



SUPPORTING
EUROPEAN
AVIATION

EUROCONTROL NM CAPAN Methodology

Models to Determine Airspace Capacity

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Determining Sector Capacity

EUROCONTROL CAPAN Methodology

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CAPAN

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graph TD; A[CAPAN] --> B[Simulation methodology]; B --> C[Controller workload]; C --> D[Sector Capacity]
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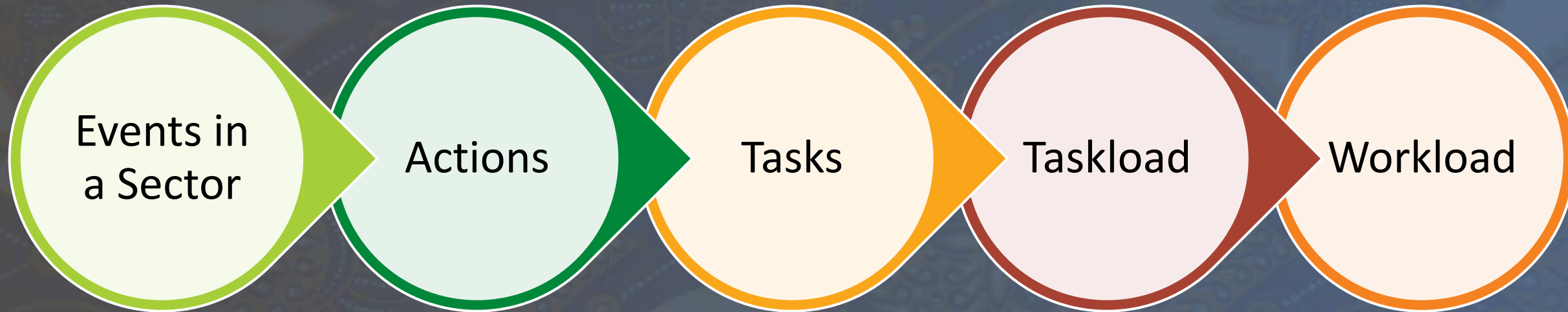
Simulation methodology

Controller workload

Sector Capacity

Fast-time Simulation in ATM

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CAPAN

Main Principles

4



RCAPAN



70% workload
threshold



Regression Analysis



Air Traffic Controllers

CAPAN

Main Principles

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RCAPAN

- CAPAN dedicated version of RAMS (Reorganised ATC Mathematical Simulator owned by ISA Software)
- Fast-time simulator as others available on the market
- It allows flexible and detailed modeling of both ACC and TMA environment

CAPAN

Main Principles

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70%

- **Theoretical Sector Capacity** is attained when controller **workload reaches 70%** of the absolute working time, i.e. 42 minutes in an hour
- **30%** represents tasks which cannot be captured by discrete events, e.g. a general monitoring of the radar screen or recuperation time
- 70% threshold has been assessed through a **process of fine-tuning** of the discrete event logic when the first CAPAN studies were carried out together with several Real-Time simulations

CAPAN Workload Thresholds

Threshold	Interpretation	Recorded Working Time in 1 hour
70 % or above	Overload	42 minutes and above
54 % - 69 %	Heavy Load	32 - 41 minutes
30 % - 53 %	Medium Load	18 - 31 minutes
18 % - 29%	Light Load	11 - 17 minutes
0 % - 17 %	Very Light Load	0 - 10 minutes

CAPAN

Main Principles

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Regression Analysis

- Mathematical technique for data analysis
- Type of regression specifically chosen for CAPAN purposes and based on dependency between workload and sector traffic entry rates
- Used to average sector behaviour over the simulation period, generally 24 hours
- Used to perform workload and traffic analyses based on specific periods of the day, traffic flows, etc

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Air Traffic Controllers

- Fundamental importance for the validation of the simulation scenarios
- Provide support to define actual flight routings, procedures, tasks, conflict detection and resolution logic and other simulation parameters
- Bridging the gap between taskload and workload measurement
- Generally working in a team throughout the study together with two CAPAN simulation experts
- At least two active controllers from every simulated unit

CAPAN Input Data

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Traffic and Airspace Data

- Traffic Data
- Aircraft Performance
- Airspace Structure

ATC Model

- Simulation Parameters
- Conflict Detection/Resolution
- Air Traffic Controller tasks
- Sector manning

RCAPAN
Simulation
Engine

Traffic Data



Initial demand based on last update of the flight plan is used to:

- Preserve the original intentions of the flights as far as possible
- Avoid smoothing of the traffic due to the effect of ATFM regulations
- Keep original peaks of traffic
- Keep traffic complexity without the effect of controller actions

Actual demand is however used to complement flight plan information

Flight plans

- Eurocontrol Network Manager's common archive DDR2 provides three types of traffic data:
 - Initial demand: the latest flight plan updates.
 - Regulated demand: flight plans impacted by flow restrictions.
 - Actual demand: flight profiles derived from coordinated position reports.
- Samples are selected to represent typical flows in the target area.
- The prepared traffic is then iterated multiple times to simulate various scenarios (e.g., entry times, performances).

