for more than 50 percent



of the world’s population); and the Western Hemisphere, where more than 70 percent of international flights originate or complete their routes.

By facilitating the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods, both domestically and worldwide, NextGen will help air transportation continue its role as an engine of economic growth. However, the success of NextGen will depend on the ability of the JPDO and its government partners to work with its international stakeholders. The goal? To ensure that aircraft and operators move safely and seamlessly throughout the global aviation environment.

