NextGEN

The Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, is a transformative change in the management and operation of how we fly, which will reduce delays, save fuel and lower carbon emissions. This comprehensive initiative integrates new and existing technologies, including satellite navigation and advanced digital communications. Airports and aircraft in the US national airspace system (NAS) will be connected to NextGen's advanced infrastructure and will continually share information in real-time to improve air transportation's safety, speed, efficiency and environmental impacts. The combined initiatives that make up NextGen will provide a better travel experience.

www.faa.gov/nextgen

CATMT
COLLABORATIVE AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES

One of the tools that increases the overall capacity of the NAS, Collaborative Air Traffic Management Technologies (CATMT), is a suite of enhancements to the decision-support and data-sharing tools used by air traffic management personnel. These enhancements will enable a more collaborative environment among controllers and airline operators. CATMT augments the functions and capabilities of the Traffic Flow Management System (TFMS) and improves traffic flow prediction in the NAS and the usability of collaborative decision making tools. In addition, CATMT improves the FAA's ability to collect data for performance measurement and metrics reporting.

The first set of CATMT capabilities aims to reduce delay associated with disruptive events in the NAS, such as severe weather, resource outages and heavy traffic volume. For example, the Airspace Flow Program deployed in 2006 has reduced overall delays in the NAS by carefully flowing air traffic through constrained airspace. CATMT also supports predeparture re-routes and enhanced congestion prediction.

Development of the next set of capabilities, which include additional decision support tools, is under way.