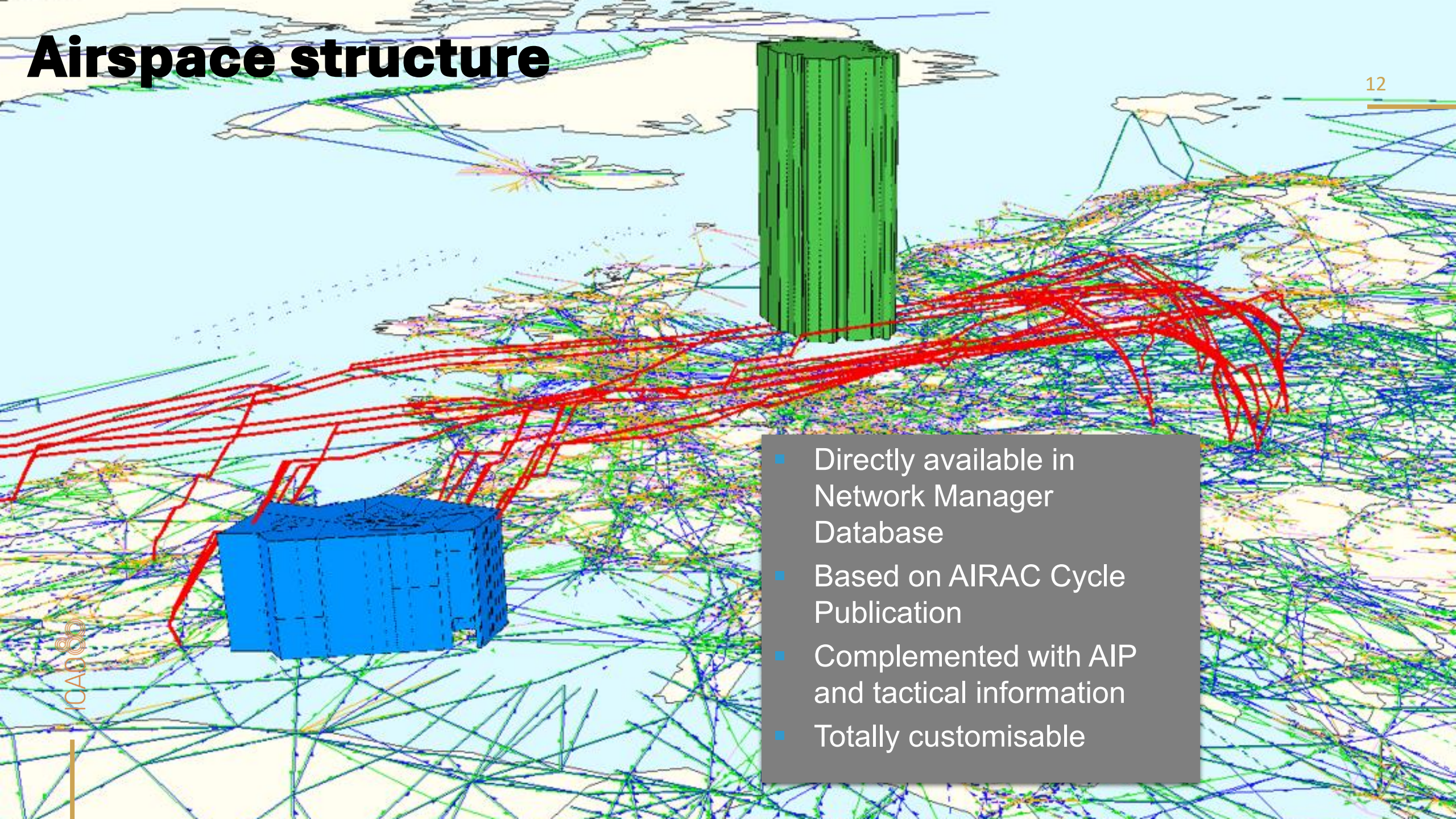
Aircraft Performance

- BADA: Base of Aircraft Data
- EUROCONTROL Database with nominal performances
- Fundamental for trajectory calculation
- Totally customisable to local procedures and company policies



Airspace structure

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- 
- Directly available in Network Manager Database
 - Based on AIRAC Cycle Publication
 - Complemented with AIP and tactical information
 - Totally customisable

Simulation Parameters

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- Several parameters required for fast-time simulation
- CAPAN tailored parameters for ACC and TMA environment
- Parameters to allow proper reproduction of the Procedures



Logic for conflict detection/resolution mechanisms associated to separation minima

