

Region Report - Quarter 3 2014

The beginning of Q3 started with strategy meetings with the newly appointed Division Director of VATEUD to fully explore shared areas of interest and create the environment and relationship to capitalize on a division-region team based approach. Much of the discussion centered about communications within the Division and how it could be improved. Feedback from vACCs was discussed and a decision made to explore the feasibility of restructuring how the division functioned.

In VATEUD, the changes in the different positions of the EUD staff couldn't be completed. Due to redesign on different positions in the last months, new directors had to get acquainted with the tasks freshly taken over. In a few setups we are still in this process. Furthermore, a few tasks are unclear in their borders to neighboring duties. We certainly have to work on the design since the management is not becoming easier on our current state. The numbers of new members coming online looks quite stable in compare with the same time last year (a bit higher).

A study was performed regarding the region's major airfields to assess traffic level and complexity, as this special status can often hold back members. Recommendations were passed to the Region Director for further consideration.

Negotiations with a professional flight simulation video tutorial company to produce, host and provide free tutorial videos about how to fly on VATSIM concluded with a deal being struck to work in partnership in order to have them produced. A lack of internal human resources (from a pilot training background) to assist with script writing slowed the project, however it is hoped that the material to allow the videos to go into production will be finished soon.

A marketing task force was launched in order to link communications and marketing directors from each of the three divisions together, creating a shared platform for debate, discussion and unified marketing strategies.

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VATEUD - Division Director: Florian Harms- 841181

<p>Member Retention (Cathy Mariani-1183082)</p>	<p>Members Retention for the 3rd quarter of 2014 continues growing positively. We had more than 2000 new members within the division for this period and more than 50% of them connected at least one time to the network. We believe that the new welcome emails and the API has helped both the user's initial contact with the network as well as the local communities as they can contact their users from VATEUD's API.</p>
<p>ATC Training (Mike Welten – 971511)</p>	<p>During Q3 the ATC TD finalized the new Instructor function policy and started to implement it. The vast majority of former I3, which received their rating based on the old policy and which are currently not involved in divisional training accepted a downgrading to their permanent rating in order to support the new policy. Furthermore the vACCs have been informed and the policy for I1 and I3 function has been released on the VATEUD homepage. With 164 recommendations to new ratings, the VACC's were successful despite the typical summer pause lag.</p> <p>Reaction to the new policy were mostly positive and the opinion was shared that it does better honor members that are active in ATC training on vACC level (I1) or division level (I3) compared to the old INS policy.</p> <p>Over the past three months, VATEUD's ATC Academy hosted 2 examinations at the ATC academic centers and more than 15 training sessions in total. We are having an increasing number of trainers within the Academy, numbering at this point more than 10 persons for the ATC Academic Centers and vACC Support. vACC Support is currently helping Ireland which has an increased number of trainees and all of the unofficial vACC's providing them human resources for the additional needs of training that they may not be able to cope with or expertise regarding vACC operations</p>
<p>Pilot Training (Burak Bugday - 983451)</p>	<p>The pilot training is active in the different partner organizations of VATEUD compiling the service. However, VATEUD3, Burak, and VATEUD11, Duarte, had to step back from active position. We are more than thankful for the great work both had set into the Pilots Training scheme of VATEUD. Thanks to the different training theatres, we can continue with the work, but the current situation asks for solutions.</p> <p>In the 4th quarter, we will try to solve the free staff position problem, which might also need a redesign of the staff position tasks.</p>
<p>Web Services (Vacant)</p>	<p>With loosing former VATEUD7, Svilen, the development of the different systems is currently on a standstill. I am more than thankful that Svilen is still around in terms of administrations. A new acquisition for the Web position was found but turned out to stay inactive. It would have made sense if that member would have communicated problems to be active. However, currently VATEUD1 is in charge for the systems. And former VATEUD7 is still available to help.</p> <p>Our Eurotest/Atsim system is working well, thanks to VATEUD10, Frank, and Steven Fauconnier. The change to the global login system were badly managed by VATEUD1 (I simply didn't realize the task), but the team was able to setup the new links in close cooperation with today's VP Web. Thank you, guys. The Test system is a real great help on all training matters and far beyond the borders of VATEUD. Therefore, I am deeply grateful for the time Frank is investing in the code and system.</p> <p>Since the whole situation is not able to create a relaxing position for us, we have to take into consideration to overhaul a number of systems to get the ability to develop again. A reason for the stop is e.g. the software behind the tools and the bad luck to find someone</p>

able and willing to take over e.g. the API. No doubt: software and service is great, but without a responsible *and* available developer, the chances of further development are absolutely limited. We have to discuss and decide if the current system is able to engage new developers or if other services would be more fruitful for us.

Events

(Daniel Conrad- 1091256)

Within 3rd Quarter of 2014 the events agenda of our vACC's was further enhanced with even more scheduled weekly events for most of the vACC's. Furthermore, coordination started for both the Cross the Pond event as well as the Cross the Mediterranean.



