VIASAT'S NEXT-GEN COCKPIT SERVICE REACHES MILESTONE AS AIRLINES MODERNIZE COMMUNICATIONS TO SAVE FUEL

News / Manufacturer



Viasat has reached 1,000 aircraft for its SB-S service: a milestone that underscores strong adoption and accelerating momentum for satellite-enabled safety communications in aviation. SwiftBroadband-Safety is a certified, global safety communications service that supports Air Traffic Control communications, airline operations and regulatory compliance, helping pilots and operators improve situational awareness and operational resilience.

Since its introduction in 2018, SB-S has continued strong equipage growth with reliable international safety communications performance. Take-up from airlines has expanded at an average rate of 42% per year, with the company aiming for SB-S to be in service on more than 1,200 aircraft by the end of 2026. Across its entire aviation safety portfolio – which includes SB-S and its long-established safety service, Classic Aero – Viasat currently connects more than 12,000 aircraft cockpits globally.

Part of Viasat's Communication Services financial segment, within its commercial business, SB-S is a secure, broadband IP datalink for both operations and safety communications in the flight

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deck. It delivers highly reliable safety services via both traditional ACARS data link and next-generation IP connections, helping airlines to be ready for future air traffic management evolutions. IP connectivity also enables operational efficiencies for airlines including engine monitoring, real-time weather, telemedicine, and preventive maintenance.

The service also powers Iris, Viasat's ground-breaking air-traffic management (ATM) program with the European Space Agency. Using satellite-based data link through SB-S, Iris is designed to support several benefits for airlines and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), including minimizing flight delays, saving fuel and reducing the environmental impact of air travel.

Joel Klooster, Senior Vice President, Aircraft Operations & Safety at Viasat commented: "This milestone underscores the excitement for SB-S as airlines continue to look for proven, certified connectivity to improve flight safety and operational performance – including reduced fuel consumption, lower emission, and improved on time performance. As the service continues to grow, SB-Safety is building a durable base of long-term value for both our aviation customers, and for Viasat."

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