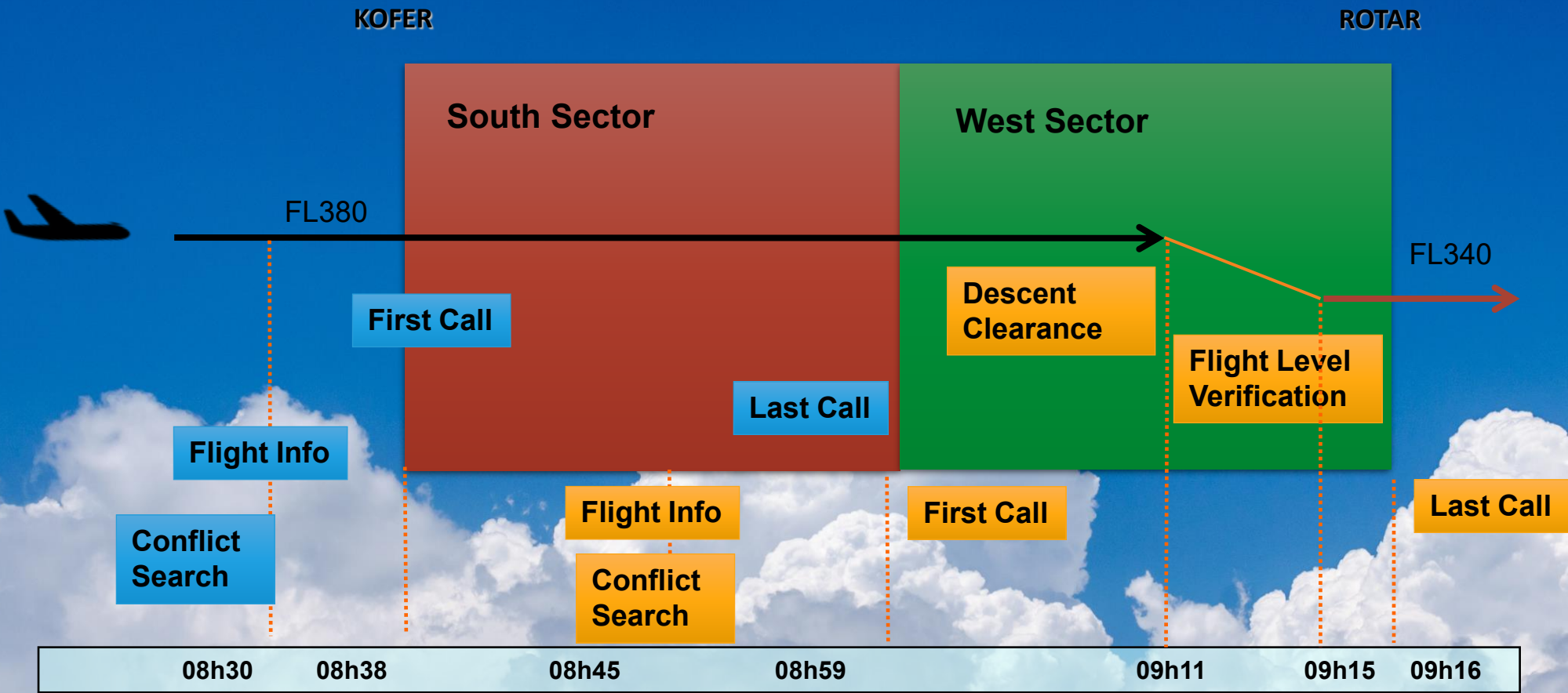
Controller Tasks and Sector Manning

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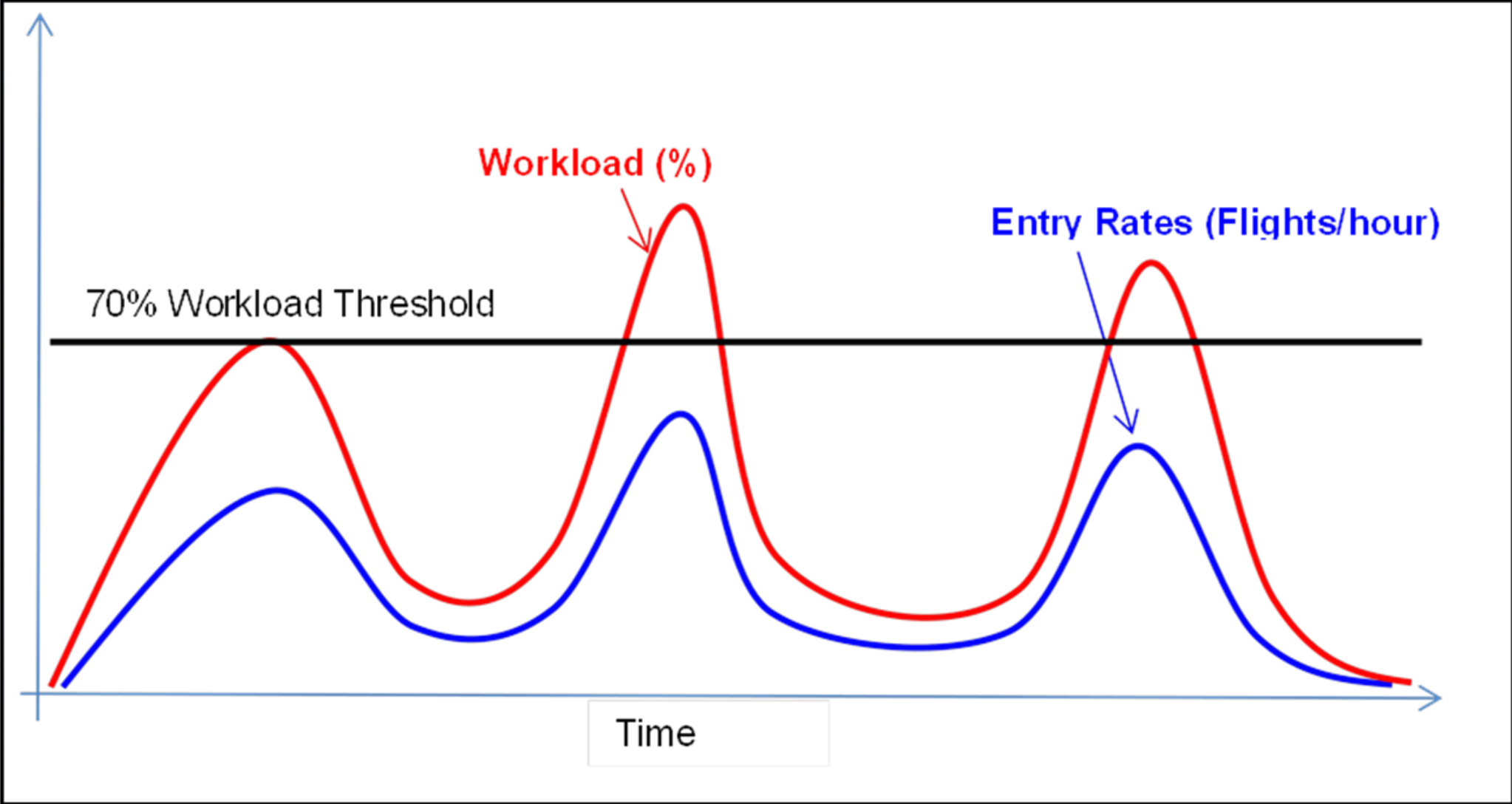
- **Standard model for controller tasks for both ACC and TMA environment**
- **Totally Customisable depending on system capabilities, specific procedures, separation minima, etc**
- **Divided into 5 main task categories:**
 1. Flight Data Management
 2. Conflict Search
 3. Coordination
 4. Standard Radio Telephony
 5. Radar
- **Applicable to single/double man operations, multi-sector planner, etc.**

