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Papers and Analysis

The Deployment Experience is a new category to the ATM seminar. While as many as 138 papers were submitted for ATM seminar 2011, only one paper was submitted for this category. The news of the successful research project graduating to its practical usage was very satisfying.

Paper 27: Arrival Flow Control by Local Cherry Picking was presented by Daniel Schaad of Austrocontrol. The briefing title was modified as “Collaborative Arrival Regulation Avoidance – CARA – from in-vivo experiment to ATM procedure” to reflect the upgraded status of this trial to practical usage. The paper reports the results from a trial conducted at Vienna airport during October 2010. The trial implied the application of a newly developed air traffic and capacity management technique called “local cherry picking” to manage short period congestion. The concept of the improvement is relatively modest, but it is practical and produces many positive results. The approach of improvement took advantage of the mismatch between the number of airport slots issued at the Vienna airport, and declared ATC capacity and natural spread of traffic. To avoid costly ATFM regulations, the local approach unit, flow management unit, neighboring airports, and major airlines collaborated with manual procedures. During the question and answer session, it was pointed out that local solutions, though it produced positive results, might have a negative impact on the Central Flow Management Unit’s operation. It was suggested that some of the manual procedures might be automated, especially the number of “cherries” increased. It was also suggested that some type of hybrid solution between CFMU and CARA be implemented. The issue of who takes the delay (e.g., short-haul users vs. long haul users) was questioned. In addition, discussions regarding airline users and the FAA collaborating to share the most up to date operational schedule data, while providing opportunities to airlines to solve the over-capacity situation, took place. On a positive note, the application was very successful. This positive outcome shall potentially lead other airports with a similar situation, such as Vienna airport, to take advantage of CARA and its mission-essential capabilities.