VATRUS - Division Director: Evgeny Vygornitsky 862364

Member Retention	Promotion and good advertising of the ongoing events and fly-inns make more pilots to join the network and actively fly online.
ATC Training	Due to summer the new member quantity has been decreased.
Pilot Training	VATRUS "Strigino" (UWGG) Training Centre resource has been closed due to web page ban from the Google side. Nowadays it will be re-open
Events	Riga - St.Petersburgh. July 6th 15-19Z - http://forum.vatrus.info/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=246 Codename: Ukrainian Airport Overload 2014 - http://forum.vatrus.info/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=250 [31.08.2014 16:00-19:00 UTC] Kyiv - Minsk Shuttle - http://forum.vatrus.info/viewtopic.php?f=9&t=252 VATRUS Live Track: Sochi - Domodedovo http://forum.vatrus.info/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=256 NWS-VA.RU - 1-Year Anniversary - http://forum.vatrus.info/viewtopic.php?f=6&t=260
Other Comments	VATRUS has been moved to another web hosting thus it will give new opportunities for the division. Training Centre has been reopen, VATRUS TeamSpeak channel registration process is active again.

VATUK - Division Director: Kris Thomson 989754

Member Retention
(Barrie Joplin 1002707)

VATSIM UK has embarked upon the recruitment of non DSG members to facilitate moderation of the UK forum. It is hoped that this will increase transparency and enable non-staff members tangibly to give back to the community

ATC Training
(Jamie Fox 811029)

In July we announced that Heathrow would be made available as a training aerodrome. This means that it is now possible for students to train towards and gain an S3 APP rating at Heathrow, and we now have some students who have commenced this training. This long-awaited change is intended to improve levels of ATC staffing at Heathrow, and it is also similarly intended that in future Heathrow should be available to be involved in a student's training towards S2 - at present it is only available for existing S2s to train for a major airport endorsement (for TWR).

Also in July we have appointed an assistant ATC training director, which continues the progress we have already made in better distributing workload in ATC training. There is flexibility for his duties to be adjusted over time as required, but specifically this position will include managing the team of RTS managers and acting as their liaison to the ATC instructors with regard to ATC documentation. Additionally he will be tackling several of our central training management tasks and monitoring training availability and activity throughout the division.

The Gatwick S1 changes, introduced last quarter, became fully effective on 6th September 2014, with the majority of old 3 month endorsements having now been replaced by new 1-year endorsements.

Pilot Training
(Nayan Mehta 1073673)

Q3 has been a quarter of change for the department. We have conducted 29 P1 sessions, and 25 P2 sessions, bringing our total to 54. Due to the introduction of the VATSIM academy P1, demand has significantly fallen for this course, meaning we have currently halted mentor training for P1. However we have experienced a significant increase in demand for P2 mentoring. We are focusing on our P2 mentor recruitment. Mentor retention in all courses continues to be a challenge which we are working on.

The PTD aims to standardise a number of procedures this quarter to become more efficient through creating staff Standard Operating Procedures. This will put us in a good position to tackle the issues we currently face.

Over the past quarter the PTD have discussed the real aim of pilot ratings and what gaining one really signifies. We concluded that a key aim

of the PTD is to provide quality pilot training to generate confident, competent and professional pilots in order to improve the standard of pilots for the community.

Operations

(Kris Thomson 989754)

Kieran Hardern stepped down from his role as Deputy Division Director at the end of September.

Events

(Simon Irvine 858680)

The quarter started with our now annual “Staffed by Staff” event where members of the whole staff team manned positions across the UK. Again this was a busy event and was a great session where the staff team could control together.

In July we held an event at Glasgow to celebrate the Commonwealth Games being held in the city. Glasgow is normally the quieter of the 2 main airports in Scotland so it was good to see Glasgow busy again.

We had three link ups this quarter with our VATEUD colleagues. These events were between Heathrow and Brussels, Manchester and Faro and Gatwick and Rotterdam. All three events were well attended and enjoyed by both pilots and ATC.

We held an event to launch the introduction of our P3 Pilots syllabus. This saw VFR pilots fly between Biggin Hill and Popham. It is hoped that this will see an influx of pilots into P3 training.

The end of the quarter saw a busy domestic event between Manchester and Heathrow.

Our two biggest events this quarter revolved around our members meeting up to control at venues in the UK.

Midsummer Madness saw around 20 VATSIM UK members meet up at Rugby for a weekend of flying and controlling in Rugby. The weekend saw a real ops take place at Birmingham airport with record numbers of movement.

VATSIM UK Live! took place at the end of August. This was the third and by far the busiest Live! that has taken place. Around 50 VATSIM UK members met up at Aston University conference centre in Birmingham. The event was well organised and saw the UK light up with both controllers and pilots over the weekend.

Next Quarter starts off with the biggest event in the VATSIM calendar, Cross The Pond, involving both Gatwick and Stansted.