Events and Tasks

EZY770N A319 LGAV LIMC
EFL380 XFL340

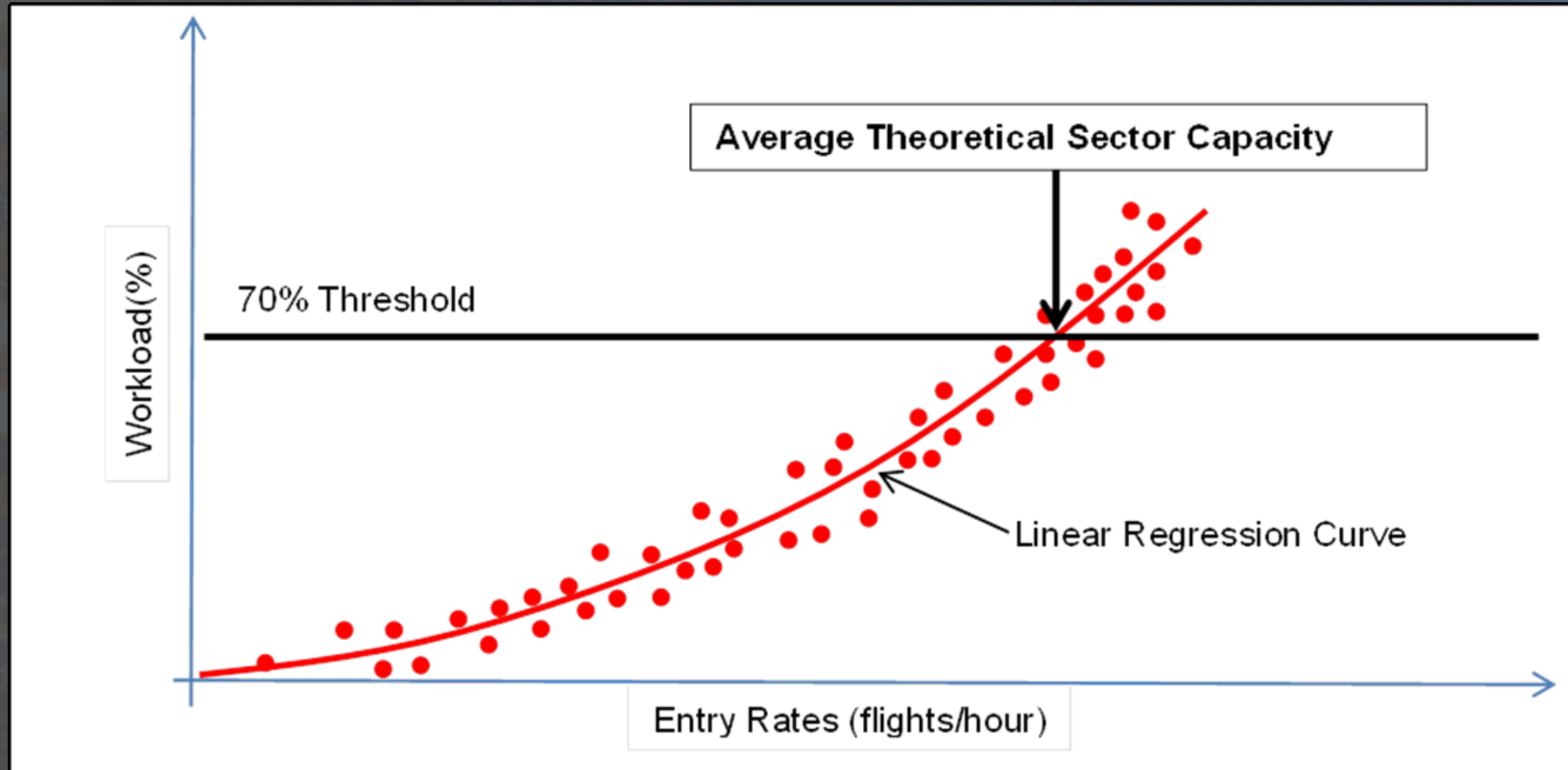


Sector Behaviour

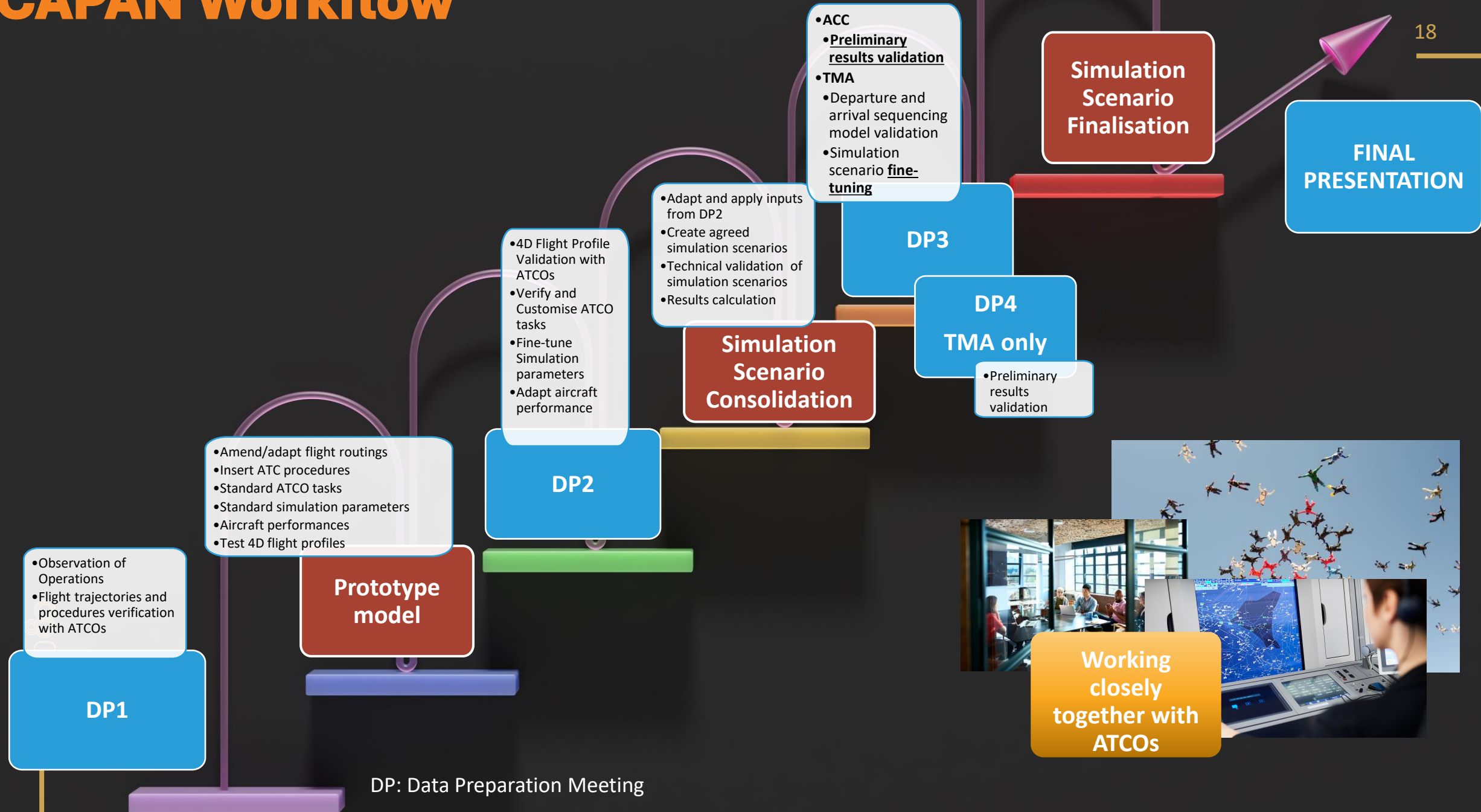


