



#14 ICAO and Innovation



The 40th Session of the ICAO Assembly had adopted resolution A40-27 on Innovation in Aviation. Through that act the Member States recognized that new technologies, techniques and other developments were being introduced into our sector at a rapid pace.

While in most cases one may think of drones in relation to this topic, indeed it is much broader than that. From 3D printed parts, to enhanced operations through the application of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence algorithms, from the delivery of internet connectivity to high-flying balloons – aviation today has evolved quite a bit in the last few years.

A40-27 lays the groundwork to reinforce and optimize the processes of ICAO so that it is able to respond to innovations in a timely manner. In order to do that, however, we must make a concerted effort to engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders. Many of the entities that are developing the innovations are new to our sector and many of us are not previously familiar with the underlying technologies. It is therefore very important for us to learn more about and of each other. So that we are ready as a united and enlarged community to continue the safe and orderly growth of aviation.

This RD Brief highlights some of the efforts recently taken in the implementation of a key clause of A40-27.

Enjoy the reading,

Silvia Gehrer

Bringing the community together

The fourth action set forth in A40-27 “*Directs the Council to instruct the Secretary General to further liaise with States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia and the relevant United Nations system entities in order to establish an inclusive dialogue at strategic level that will encourage further collaboration and sharing of experience in relation to innovation*”.

This rather long statement emphasizes how far and wide the stakeholders are when it comes to innovation. Indeed it may have been more accurate just to say “.. to *further liaise with everybody...*” if not for the formal wording used in resolutions.

In this spirit ICAO keeps its doors wide open for anyone who has a part, or just an interest, in innovation in aviation, to be connected to it through ICAO.

To that end ICAO has developed a gateway into innovation that consists of three key components: a global symposium, an online interface, and a workshop.



The Global Symposium on the Implementation of Innovation in Aviation

This event builds on the 2019 ICAO Innovation Fair and aims to showcase innovations and their use in aviation. The subject matters that will be covered include: Green Innovation, Training, Passenger Differentiation, Digitization, Stratospheric Operations, Economic Aspects of Innovation, Surface to Space, Artificial Intelligence and Innovations that have recently been brought online to help deal with the pandemic.

The event is being held online and it is free to register and attend. The programme is also being broadcast in multiple time zones which means that it should be on when one is awake – no matter where one lives. So we strongly invite you to register and joins us.

More information, including the link to register is here:

<https://www.icao.int/Meetings/InnovationSymposium2020/Pages/default.aspx>



The Innovation Workshop

A key challenge for innovation in aviation is how to unlock the potential for them to enhance the social and economic well-being of people while at the same time safe guarding public interests. And how to do that when there is a general unfamiliarity on the part of innovators with the aviation regulatory framework and inversely on the part of regulators, a general unfamiliarity with the underlying technologies. To help the community bridge the gaps a three-day workshop has been developed by ICAO that intends to stimulate a dialogue between industry, regulators, and the research community to critically examine challenges and opportunities in innovation and identify common problems while together finding solutions.

The workshop will be delivered online and includes discussions around concrete examples and a few group exercises.

If you are interested, please contact innovation@icao.int.

The Innovation Gateway

If you are interested to explore the ecosystem of Aviation Innovations we invite you to visit : <https://www4.icao.int/futureaviation/Future/InnovationGateway>

It is an interactive online map of more than 250 nodes, each representing an innovation or related subject. When clicking on a node one can will see a small graphical representation of the subject in the right hand corner and a click on this should send you to a website with more information.

See you there!

We hope that these events, workshops and tools, and others that we are still developing, help the community converge on the topic of innovation in aviation in a meaningful way that allows us to realize the benefits in a manner that leaves no one behind.

Thank you to all again for your contributions, whether they are in the past, present or future, to this awesome subject.



Regional Panels

There will be two regional panels at the upcoming ICAO Global Symposium on the Implementation of Innovation in Aviation

Panel 4 - Regional Panel on Digitization

9 December at 4 PM Paris' time

Panel 10 - Regional Panel on Innovation

11 December at 10 AM Paris' time

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