

Occurrence involving operation of new ATMS in early hours of October 14

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During a phased functional implementation (PFI) session in the early hours of October 14, while air traffic controllers (ATCOs) were using the original air traffic management system (ATMS) in the original air traffic control (ATC) centre to mimic air traffic handling in support of the real time traffic operation by the new ATMS in accordance with established PFI procedures, an ATCO in the original ATC centre informed his counterpart in the new ATC centre at around 4am that two flights at 40 000 feet may not be able to meet the minimum separation at a later time. As a matter of fact, the ATCO in the new ATC centre was well aware of the possible loss of separation and was about to take appropriate measures. Subsequently, the two flights concerned achieved the 1 000 feet minimum vertical separation at a distance of no less than 15 nautical miles (horizontal separation), exceeding the minimum requirement of 5 nautical miles (horizontal separation). In other words, there was no loss of separation between the two aircraft concerned throughout the whole process, and with no risk of collision.

During a PFI, it is common for ATCOs working in the original and new ATC centres to communicate with each other, as was the case in this occurrence.

Civil Aviation Department  
November 14, 2016