



Tuesday, 1 November 2016

CEO: OPENING OF 2016 ATNS AVI AFRIQUE INNOVATION SUMMIT EXPO

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, exhibitors and presenters

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 2016 ATNS Avi Afrique Innovation Summit Expo.

A Special Welcome to Dr. Glen Snedden, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the current President of the Aeronautical Society of South Africa and an extraordinary lecturer at the University of Pretoria.

In a short while Dr Snedden will deliver a paper titled “Why Technical Innovation is not enough for African Aerospace to Flourish”.

The ATNS Avi Afrique Innovation Summit is growing – and growing fast – to become one of the most notable and not-to-be-missed aviation calendar events. This year, being our fifth year since the Summit’s inception in 2012, we have introduced a third event, namely the Airport Collaborative Decision Making Conference. A-CDM is a concept that aims to improve Air Traffic Flow and Capacity Management (ATFCM) at airports by reducing delays, improving the predictability of operations and optimizing utilization of resources. A-CDM offers substantial benefits to all partners by improving the quality of information on which decisions are made, leading to the enhancement of operational efficiency and facilitation of the optimum use of available capacity. This Conference took place yesterday.

The 2016 ATNS Avi Afrique Innovation Summit Expo forms an integral part of the Avi Afrique conference for the very good reason that we do not believe in talking about innovation only - *doing innovation* has to be the outcome, and it is primarily a showcase for those who are turning



great ideas into commercial reality. This Expo is a great opportunity for us to connect with those who are “walking the talk” by turning ideas into reality.

This Expo aims to provide access to all the players within the innovation ecosystem: the inventors themselves, of course, but also the service providers, regulators, academic institutions and consultants who all play a role in helping move from prototype to commercially viable product or service. The flash of insight that gives birth to an innovation is what everybody thinks about and of course it’s vital, but it’s all too easy to forget just how long and painstaking is the process to turn that insight into something that keeps the plane in the air, or its passengers more comfortable, hour after hour.

I urge you to attend and listen carefully to presentations that will be delivered today. Our presenters and those from our various stakeholders will be looking at innovative solutions which are critical to the development of future aviation safety systems, among others. These solutions are not only looking at systems that are more efficient, effective and sustainable, but also provide the industry with solutions to the challenges we face today. Throughout these insightful presentations, they will share their experiences in applying innovative concepts, approaches and technologies with the express goal of enhancing aviation safety in all respects.

Hopefully, this Expo will not only help people to understand the full spectrum of activity and cooperation that lies behind successful innovation, it will also help all of you to make the connections that are so important in creating an aviation industry that turns innovation into reality.

A special “Thank you” to all who are participating in this Expo, and I hope it fulfils its role in taking innovation in aviation forward.



It gives me great pleasure to declare the 2016 ATNS Avi Afrique Innovation Summit Expo open.