Calculation of Regression Capacity

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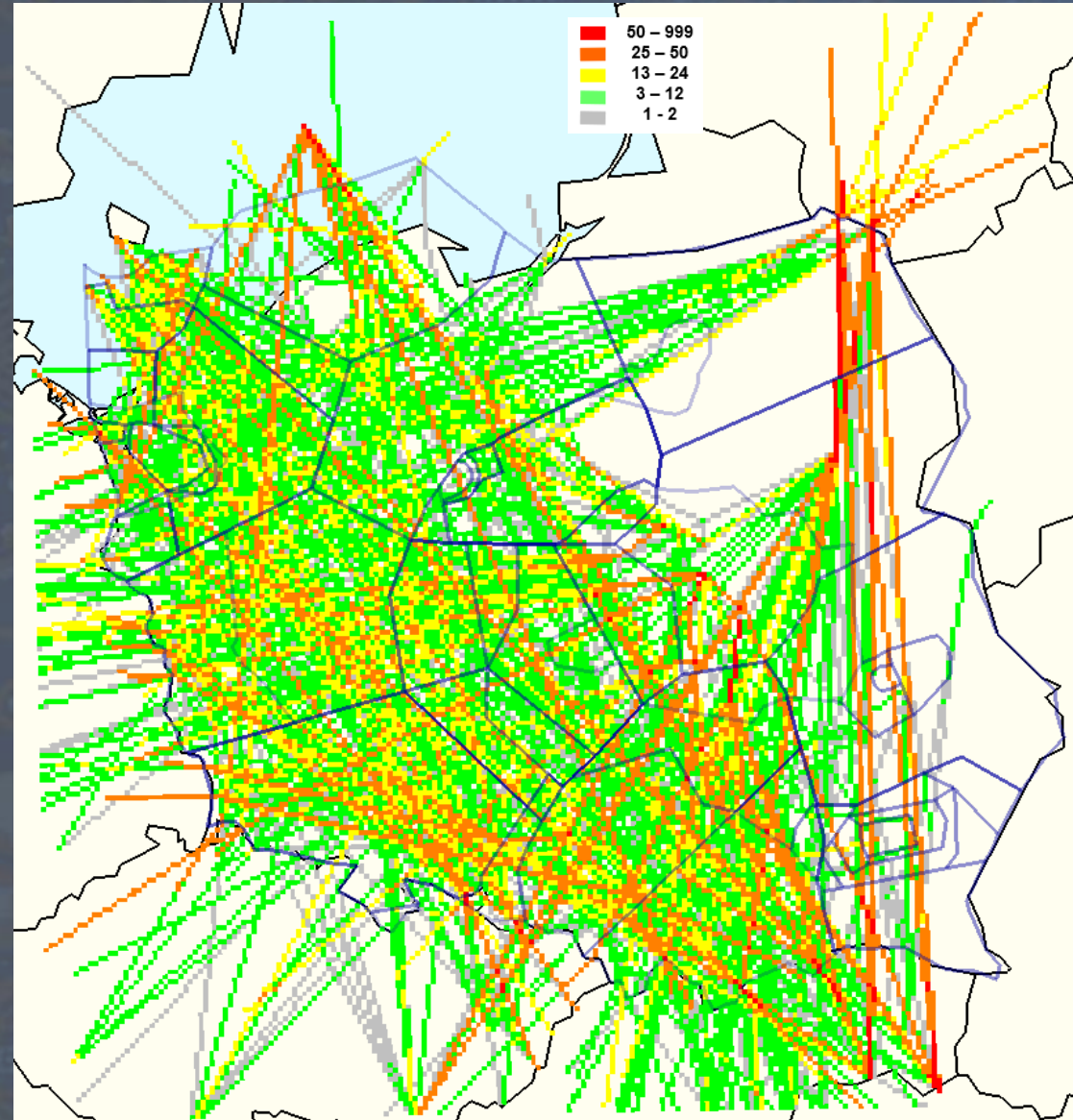
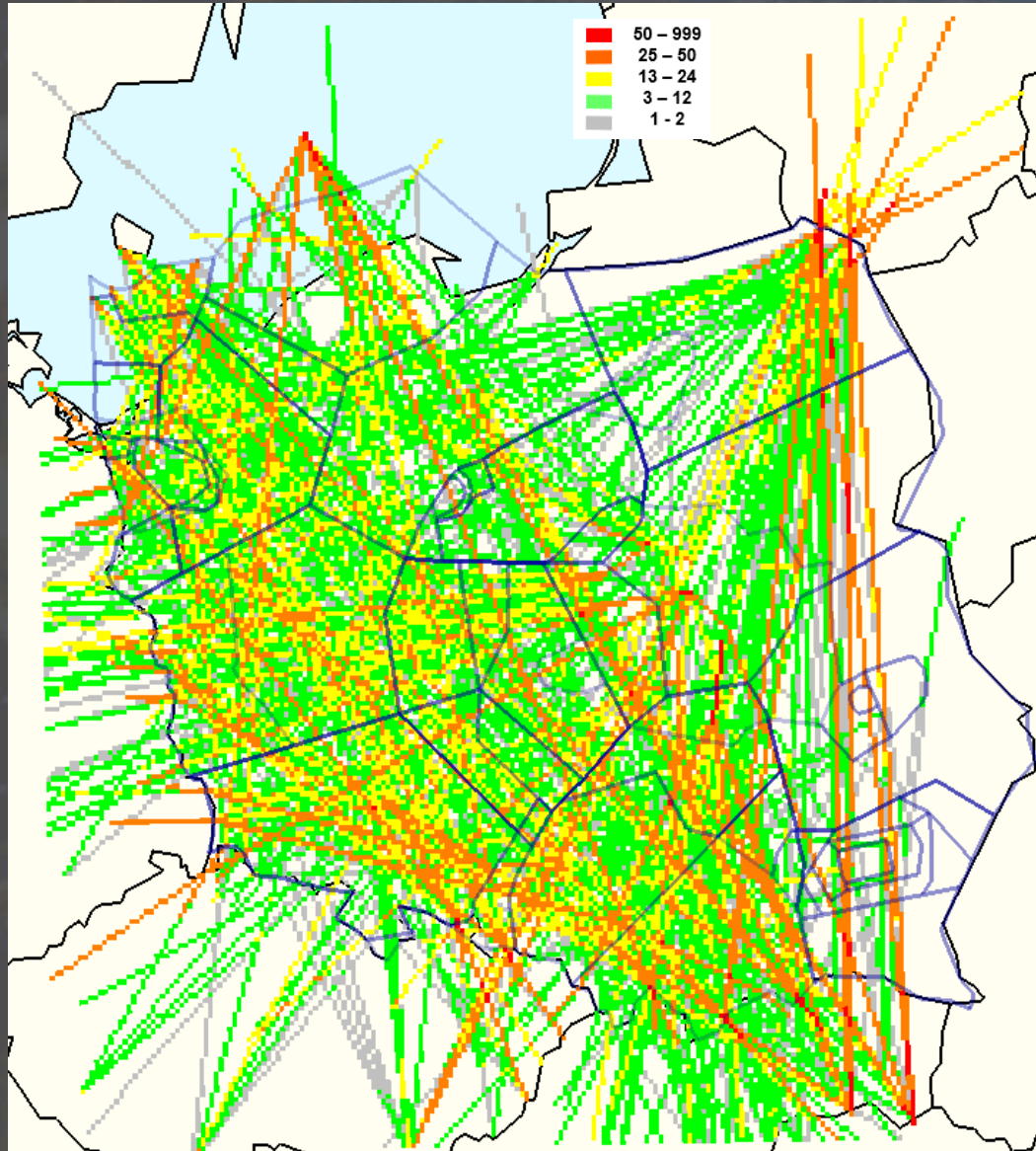


