

SAT's Bombardier C Series simulator ready for pilot training

Zurich Airport, 20 June 2016 – Swiss AviationTraining (SAT) put its new Bombardier C Series full-flight simulator into service at its Zurich Airport training base today. The simulator, which is the first in Europe to be certificated for pilot training, will be primarily used to train the C Series flightdeck crews of Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS). Its entry into service marks a further key step in SAT's development as a skilled and professional provider of comprehensive training solutions for cockpit and cabin personnel.

Major milestone

The new simulator was built and installed to a tight timetable that was made all the more challenging through the changes to which it was subjected. The short-notice software updates in particular which are both customary and essential in the introduction of any new aircraft type had to be constantly integrated and trialled. Indeed, the new simulator's configuration was not finalized until 1 May, after which it was installed on site and underwent its extensive acceptance tests.

The Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) formally approved the new simulator for pilot training use on Friday 17 June, thereby confirming that the device fully meets all official requirements. The certification coincided with the first flight of the first SWISS Bombardier CS100 and – one year to the day – with the first landing in Zurich of a CS100 in SWISS livery.

“In installing our new full-flight simulator we have reached a major milestone in the C Series project, for Bombardier and for ourselves,” says David Birrer, SAT's Chief Operating Officer. “We are proud to have achieved this objective within its ambitious timeframe, and to now offer our customers a state-of-the-art simulator for their pilot training needs.”

Zurich training begins

A total of 64 SWISS pilots will be conversion-trained onto the Bombardier C Series at SAT this year, on a course that consists of some 35 days of training spread over two to three months. In addition to theory and integrated procedure trainer (IPT) sessions, the trainees will collectively spend some 3,000 hours on SAT's new C Series simulator.

A state-of-the-art training device

The new simulator's ergonomically-designed instructor's station with its extra-large screens offers SAT's instructors maximum flexibility and optimum operation and management throughout the simulator sessions, enabling them to maintain an effective overview at all times and provide trainees with the closest possible assistance and advice. The enhanced view (thanks to its large windows) on the aircraft itself is replicated on the simulator through a high-resolution visual display system that uses the latest LED projectors. Movement is rendered by a new-generation energy-efficient electric motion system.

"The successful certification of our new Bombardier C Series flight simulator is a small step for the public but a major stride for us in ensuring the prompt and timely provision of training solutions," says SAT CEO Marcel Witzig. "It's a further landmark, too, in our strategy to make SAT the competence centre for integrated Bombardier C Series training."

Swiss AviationTraining (SAT) is a fully-owned subsidiary of Swiss International Air Lines Ltd. The company, which has operations in Zurich, Grenchen (Switzerland), Frankfurt and Vienna, focuses on providing initial and further training for pilots, cabin personnel, aircraft mechanics and company managers and employees both within and beyond the aviation sector. SAT is an Approved Training Organization (ATO) and an EASA Part 147 Organization (MTO) whose courses are approved by the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) in accordance with the regulations and ordinances of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

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