

NEFAB Project Newsletter

Edition 1
October 2009

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THE NEFAB PROJECT – A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ACROSS NORTHERN EUROPE

The Single European Sky initiative and Functional Airspace Blocks

In a response to congestion in airspace leading to delays and an anticipated continued growing demand for air traffic capacity the European Commission launched the Single European Sky (SES) in 1999. The initiative aims to reform European air traffic management and has the key objectives to:

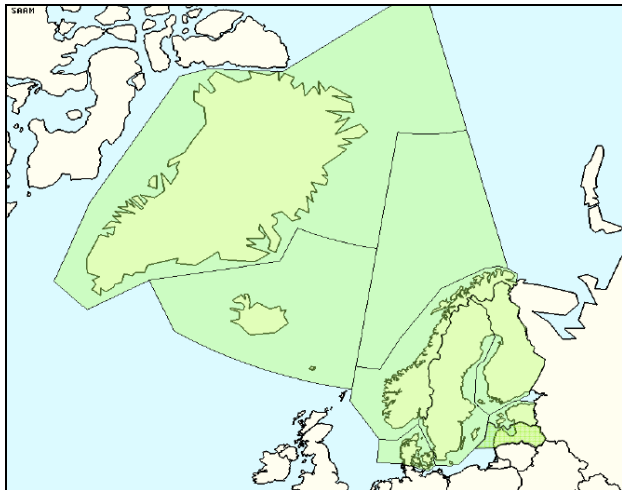
- restructure European airspace as a function of air traffic flows, rather than according to national borders
- create additional capacity
- increase the overall efficiency of the European air traffic management system

A first step towards an integrated European air traffic management system is the establishment of Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs) across state boundaries. The FAB concept has developed over time and with the latest legislative package (SES II) from the European Commission, the purpose of the FABs will be to enhance cooperation between air navigation service providers within all aspects of service provision – in addition to airspace issues.

The EU requires its member states to establish FABs by the end of 2012 and currently there are nine FAB initiatives under development throughout Europe.

NEFAB

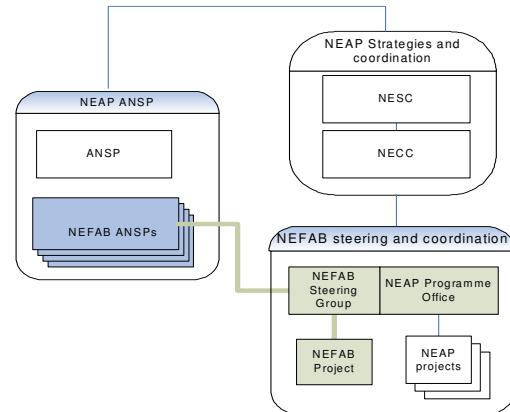
NEFAB is the North European Functional Airspace Block with member states Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden.



NEFAB geographical area

NEFAB is organised under the umbrella of North European ANS Providers (NEAP) and is one of the improvement initiatives in the NEAP ATM Master Plan. The daily management of the project is organised under the NEAP Programme Office. The office is led by Mr. Matts-Anders Nyberg from Finavia. However, since the NEFAB is the biggest and prioritized project, and that not

all of the ANSPs in NEAP organisation are represented in the FAB, a separate governance and coordination structure has been set up for the project;

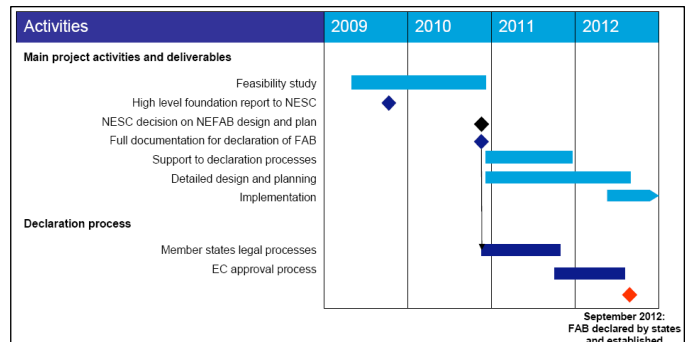


NEFAB objectives

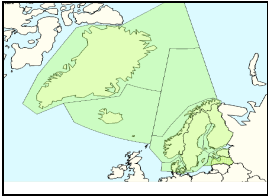
The NEFAB overall objectives are to deliver services tailored to customer requirements, contribute to increased flight efficiency, higher safety levels, a greener environment and cost reductions through an optimised use of air navigation infrastructure, and harmonised services in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Iceland and Latvia. The NEFAB project should also contribute to position the North European ANS providers and national authorities to play an important role in the future performance based and market oriented European ATM environment. Moreover, the affected airspace covers a large portion of the North Atlantic, this work will therefore have positive global effect.

