In the UK, Continuous Descent Operations is more commonly known as Continuous Descent Approaches, which typically starts from an altitude of 6,000 feet, whereas CDO applies from the cruise.
SA organisations since the launch of an Arrivals Code of Practice. The campaign outcomes included:

- Being able to measure CDO performance at a national scale is a world first;
- Change in absolute number of CDOs across all airlines at 22 participating airports is 68,321 additional CDOs since 2013;
- These increases are in the context of traffic growth of around 10%.

The campaign will continue to operate and in 2015 was recognised by Business in the Community annual awards, with NATS receiving the “Engaging customers on sustainability” award.

In 2016 the Sustainable Aviation CDO campaign was reaccredited for the “Engaging customers on sustainability” award.

We look forward to building on the outstanding success of the campaign and thanks all those in the Sustainable Aviation coalition who made it possible.

Continuous descent into Manchester Airport, a NATS controller accompanied the pilot in the cockpit during a subsequent flight and identified an inconsistency in the approach procedure. As a result, BA changed their standard operating procedure and NATS made a procedural change which better enabled CDOs on that route.

A number of tools and reporting dashboards were created for the benefit of all the SA members working on the CDO campaign. For example NATS developed a new controller tool called FLOSYS (Figure 1), which allows controllers to review individual flights and their descent profile. This provides immediate feedback on a controller’s interaction with pilots and the resulting flight profile. It is highly engaging for controllers and brings the whole programme to life in a live operational environment.

A “Flight Profile Monitor” reporting tool was developed to support airline CDO operations and help monitor CDO performance at airports. This data is regularly shared with all the participants to identify problems and by working collaboratively, solutions are found and implemented.

The return on the investment for the CDO campaign helps airlines reduce fuel consumption, cut costs and make their businesses more efficient and sustainable. It also helps reduce aircraft noise for communities around airports. This supports both SA’s noise and CO2 roadmaps.

At a national level, CDOs have increased from an average of 56% of arrivals in 2006 to 77% in 2015, which is an exceptional achievement. This has been a long-standing area of focus with...