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Press Release



Outreach Event on SBAS in Aviation in Africa

Abuja- 2nd- 3rd of February 2023:

Harnessing its efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of implementing the Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) in Africa, SatNav Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO) in collaboration with the ANGA (Augmented Navigation for Africa) programme, Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT) and NAMA organised the 2nd Regional Outreach Event on Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) in aviation in Africa.

Held in hybrid mode from 2nd to 3rd of February, 2023 in Abuja (Nigeria), the event was hosted under the High Patronage of the Honorable Minister of Communication and Digital Economy; Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami); FCIIS, FNCS, FBCS and Honorable Minister of Aviation, Senator (Captain) Hadi Sirika ably represented by Dr Emmanuel Meribole; the

Permanent Secretary; Ministry of Aviation. The event welcomed also EU Global Action on Space initiative of the European Commission.

President Muhammadu Buhari urged Nigerian Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT) to collaborate with aviation sector in the 54 African countries towards a successful implementation of the Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) in Africa; the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy declares during the opening ceremony of the 2-days SBAS outreach.

On the side-line was ANGA and NIGCOMSAT SBAS/LPV field demonstrations using NAMA's Beechcraft King Air 350i held earlier on the 1st of February 2023 in Nnamadi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja. The Abuja outreach event, gathering airlines, aircraft/avionics manufacturers, SBAS providers and institutional stakeholders, aims to continue this dialogue initiated in January 2021 in Lomé (Togo).

Key players of the industry and regional institutions and organisations in Africa took part in the various sessions and altogether contributed in providing a unique knowledge sharing platform around several topics related to SBAS adoption in Aviation in Africa. The extended dialogue through this collaborative platform will enable value-chain actors to exchange in subjects of key interest on SBAS which also support stakeholders' decision-making in the creation of synergies and enable the collective reaping of benefits provided by SBAS in the region, including safety, efficiency and environmental protection benefits.

Outreach activities are at a cornerstone of worldwide strategies in support the development and use of GNSS/SBAS systems and applications in all economic sectors in Africa. This specific event was dedicated to the Aviation User Communities and gathered more than 345 online-participants across the World.

Closing the ceremony in the presence of DG Asecna, EC DG-DEFIS, Representatives of AON , AFON, SatNAv Africa JPO, The Permanent Secretary; Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy; Dr. William Alo ably represented by Acting Director, Spectrum Management and Board Member of NIGCOMSAT Ltd; Engr. Anagonye Joseph expressed full support for Satellite Navigation implementation in the Region, highlighting its versatile uses and great impact on Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) implementation goal realization. He highlighted the fact that the global aviation industry at all levels (States, airlines, manufacturers and air navigation service providers) are currently at an advanced stage in adopting and integrating SBAS technology to take advantage of the significant benefits in terms of flight safety and efficiency, and of environmental protection. Therefore Africa should not be left behind in this journey.

He appreciated and congratulated the Honorable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Prof. Isah Ali Ibrahim Pantami, the board, management and staff of Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT) for making the feat possible in conjunction with NAMA and partners.

He also used the opportunity to appreciate Federal Ministry of Aviation ably led by Senator (Captain) Hadi Sirika who granted approval on 31st August, 2021 directing NIGCOMSAT Ltd to

liaise with Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to conduct SBAS flight demonstration within Nigerian Airspace.

Our special thanks to executive management and staff of NAMA ably led by Acting MD/CE of NAMA; Mr Mathew Lawrence Pwajok for graciously and wholeheartedly making the SBAS Demo Event possible at Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja using NAMA's calibration aircraft; Beechcraft KingAir 350i including immense support to the 2-days SBAS outreach event at Congress Hall of Transcorp Hilton.

To all our International Partners; SatNav Africa Joint Programme Office (JPO); ASECNA, The Augmented Navigation for Africa (ANGA); Thales Alenia Space; Pildo Consulting etc; We thank you.

We rededicate ourselves today more than ever to collaborate and partner within and outside our shores to ensure SBAS technology is fully implemented for both Aviation and Non-Aviation Sectors says Dr Willaims Alo; Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.

