

AviBit Digital Flight Strip System debuts on new Vienna Tower

Summary

2005-10-14 Vienna, Austria

Digital Flight Strips are an important and integral part of the new Vienna Tower operations. After five years of its conception and two years of development and testing, the Digital Flight Strip System from AviBit enables the air traffic controllers to overcome the limitations of traditional paper strips.

Full text

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After two years of construction, the new Tower at Vienna International Airport started operations on October 14, 2005. AviBit is a key supplier for the new Tower, providing two of its flagship products: the DIFLIS Digital Flight Strip System and the ASTOS A-SMGCS.

Digital Flight Strips replace traditional paper strips

Paper strips just don't scale well enough for the new Tower environment. The increased number of Controller Working Positions and the physical distance between the positions limit the usability of traditional paper strips.

The DIFLIS Digital Flight Strip System provides novel ways to reduce the air traffic controller's workload. An integrated workflow engine suggests the next event in the standard workflow, reducing the effort of writing down timestamps or moving strips around to a single click. Dynamic representation of data (e.g. countdowns for CTOT slots or delays) and intelligent proposals when changing a field value provide further assistance and make strip handling easier.

The system uses a touch panel that is built into the console table. It uses a pen input device, allowing the air traffic controller to rest the palm on the screen without inadvertently making inputs.

The DIFLIS system features an open architecture and supports inter-product functionality as defined in the TAPtools® standard.



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Air traffic controller acceptance is excellent

The Digital Flight Strip System has been developed to the requirements of, and in close cooperation with the air traffic controllers at Vienna. It has been integrated in the Tower Simulator, allowing the air traffic controllers to be trained on the new system using realistic traffic scenarios.

Future directions

AviBit envisions the Digital Flight Strip System to be an important first step towards further Airport Automation. By providing satellite display systems to the Airport Authority, the Airlines, and other stakeholders, the system can tremendously improve the quality and accuracy of information exchange.

About AviBit

AviBit is an Austrian based company focused on the design, development and integration of intelligent software solutions and systems for Apron, Tower and Approach Control.



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AviBit is a member of the TAPtools® alliance