

ASECNA boosts air traffic capacity during the 2024 AFCON tournament with AireonFLOW™



In February 2024, Côte d'Ivoire played host to the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), the premier African football tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football. Over the month-long event, thousands of spectators flocked to the West African nation. For ASECNA, the Air Navigation Service Provider for Côte d'Ivoire and 17 other nations, this meant handling the complex and unique air traffic flows that a high-profile event like this brings, including an increase in international traffic, VIP flights, business aviation aircraft, and commercial air traffic.

The AFCON bi-annual football tournament took place Jan. 13–Feb. 11, 2024 in five cities in Côte d'Ivoire: Abidjan, Bouaké, Korhogo, San Pedro, and Yamoussoukro. Only three of those airports — Abidjan, Yamoussoukro, and Bouaké — typically handle international traffic, and of these only Abidjan and Yamoussoukro can accommodate large aircraft.

ASECNA, an early adopter of space-based air traffic surveillance and ATFM technologies, was well-prepared for the complex challenges

of this event thanks to its adoption of Aireon's space-based automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) data and the Metron Aviation Horizon air traffic flow management platform. The global AireonFLOW data integrated into the Metron Aviation platform allows for continuous satellite-derived ADS-B position reports and extends the visibility of ASECNA flights outside its airspace. Additionally, AireonFLOW allows ASECNA to more accurately predict traffic flows into its 16.1 million square kilometres of airspace covering six Flight Information

Regions — Antananarivo, Brazzaville, Dakar (oceanic and terrestrial), Niamey, and N'Djamena.

"In the past, all international traffic had to land at Abidjan aerodrome to clear customs and immigration and then fly to their final destinations. During AFCON, other airports were upgraded to handle international traffic allowing flights to fly directly to their final destination — this brought complexity to managing flows of traffic. However, with the AireonFLOW data integrated into the Metron

Horizon system, monitoring of demand on airspace sectors and aerodromes facilitated management of traffic flows. This turned out to be a significant enabler of efficient management of traffic without any compromise to safety," said Jean-Baptiste Assogba, ATM Manager in charge of Operations in Côte d'Ivoire for ASECNA.

As expected, there was a significant increase in air traffic movements at the country's aerodromes during the tournament. For example, between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2023, Abidjan aerodrome had 1,337 departures and 1,408 arrivals. In 2024, for the same period during the tournament, there were 1,677

departures and 1,993 arrivals — an increase of about 40% in air traffic movements.

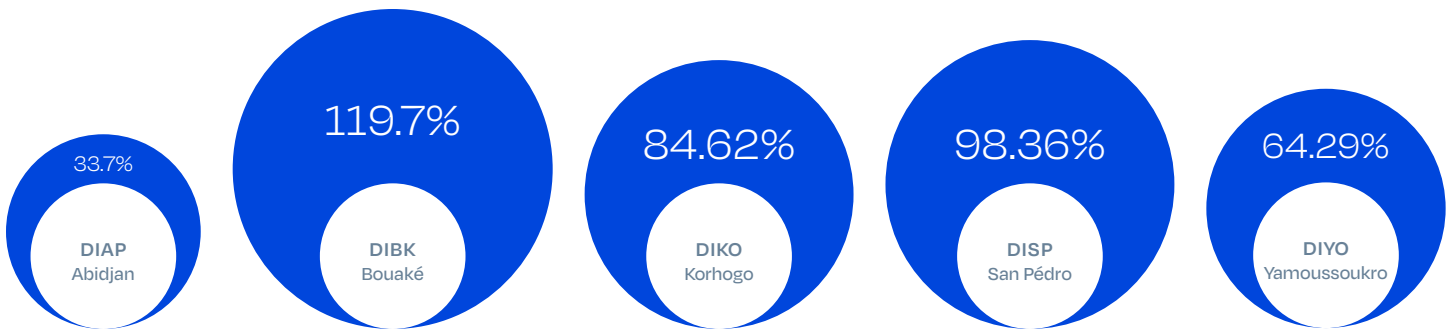
For the other airports, air traffic nearly doubled during the tournament in comparison to the same period the previous year with Bouaké experiencing the largest increase at 120%.

"ASECNA, with its diverse and busy airspace across a vast area, is a prime use case for AireonFLOW data integrated into the Metron Harmony system," said Stuard Ratcliffe, AireonFLOW Product Manager. "All stakeholders involved, including airspace users, airport authorities, air traffic controllers, were able to observe how efficiently and safely

ASECNA were able to manage the increased traffic flows by having access to the cloud-based ATFM system."

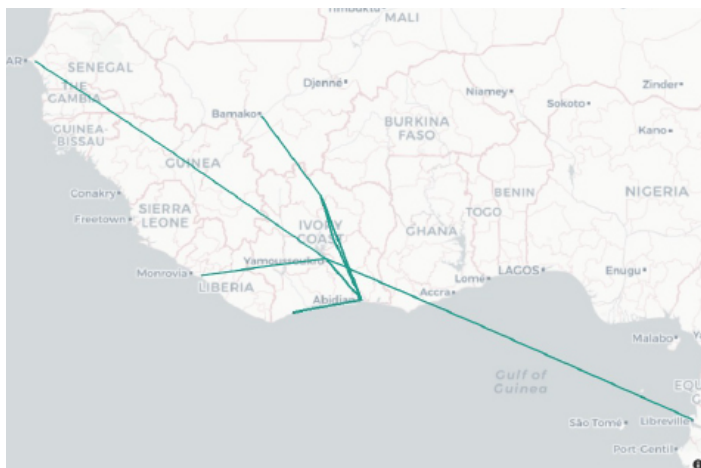
"I would like to congratulate the ASECNA team, specifically the flow managers and controllers in the Côte d'Ivoire for their outstanding work during this event," said Don Thoma, Aireon CEO. "For one month, Côte d'Ivoire became the center of the football universe, and ASECNA showed the world that with the foresight to implement decision support systems and processes how to manage significant increases in air traffic efficiently and safely."

2023–2024 year-over-year increase in number of airport operations



Traffic in 2024 nearly doubled for Bouaké, Korhogo, and San Pédro, and increased by 64% for Yamoussoukro with respect to same period in 2023.

In **January and February 2023**, air traffic in and out of Côte d'Ivoire primarily consisted of regional flights from neighboring countries, with limited international and/or transoceanic flights.



In **January and February 2024**, the AFCON event brought a significant increase in traffic, particularly from long-haul international routes originating from the United States and Europe. AireonFLOW enabled the country's airports to safely and efficiently manage the increase in traffic across five airports.

