



Press Statement

7th December, 2021

WORLD STANDARD AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.

Niusky Pacific Limited has transitioned into a leading Air Navigation and Air Traffic service provider in the Asia Pacific Region, utilising state-of-the-art Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems complemented by modern Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) infrastructures and technologies.

Less than a decade ago, NiuSky Pacific Limited (NSPL) previously known as PNG Air Services Limited (PNGASL) set itself an ambitious long-term vision "*to be recognised as the leading air navigation service provider within the region and beyond*". To achieve this bold vision, the company embarked on a holistic Modernisation Program with the principal aim of delivering a world class efficient seamless Air Traffic Management (ATM) service throughout Papua New Guinea's flight information region (FIR) and the neighboring airspace.

To put this in perspective, NSPL is PNG's sole air navigation service provider and it is responsible for the management of aircraft operations within 1.6 million square kilometres of PNG's sovereign airspace, extending from sea level up to 60,000 feet.

NSPL, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Captain Ted Pakii said, "*To perform its mandated functions, NSPL utilises a range of Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) facilities and ATM systems situated at strategic locations around the country.*"



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NSPL through its comprehensive modernisation program has witnessed the transformation of its entire operations. This transformation aligns with the Government's five key development priorities encapsulated in the Medium-Term Development Plan 3 (MTDP III) for Air Transport Infrastructure.

This year's "**International Civil Aviation Day**" which is themed "*Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development*," reinforces NSPL's long-term vision to provide the highest quality air navigation service for its domestic and international civil aviation stakeholders and to use our service delivery mandate to contribute to PNG's overarching socio-economic development agenda.

"The modernisation program is a critical achievement for NSPL as well as the country in keeping its service level up to par and in compliance with and in some cases exceeding the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARP)," said Pakii.

Notwithstanding the ongoing impact of COVID-19, the anticipated increase in traffic growth within the Asia Pacific region by 2030 (International Civil Aviation Organisation, 2010), provides the strategic direction for NSPL to continue to invest in these modern cutting-edge CNS/ATM systems and technologies. Transforming and modernising our CNS/ATM systems has significantly improved the standard and quality of our ATM service, enabling our Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) to deliver much improved and enhanced air traffic services to our aviation stakeholders. The high level of service we now provide demonstrates the quality and sophistication of the advanced aviation technology and systems that we have adopted through our modernisation program and more importantly improves our compliance with the global industry standards. The **ICAO** is a [specialised agency](#) of the [United Nations](#) and it is responsible for establishing the principles and techniques of international air navigation including fostering the planning and development of international [air transport](#) to ensure safe and orderly growth.



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To further complement the company's CNS/ATM infrastructure projects, NSPL recently introduced the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B). The space-based ADS-B provides air traffic surveillance coverage of the entire Port Moresby Flight Information Region (FIR).

Captain Pakii further added, *"For the first time in our history, NSPL will be providing real time surveillance coverage over PNG's entire airspace above 20,000 feet whilst high traffic density areas below 20,000 feet will continue to be covered by a network of terrestrial-based ADS-B facilities and our new Mode S Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) located at the Jacksons International Airport."*

"The introduction of this new space-based technology will enhance aviation safety for all airspace users. This will improve efficiency in providing more opportunities for aircrafts to fly routes that are more flexible and at their optimum altitudes."

This space-based ADS-B surveillance technology was first authorised for operational use around the world by ICAO in 2018. NSPL is amongst the first three Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) in the Asia Pacific region and amongst the first ten globally, to use space-based surveillance technology for operational purposes. Something the country should be proud of.

As NSPL continues to improve its operational efficiency, the company is also committed in contributing towards its Community Service Obligation (CSO). As part of its overarching development commitment to the rural communities throughout the country, NSPL continues to exempt air navigation fees and charges on rural aviation service providers. This support for rural air transportation is essential, given the aviation transport sub-sector's important role in linking rural communities to service delivery in urban centers, markets, business opportunities and vital government services.

The improvements presented by the new, more advanced aviation technology and systems that we have acquired will result in operational efficiencies including reduced fuel burn which will no doubt result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. What this means is that as flights become more efficient due to operational efficiencies, there would be a reduction in fuel consumption per flight. Additionally, our efforts to transition to



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renewable solar energy to power our CNS/ATM infrastructure and buildings in the future will further reduce carbon emissions. We have already started this transition with the recent completion of a modern multifunctional facility situated at NSPL's Head Office, which houses a state-of-the-art, paperless board room and uses renewal solar energy as an alternative power source. This has enabled the company to address the capacity and energy challenges by the power supply industry and third-party service providers.

The ongoing funding assistance from key development partners including the Government of PNG (GoPNG), the Australian Government (GoA) through the Transport Sector Support Program (TSSP) and the Asian Development Bank through the Civil Aviation Investment Program (CADIP) had enabled NSPL to pursue and complete these important projects.

As NSPL and PNG celebrate these significant accomplishments, we are reminded of how difficult and challenging it has been to get to this point. Whilst lack of funding over the years has been our biggest challenge, the unexpected impact and effects of the COVID – 19 pandemic in the last two years has probably caused more grief. The closing of international borders which subsequently impacted the aviation industry has caused a significant reduction on the company's internal revenue. Regardless of the low revenue, maintenance requirements and costs for our ground-based infrastructure that are often impacted by inclement weather, localised security issues and third-party service deficiencies have remained high. These challenges present opportunities for innovation and NSPL's ongoing investment in the most modern aviation technology and systems has enabled the company to continue to provide its air navigation services at optimum levels during this difficult period. Despite these ongoing challenges, NSPL's transformation in the last six years now positions it to be a leading and one of the most technically advanced Air Navigation Service Providers in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

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