CAPAN Workflow



Traffic Density

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Conflict Density

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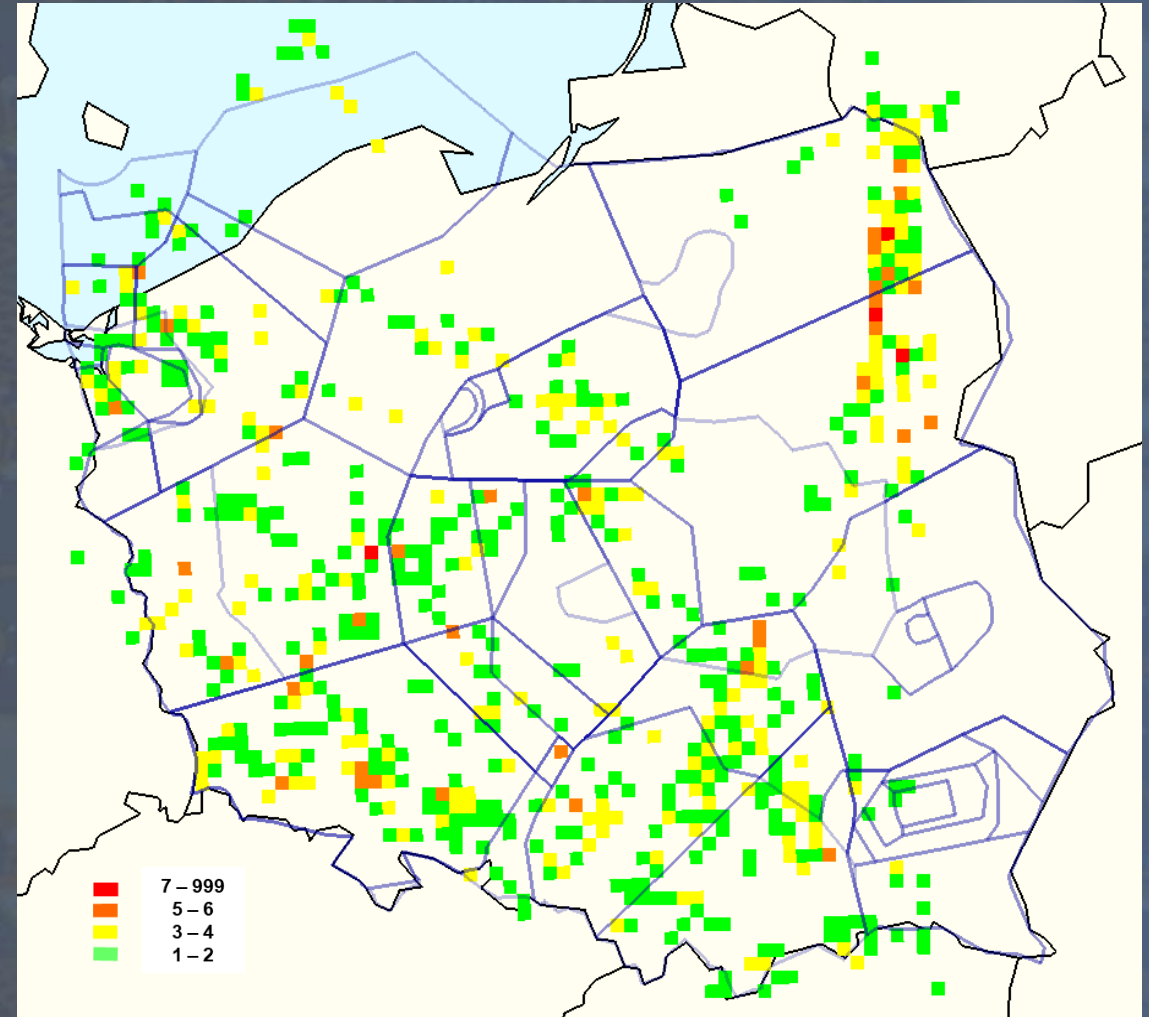
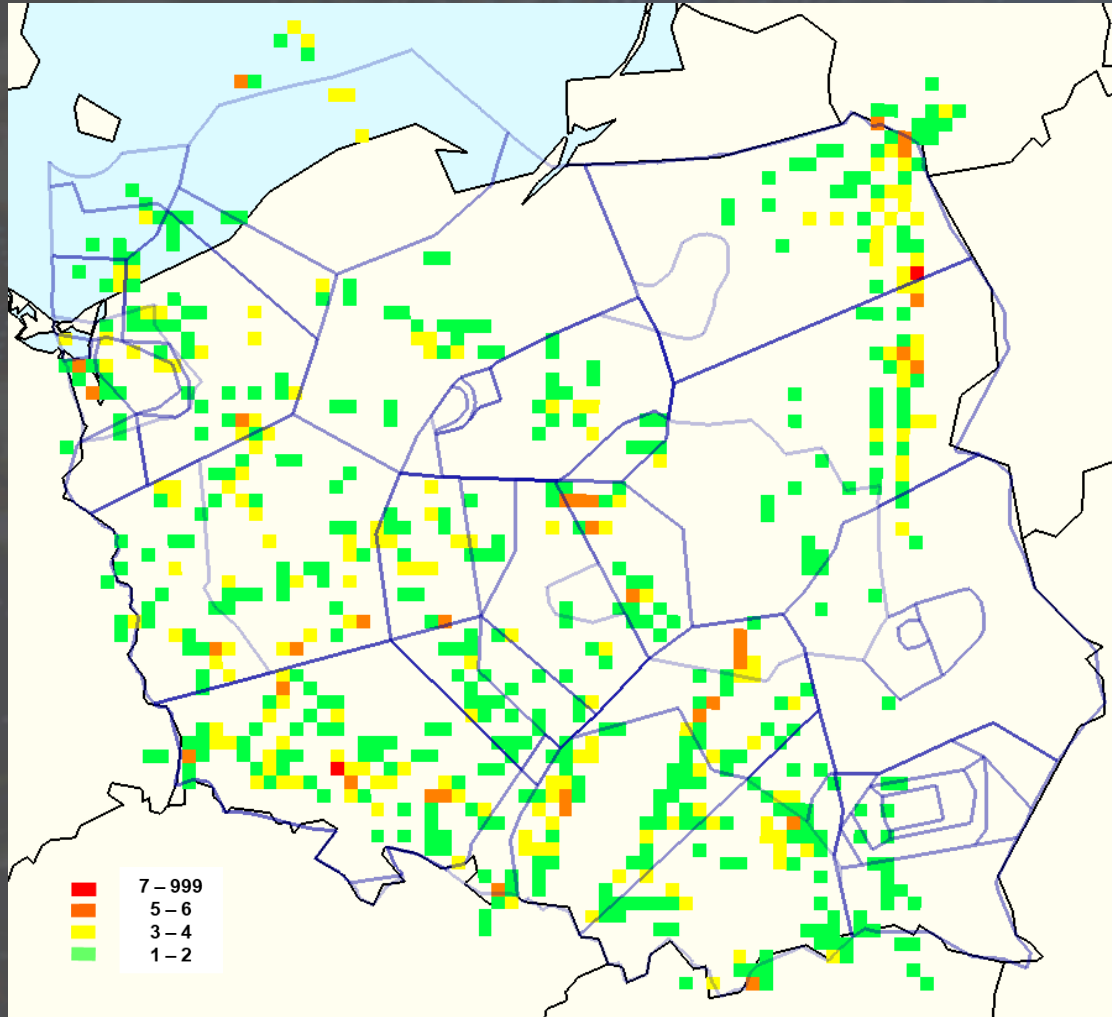


