

INAER

Weather solutions help ensure safer global helicopter operations



PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type

Operational weather solutions

Location

Alicante, Spain

Size of Fleet

More than 360 Aircraft

Applications

Support critical flight decisions worldwide

Equipment Installed

MxVision AviationSentry Online®

Helicopter Edition Global

RotorWatch™

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Know in advance when weather will be a concern
- Ability to make fast go/no go decisions
- Increased in-flight safety
- Quick, informed route planning
- Stay on top of developing weather
- Be alerted to changing conditions while en route



INAER is a global operator of aircraft services for mission critical operations, such as medical emergency services, civil protection, sea and mountain search and rescue, coast and fishing surveillance, firefighting, training and maintenance. These services are provided for national, regional and local governments.

Based in Spain, INAER has more than 2,500 employees who staff 275 operating bases and 15 maintenance bases in Spain, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Peru, Chile and Australia. From these bases, it operates a fleet of 366 helicopters, seaplanes and other aircraft utilized in its missions. As such, it is the leading reference helicopter-operations company in Europe, and one of the largest in the world.

Challenges

INAER earned its leadership position in the industry by making operational safety a priority, while maintaining flexibility and a capacity to comply quickly with its clients' requirements.

By the very nature of their operations, INAER pilots and staff often are called to be most focused during severe weather conditions with lightning, variable winds and impaired visibility. Even if they are not operating in immediately severe weather, safety of in-flight and on-ground assets, crews and passengers is always a priority. Particularly in emergency and mission-critical situations, INAER pilots and operations controllers must have accurate and efficient updates of changing weather that can impact flight safety and mission success.

Solution

INAER selected Schneider Electric's MxVision AviationSentry Online Helicopter Edition weather service, global version, which provides:

- Multi-language product support
- Single-click access to real-time, high-resolution radar and aviation weather — including ceiling, visibility, temperature and dew point — available graphically and configured as required by INAER
- Colorized METARs and TAFs clearly showing storm echo tops and movement
- High-resolution remapped satellite graphics to locate low clouds and fog
- Real-time lightning strike display, not lightning predictions that can lead to false alarms
- On-demand briefing information from more than 30,000 weather observation points for remote-location information

Further, INAER enhanced its service with RotorWatch, which displays tracking of all in-flight helicopters along with associated existing and forecasted weather conditions for each flight path. This enables real-time viewing of weather and helicopter tracking in a single user interface. The solution ensures INAER meets all EU Joint Aviation Authorities Requirement Operations III Specifications for helicopter weather briefings and operations.

The Bottom Line

INAER initially contracted for seven seats of the Schneider Electric weather information solution to serve 15 emergency medical services helicopters (HEMS) with RotorWatch features. With the comprehensive Schneider Electric solution, staffers could clearly and accurately view all in-flight

helicopter locations, direction, speed and altitude, along with corresponding current and forecasted weather conditions, from a single, integrated decision support platform. INAER added its own fleet management information to this configurable interface, improving situational awareness for pilots, dispatchers and operations crew alike, through the entire flight operation:

- Ensuring consistent pre-flight weather briefings; everyone has the same information at the same time
- Allowing at-a-glance determination of which storms are to be avoided and which flight paths are safest, optimizing safety and efficiency
- Enhancing coordination between pilots and communications centres with up-to-the-minute notifications of changing weather conditions

The organization reports its pilots and operations manager have all affirmed the reliable weather information, now an intrinsic part of their aerial operations, has helped improve safety and efficiency on their flights.

As a result, after approximately a year of experience with this service, INAER extended its contract to include 40 seats of MxVision AviationSentry Online Helicopter Edition with RotorWatch features. These seats will serve the HEMS helicopters based in Spain, along with those providing maritime surveillance and electric power line surveillance.

This extension reflects INAER's confidence in Schneider Electric as its technological partner for weather information services and the organization's dedication to superior performance and strong commitment to:

- Maintaining and strengthening operational standards for safe, effective flights
- Putting advanced technology to work for time and cost savings