The first stage of the project is to deliver a feasibility study. The objective of the feasibility study is to have the North European FAB declared by September 2012.

The main delivery from the feasibility study will be the formal documentation required by the National Supervisory Authorities (NSAs) for the declaration of the North European FAB. The documentation needs to be completed by December 2010 in order for the approval and legal processes of the affected states and the European Commission (EC) to be completed for the declaration of the FAB by September 2012.



NEFAB High level plan



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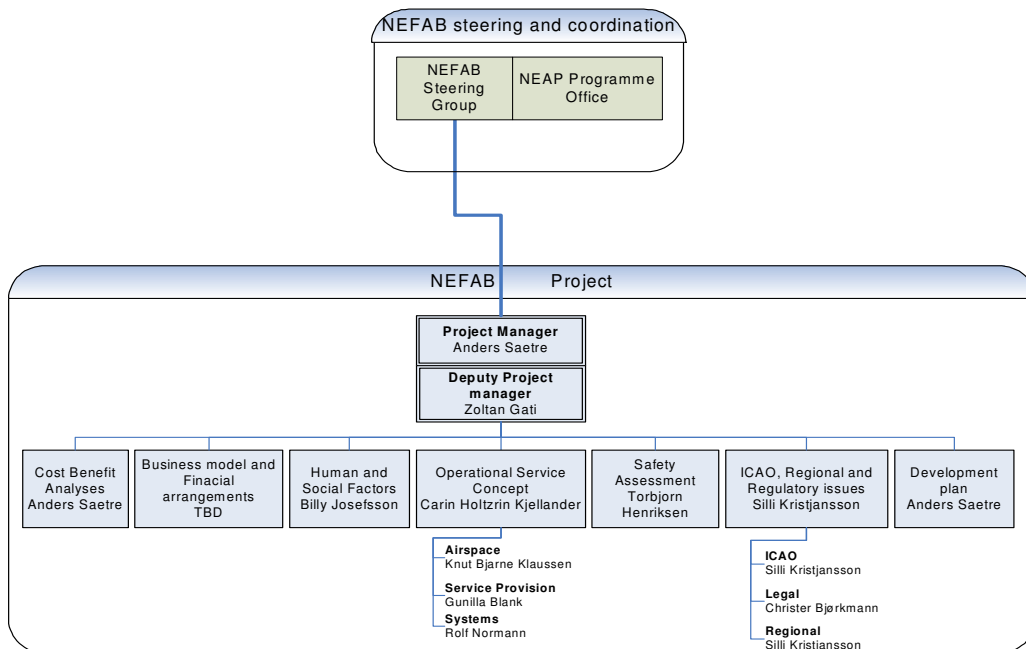
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The FAB concept is broadly defined and can cover a wide range of different forms of co-operation – from limited co-ordination to full integration of various aspects of the co-operation. Right now, a project with participation from all seven ANSPs is performing a feasibility study to explore and evaluate various possible forms and extents of co-operation for NEFAB. The project objective is for the CEOs to be able to agree on the forms for co-operation within NEFAB by the end of 2010 in order to allow for the necessary time for the approval and decision processes on the political level within each state as well as on the EU level that are required before the declaration of a FAB.

Stakeholder consultation

All formal consultation with the stakeholders, including military authorities, national supervisory agencies (NSAs), trade unions and major airlines, will be provided by the ANSPs. However, throughout the time of the project, the NEFAB project will exchange information with the stakeholders. Coordination with other FAB initiatives is also a task in the Project.

NEFAB Organisation



Upcoming events

On October 21 and 22 a workshop using the EUROCONTROL SAAM simulation software will take place in Copenhagen. A trajectory based airspace design will be compared with the current environment and the experts expected to propose items which will need to be assessed in order to work out the NEFAB Operational concept and a realistic benefit calculation for the future NEFAB airspace. The interface with Oceanic airspace and with future military operations will be evaluated during simulations being planned for 2010.

TEN T Financial aid

The NEFAB project has been granted 778.400€ as financial aid for the project from the European Commission. The funding is for the period March 2009 - July 2010

Any questions related to the project can be addressed to:

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Next edition

This NEFAB information newsletter is planned to be issued four times per year. Next edition is scheduled in December