



# SITAONAIR HAILS SUCCESSFUL IRIDIUM® NEXT SATELLITE LAUNCH

News / Airlines



SITAONAIR has hailed the successful launch of Iridium's second set of Iridium NEXT constellation satellites as another step closer to achieving minute-by-minute, 100% global aircraft flight-tracking.

In [partnership](#) with Aireon and FlightAware, [SITAONAIR's AIRCOM® FlightTracker](#) will deliver enhanced capabilities to airline customers from 2018. Aireon's space-based automatic dependent surveillance broadcast data (ADS-B) will then fill any gaps in current flight-tracking coverage globally – and is expected to be transmitted through the complete Iridium NEXT satellite constellation, via FlightAware.

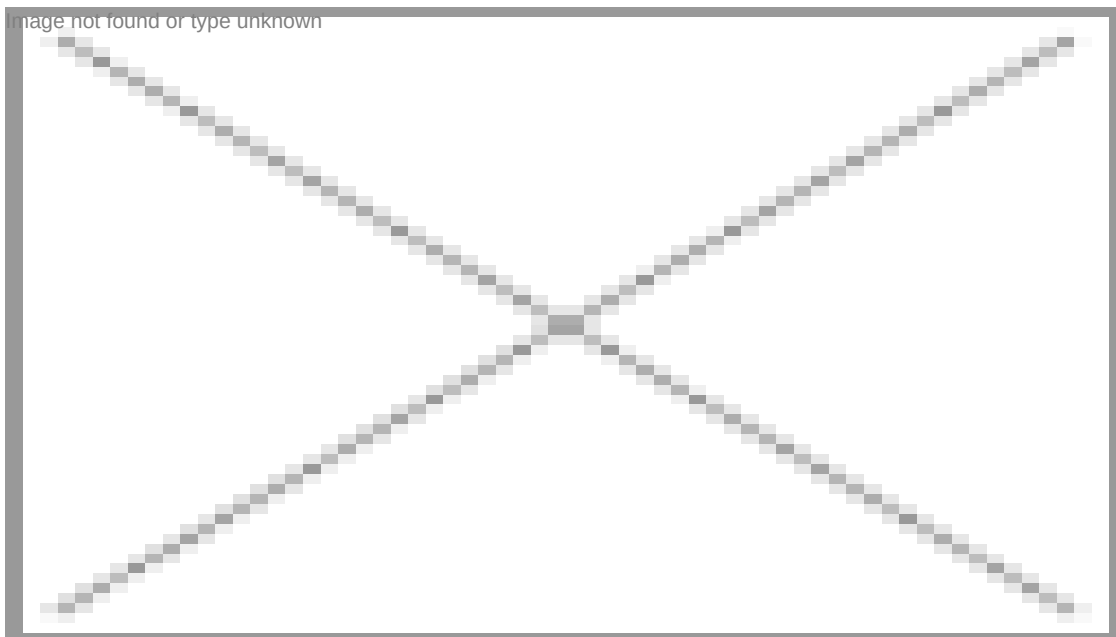
Paul Gibson, Portfolio Director, [AIRCOM®](#), at SITAONAIR, says: "This is an exciting moment for SITAONAIR as the second set of satellites start their journey to enabling us to deliver 100% global, real-time flight-tracking to the air transport industry. We are looking forward to seeing the project progress and being able to demonstrate its value to airlines.

"The beauty of adding space-based ADS-B data to our current AIRCOM® FlightTracker is that it will integrate seamlessly into the existing interface, while increasing tracking coverage up to 100%.

In short, the airlines who adopt our space-based flight-tracking will have the tools to see the precise position, speed and altitude of all airborne fleet – any time, anywhere – and be immediately alerted if any aircraft veers from its flight plan, even if that route is over ocean or the Poles.

“With real-time alerts generated at least once a minute, airlines with enhanced FlightTracker will be way ahead of the ICAO’s best practice one-minute mandate – truly consolidating their commitment to safe travel.”

SITAONAIR’s AIRCOM® FlightTracker is currently used by over 60 airlines worldwide.



### **What is AIRCOM® FlightTracker?**

FlightTracker’s capabilities include:

- Providing airline operations teams with an application that aggregates the best available inflight position data from multiple sources on a single aircraft position display
- Issuing alerts to flight operations of any route deviation. Staff can also clearly see if it has been agreed between an aircraft and ATC
- Automated alerting for large fleets, so if an aircraft doesn’t report its position, deviates from the flight plan or enters a defined geographic area, FlightTracker will create an alert and automatically start a sequence of actions where needed
- Being aircraft agnostic, whether a fleet has either ACARS or ADS-B OUT capabilities

- Allowing operations teams to view the flight track of each flight with frequent and accurate positions from our fused data feed
- Having the capability to be set up to deliver forecast weather data with flight plans, to improve decision-making.

Paul continues: “The SITAONAIR Montreal Development Team has already determined how the new space-based ADS-B data should be integrated and presented within FlightTracker. The display uses specific color-coding to identify different data sources, and, for us, it is a case of drawing in this data and giving space-based ADS-B its own distinct place in this set.”

The second payload of 10 Iridium NEXT satellites, hosting [Aireon](#)’s space-based ADS-B system, launched from SpaceX’s California-based launch facility at Vandenberg Air Force Base on a Falcon 9 rocket. The first batch of 10 satellites, hosting the space-based automatic dependent surveillance broadcast (ADS-B) system, was launched by SpaceX on 14 January 2017.

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