Chart Examples

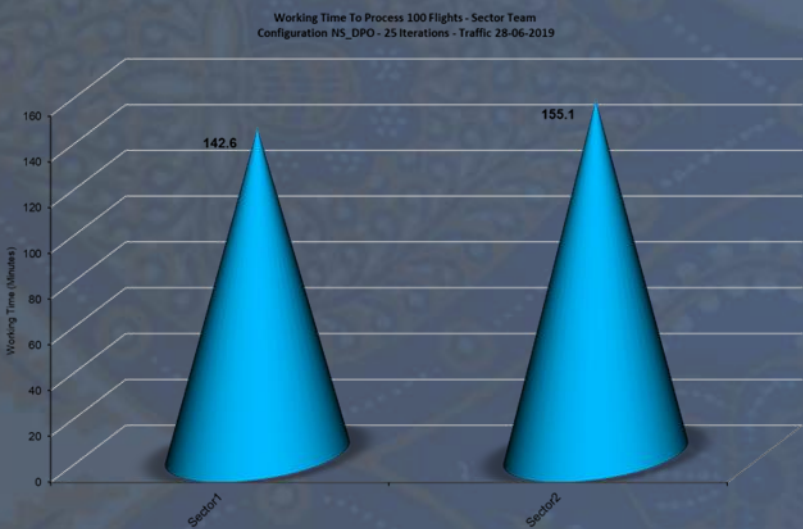
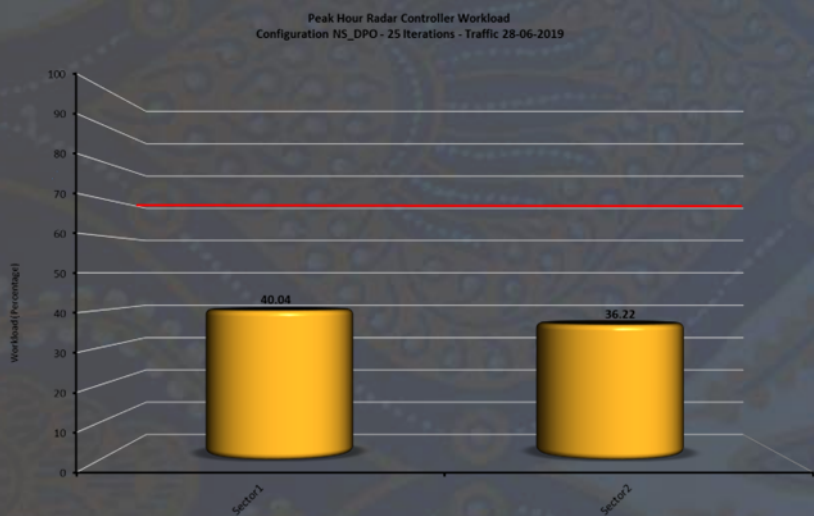
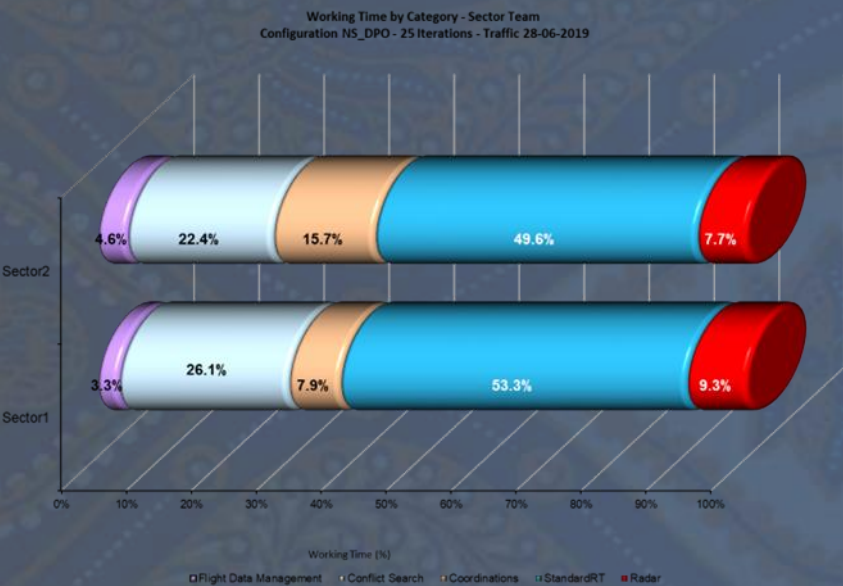
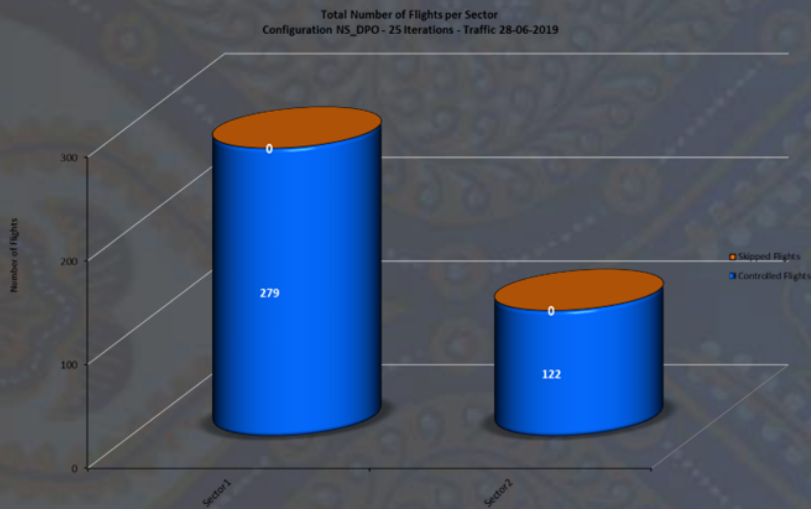
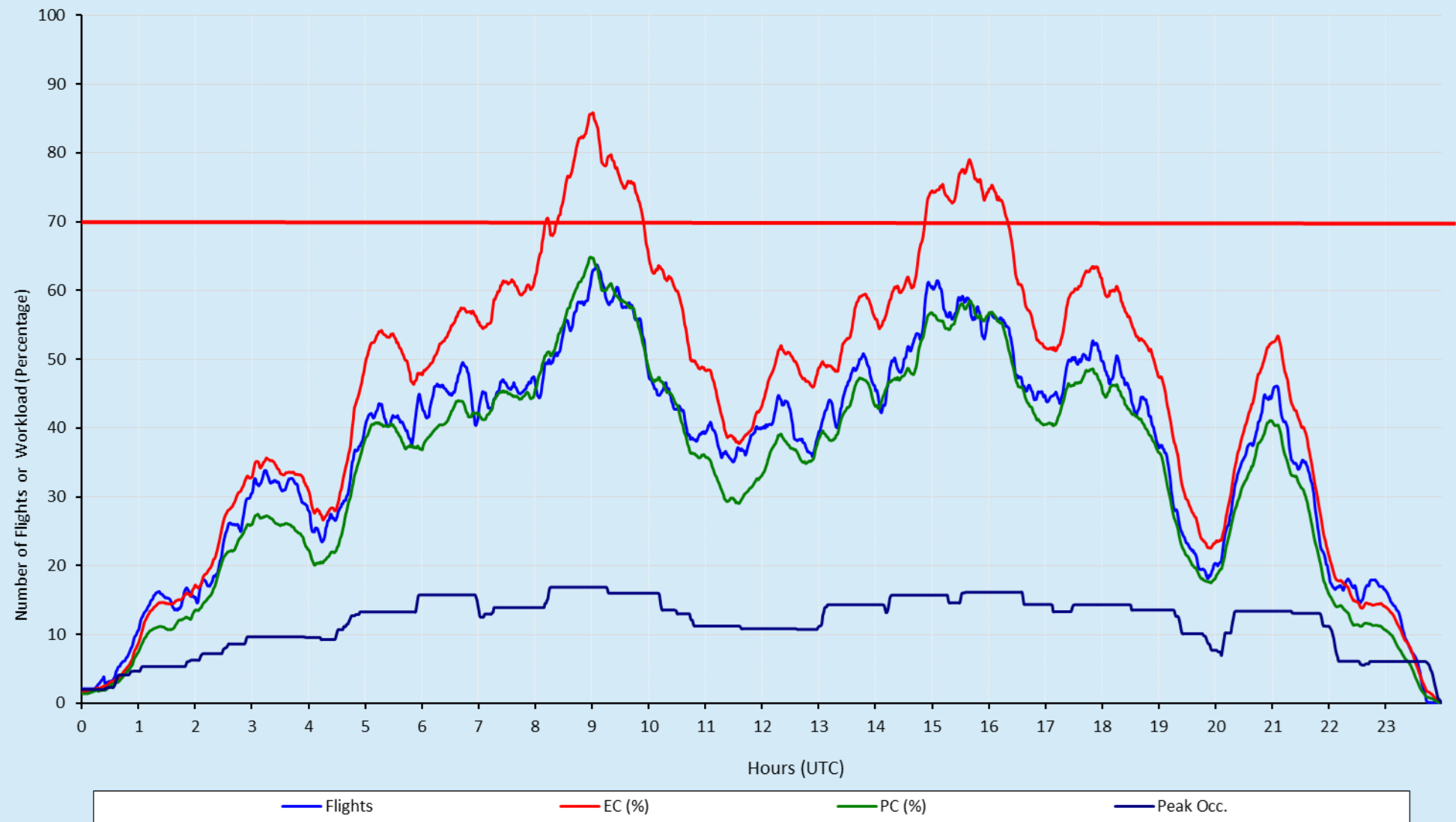


