

Performance Based Navigation (PBN) goes live in Namibia!

Namibia took a step towards *Safer Skies* on 17 September 2015 with the introduction of RNAV 5 air routes in the Upper Airspace between FL145 and FL460 (approximately 4420M to 14020M).

This PBN navigation specification allows for closer route spacing while increasing the accuracy and integrity of aircraft navigation by use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) which forms part of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

On 15 October 2015 our first GPS based Instrument Flight Procedure was implemented at Hosea Kutako International Airport (FYWH) with the introduction of the RNP APCH to Runway 08. This is the first time that Runway 08 at our international airport has had a published instrument procedure available to assist pilots to safely navigate to the ground in all weather conditions.

An additional RNP APCH to Runway 26 was implemented 12 November 2015 and will act as a back up to the currently installed Instrument Landing System for that runway.

RNP APCH procedures are satellite based procedures (GPS) and are totally independent of ground based navigation aids. So in the event of a loss of power on the ground, pilots will still have available an instrument approach to assist with the safe navigation of the aircraft when approaching the aerodrome.

The next aerodrome to have RNP APCH procedures will be Rundu (FYRU) in the northern part of our country. This will greatly benefit aircraft operating to Rundu in all weather conditions, including our national flag carrier, Air Namibia.

RNP APCH procedures will be progressively implemented across Namibia during 2015 and 2016. This will allow us to achieve our ICAO targets. The next aerodrome scheduled for implementation is Rundu in the north followed by Ondangwa and Eros.

This project is a collaborative effort between the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Air Traffic Control, airline and aircraft operators, and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), for the benefit of Namibian airspace users.