

Iridium and the Future of Flight Safety







As the leader in general aviation satellite communication, Iridium is heavily invested in the future of how we communicate from ground to sky.



The air transportation system of the United States is under increasing pressure. Growing numbers of costly aircraft flight delays and concerns over flight safety are being urgently addressed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – resulting in a significant, wide-ranging transformation called NextGen, to be implemented in the coming decade.

To meet future demands and avoid gridlock, the FAA is aiming to transform the entire National Airspace System by moving away from ground-based radar technologies and implementing new, more dynamic GPS satellite-based technology. These new capabilities are expected to make operations more efficient, reduce delay and congestion, save fuel, and improve passengers' experiences.



ADS-B: A Critical Need

Automatic dependent surveillancebroadcast (ADS-B) will play a key role in this Next Generation Transportation System. The FAA has committed to deploying a ground-based ADS-B architecture, which would use GPS satellite signals to provide air traffic controllers and pilots with accurate, real-time display of air traffic, substantially improving safety. By 2020 the FAA will ensure that all United States aircraft are equipped with ADS-B hardware. This forward thinking has also been identified with a variety of Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), who will be looking to deploy terrestrial ADS-B in other parts of the world as well. Using ADS-B receivers as hosted payloads on Iridium NEXT has the potential to extend this terrestrial capability all over the world in a cost-effective manner.

What's NEXT for Flight Safety?

Anticipated to begin launching in 2015, the Iridium NEXT constellation represents the largest commercial satellite venture in history. If implemented, the ADS-B receivers will leverage the architecture of the 66 cross-linked LEO satellites as a hosted payload on every Iridium NEXT satellite. These receivers will be implemented as standalone hardware, and provide highly reliable capability and real-time access to aircraft data from space.

Only the Iridium network offers real global coverage, presenting the opportunity to extend and enhance the terrestrial ADS-B infrastructure to provide continuous coverage over oceans and Polar Regions. The Iridium network also compliments terrestrial coverage in remote areas with redundancy and lower altitude operations.



Reaching Further

As we continue to make contributions to the improvement of domestic flight safety, Iridium is also keeping focus on providing a cost-effective global infrastructure, to allow developing nations to adopt a uniform standard with no infrastructure cost.

Only one communications company connects the entire globe

Iridium commands the world's furthest reaching network, making it the only truly global communications company with solutions that span from pole-to-pole. Iridium voice and data products provide superior communications solutions that allow global companies, government agencies and individuals to stay connected everywhere. With a unique, global ecosystem of partners, Iridium continues to create new, high-value capabilities that are leading the world into a new era of communication.

iridium Everywhere

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