Chart Example - 24 Hours Sector Activity

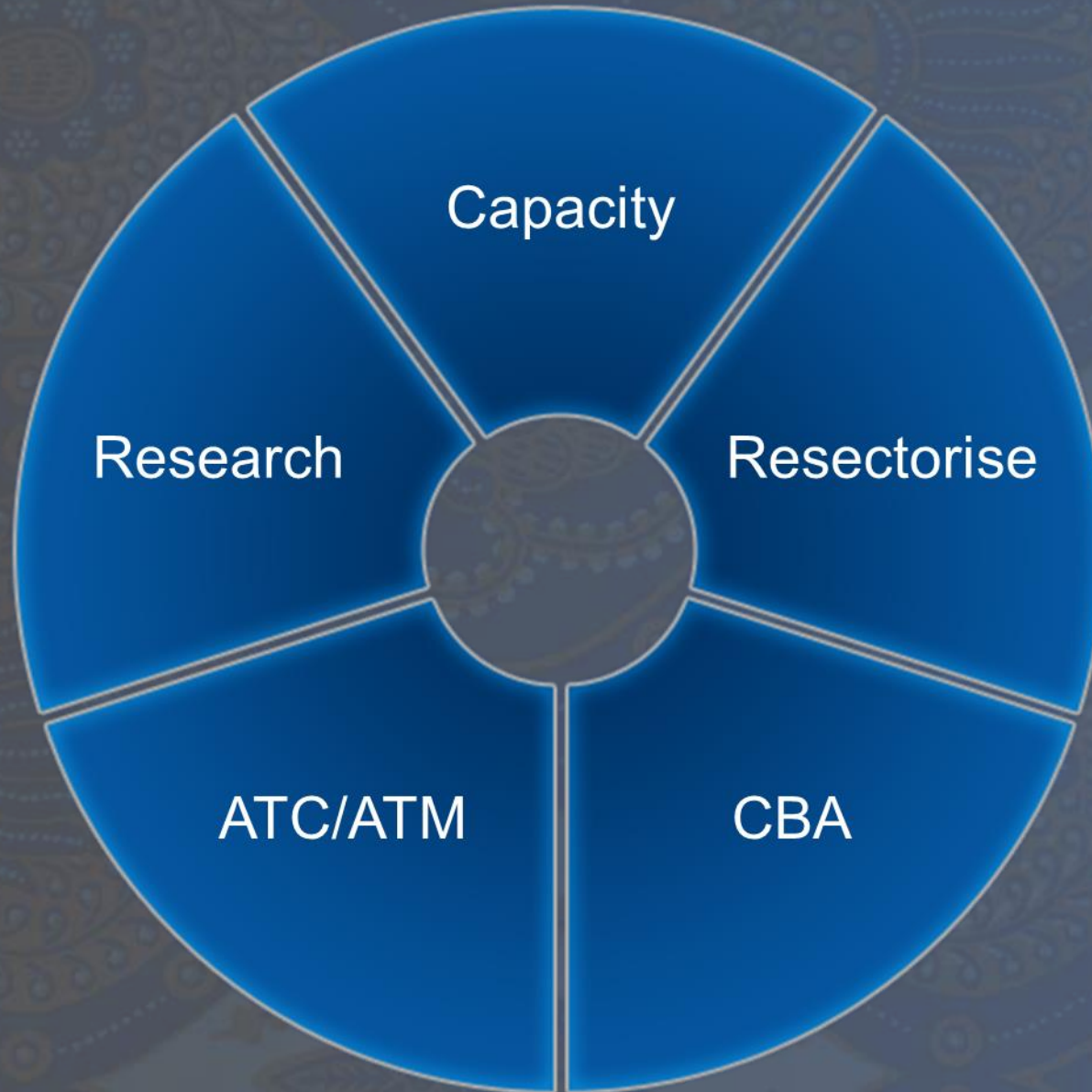
Relationship Between Sector Entries and Controller Workload

Relationship Between Sector Entries and the Corresponding Controller Workload







Where to use CAPAN

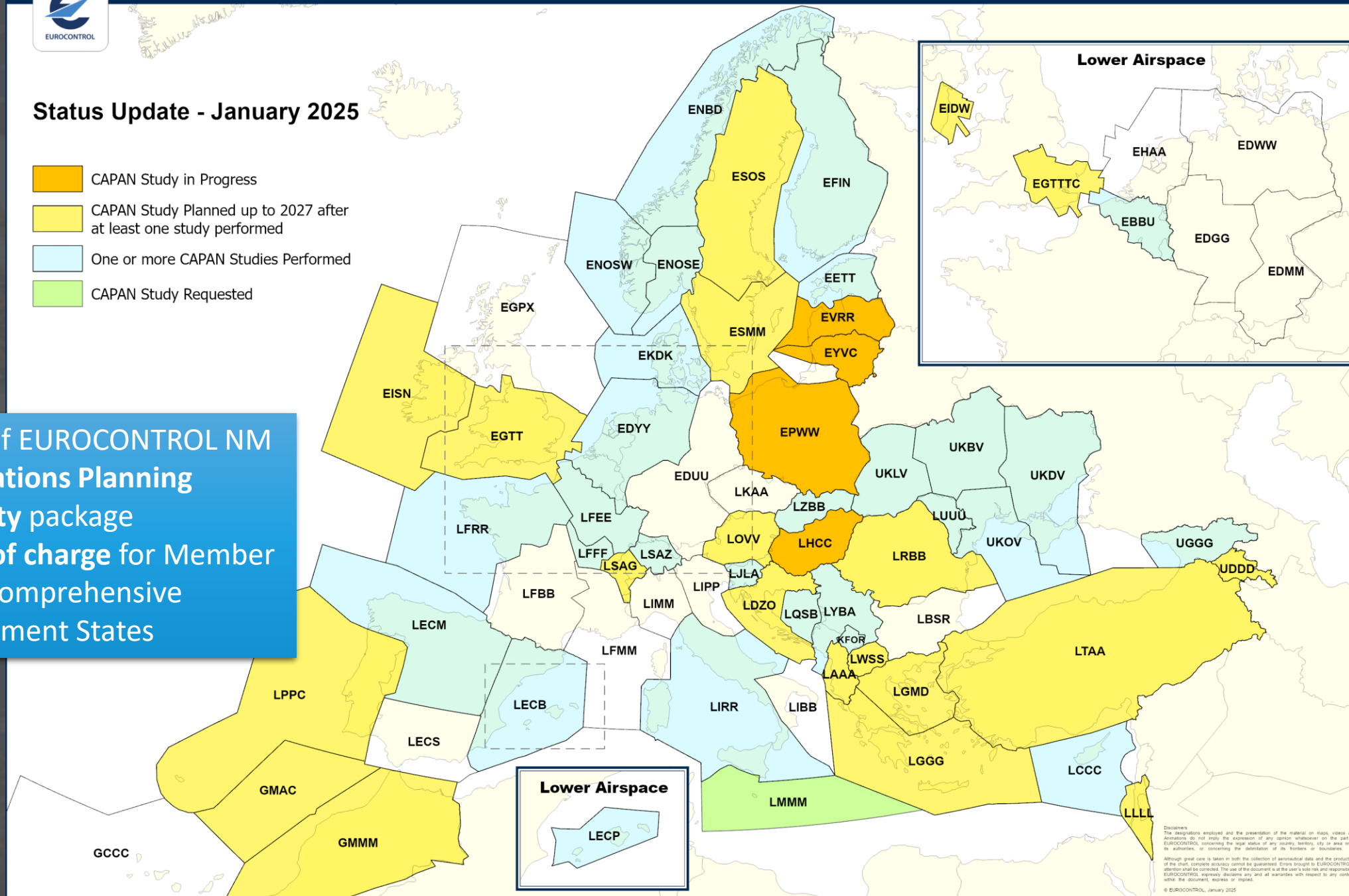
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Status Update - January 2025

-  CAPAN Study in Progress
-  CAPAN Study Planned up to 2027 after at least one study performed
-  One or more CAPAN Studies Performed
-  CAPAN Study Requested

- Part of EUROCONTROL NM **Operations Planning activity** package
- **Free of charge** for Member and Comprehensive Agreement States



Thank you