Representative of Transport and Mobility Division with the Infrastructure and Energy Department of the African Union Commission (AUC), Eric Ntagengerwa and AFCAC, highlighted that the African Union through its continental perspective approach toward the implementation of SBAS, recalled the successful completion of the Cost-Benefit Analysis of the implementation of SBAS in Africa conducted by the AUC whose results were presented to a wide range of stakeholders at a workshop held in Kigali end of May 2022.

The outcome of the workshop showcased that SBAS is gaining popularity and acknowledgment among african stakeholders whose application will enhance provide benefits to African citizens even beyond aviation.

The outreach event in Abuja, Nigeria shed light on the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technology, aviation applications benefits including Performance Based Navigation plans, the status of different regional SBAS programmes and initiatives including a review of outcomes of the SBAS/LPV fielddemonstrations held by ANGA and Nigcomsat, and which confirmed the performance of SBAS in Africa. .

The Outreach event came to a close with confidence that Africa as a Continent can and will now move towards full operationalisation of SBAS in support to implementation of the Space Policy of the African Union.

Note to the Editor:

Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)

The Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS) is a wide-area differential Global Navigation Satellite Signal (GNSS) augmentation system that uses several geostationary satellites to broadcast primary GNSS data that has been provided with ranging, integrity, and

correction information by a network of SBAS ground stations covering vast areas which improves precision and lowers position errors to less than 1 meter.

The Satellite Navigation in Africa Support Programme III, a continuation of the 'European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) in Africa Support Programme', and a partnership between Africa and the EU, contributes to the development of satellite navigation in key sectors in Africa, with aviation being the entry point of the Programme. It aims at supporting the development of Satellite Based Augmentation Systems (SBAS) and the increased use and adoption of GNSS services.

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About ANGA programme

The ANGA (Augmented Navigation for Africa) programme aims to provide Satellite Based Augmentation Services (SBAS) throughout the Africa and Indian Ocean (AFI) region. These services increase the positioning performance of the GPS constellation. The accuracy, down to the order of a meter, integrity, availability, and continuity of positioning services are improved and guaranteed for the most advanced satellite navigation applications, especially those critical in terms of safety. ANGA services will strengthen air navigation operations, thereby improving flight safety and efficiency. They will also allow the development of applications in other sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, maritime, road and rail transport, or cartography, to name but a few. The ANGA program is led by the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA). It is recognised by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and is key enabler of the implementation of the African Union Space Policy. It contributes to strengthening Africa's positioning as a supplier of high value-added services, with a key position in the global satellite navigation infrastructure value chain. ANGA is the safe and efficient navigation solution for Africa.

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About NIGCOMSAT

Nigerian Communications Satellite Ltd (NIGCOMSAT) is a company and agency under the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy whose mission is to be the leading satellite operator and service provider in Africa. NIGCOMSAT Ltd owns and operates the Nigerian Communications Satellite. The company provides innovative and cutting-edge

satellite communications solutions by operating and managing a geostationary communication satellite-NigComSat-1R, built to provide domestic and international satellite services via a 2-way satellite communications services across West, Central, South East Africa, Europe and Asia. The satellite is a hybrid Communication Satellite with a payload for navigation overlay services (NOS) system similar to EGNOS.

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About NAMA

Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) is an agency of the government of Federal Republic of Nigeria responsible mainly for the provision of air navigation services within Kano Flight Information Region (FIR). Its vision is to be a leading ANSP with a mission of providing safe, efficient and economic air navigation service.

NAMA has, over the years, made tremendous investments in terrestrial navigation and landing facilities for efficient conduct of flight. Nigeria has 25 VOR/DME facilities most of which are Doppler VORs for safe conduct of flight.

With the advent of satellite technology and its deployment in air navigation, NAMA has, since 2004, developed and implemented GNSS procedures for RNAV approaches at most of the aerodromes. Nigeria has implemented 19 RNAV routes in the airspace making it one of the airspaces, in Africa, with the most RNAV routes.

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