

Pilot and controller language proficiency: A threat to aviation safety



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Today's talk

1. Background to project
2. Project overview
3. Project structure
4. Findings
5. Where next?

1. Background

- ICAO Doc 9835
- 2011: Absolute final deadline, double red lines, no kidding, this is not a drill!
- Increasingly clear that holding a Level 4 proficiency does not necessarily guarantee sufficient proficiency in English for international aviation

2. Project overview

- Possibility of incidents or accidents due to lack of fluency in English and associated risk to UK public
- CAA recognised a need to investigate the state of English in international aviation:
 - Air traffic control centres outside of the UK
 - Pilots operating in UK airspace

2. Project overview

- Commissioned by UK CAA
- Funded by UK Department for Transport's State Safety Programme
- Desired outcomes:
 - Reduce likelihood of miscommunication
 - Increase clear, effective, and concise communication

3. Project structure

- Review of existing research
 - Pilot / controller communication
 - Aviation English
 - Implementation of ICAO LPRs / Doc 9835 requirements in various ICAO Member States
- Analysis of incident reports
 - Miscommunication
 - Substandard language proficiency
 - Other language or cultural issues

4. Findings

- Interim report of review of existing literature
- Final report (to be released to the public)
- Best practice recommendations, including:
 - Ground staff language proficiency
 - Radiotelephony equipment
 - Aviation English courses, lessons, exams
 - Pilot and controller training
 - ICAO issues

5. Where next?

- UK NATS
- EASA
- ICAO
- Other Member State CAAs?

Questions? Comments?

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Thank you!