

SMART TRACKING - CANBERRA

Aviation is critical to the broader Australian economy and essentially links our people with each other and the rest of the world.

In recent years, satellite assistance has proved to be a quantum leap in aircraft navigation capability and new aircraft are increasingly being designed to be more capable. Satellite assisted navigation is recognised internationally for its safety benefits which are achieved through navigation with high precision. We refer to the most advanced technology currently available as 'Smart Tracking'.

To achieve the best aircraft safety, noise and emissions outcomes for Canberra and the surrounding region, Airservices is working towards making Smart Tracking technology permanently available for all suitably equipped aircraft landing at Adelaide Airport. Smart Tracking aircraft has been successfully trialled at Canberra Airport since 2006 and at 16 other Australian airports.

What is Smart Tracking?

A growing number of modern aircraft are now fitted with navigation systems that use satellite assisted guidance. Specialised flight management systems in the cockpit can use GPS information to fly aircraft with high accuracy and only a small variation in the actual tracks flown from one aircraft to another. These systems are known in aviation circles as Required Navigation Performance – meaning the aircraft can perform in accordance with a strict set of navigation parameters. For simplicity we refer to this as 'Smart Tracking'.

Where are the tracks at Canberra?

The arrival tracks which have been trialled at Canberra since 2006 are all within existing and longstanding flight path corridors i.e. no residential areas are directly overflown. This

combination of tracks is the optimal structure for arriving aircraft to ensure safety whilst balancing airport efficiency and environmental impacts. A map of the tracks is available at www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/smart-tracking/canberra

How does Smart Tracking change the way aircraft fly?

Smart Tracking aircraft fly with greater accuracy than those using conventional navigation means. This gives them the ability to follow flights paths with high precision and to make smooth curved approaches even when close to the airport in all weather conditions. This makes air travel safer, cleaner, more dependable and with better noise outcomes for communities living close to airports.

How does Smart Tracking improve the impact of aircraft noise?

Smart Tracking allows aircraft arriving at an airport to place their engines at idle and glide to the runway under minimal power. This makes a lot less noise than a conventional stepped approach where aircraft alternately power up and descend. Aircraft flaps and landing gear may also be deployed much closer to the runway which reduces noise levels even further. While this practice is currently used whenever possible, Smart Tracking allows its use every time.

Where possible, flight paths can be designed to curve around obstacles (high terrain or buildings), follow existing high noise corridors (e.g. highways) or to avoid noise sensitive areas in favour of overflying industrial land or other non-residential areas.



What will change because of Smart Tracking?

In the first year, there will be no change from current business as usual. During 2013 other airlines which are not part of the trial will start to fit-out their planes and train their crews – they will increasingly come on line over the next decade.

Over time, people who live near the flight paths may notice more planes in the sky. This will be a combination of more planes using Canberra Airport as it continues to grow into the future plus a gradual narrowing of the flight path corridor because aircraft using Smart Tracking are flying more precisely. There will be no increase in noise levels for any residential area as a result of implementing Smart Tracking.

Can Smart Tracking improve noise outcomes?

The maximum noise level from existing aircraft types will not change. While no residential areas are directly overflown at Canberra, Smart Tracking curves arriving aircraft away from Jerrabomberra, Hackett and Gungahlin to better manage their noise exposure. Over time, it is expected some parts of Jerrabomberra located closest to the flight path will experience noticeable reductions in noise levels.

Where can I get more information about Smart Tracking technology?

There is more information about Smart Tracking on Airservices website. We would welcome any comments or questions about Smart Tracking - you can contact us by phoning 1800 601 065 or by emailing community.relations@airservicesaustralia.com

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