Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) Implementation Training Course



14 - 18 Dec 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #AIR9980_269844

Course Introduction / Overview:

Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) represents a paradigm shift in airport operations, moving from siloed decision-making to a transparent, collaborative environment. This intensive training course provides a comprehensive exploration of the A-CDM concept, its implementation, and its profound impact on airport efficiency, predictability, and resilience. Grounded in global best practices, particularly the framework detailed in the EUROCONTROL "A-CDM Implementation Manual", the program delves into the intricate processes that synchronize activities between airport operators, airlines, ground handlers, and air traffic control. Participants will gain a deep understanding of how shared, high-quality information improves traffic flow and capacity management. This course, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, moves beyond theoretical knowledge to provide practical, actionable strategies for planning, executing, and managing an A-CDM project. As noted by aviation experts like Dr. Michael Schnell, successful integration is not just a technical challenge but a cultural one, requiring robust stakeholder engagement and a shared vision for operational excellence. This program equips professionals with the skills to lead that change, turning complex operational data into coordinated, effective action.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Airport Operations Managers and Directors.
- Air Traffic Control Officers and Supervisors.
- Airline Operations Control Center (OCC) Staff.
- Ground Handling and Ramp Services Managers.
- Airport IT and Systems Integration Specialists.
- Civil Aviation Authority and Regulatory Personnel.
- Aviation Project Managers and Consultants.
- Airport Planners and Capacity Analysts.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Airport Authorities and Operators.
- Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).
- Commercial and Cargo Airlines.
- Ground Handling Service Companies.
- Aviation Technology and Software Providers.
- Governmental Bodies and Civil Aviation Authorities.
- International Aviation Organizations.
- Aviation and Airport Management Consulting Firms.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Airport Operations and Airside Management.
- Air Traffic Management and Control.
- Airline and Fleet Operations Control.
- Ground Operations and Ramp Services.
- Information Technology and Data Management.
- Strategic Planning and Airport Development.
- Corporate Safety and Quality Assurance.
- Regulatory Affairs and Compliance.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Define the core concepts, objectives, and benefits of A-CDM in a modern airport environment.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of all key A-CDM stakeholders.
- Analyze the complete sequence of A-CDM milestones from flight planning to take-off.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for a phased A-CDM implementation project.
- Evaluate the technical requirements for A-CDM information sharing and system integration.
- Master the principles of pre-departure sequencing and variable taxi time calculation.
- Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the success and ROI of A-CDM.
- Facilitate effective stakeholder communication and change management during implementation.
- Mitigate common risks and challenges associated with A-CDM projects.
- Align A-CDM processes with broader Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) initiatives.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, interactive, and directly applicable to the professional environment. This course rejects a purely lecture-based format in favor of a dynamic learning experience that fosters critical thinking and practical skill development. Sessions will be built around real-world case studies of successful A-CDM implementations at major international airports, allowing participants to analyze challenges, strategies, and outcomes. Interactive workshops and group discussions will form a core part of the curriculum, providing a platform for participants to debate stakeholder perspectives and collaboratively solve complex operational scenarios. Simulation exercises will be used to model decision-making processes in a controlled environment, reinforcing the understanding of A-CDM milestones and their impact on airport flow. Our expert instructors facilitate a highly participatory environment, encouraging questions and knowledge sharing. Continuous feedback is provided throughout the course, ensuring participants can confidently apply the learned concepts to their own operational contexts and drive tangible improvements in airport performance.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM)

- The Evolution of Airport Operations Management.
- Defining A-CDM and its Core Philosophy.
- Key Objectives: Predictability, Efficiency, and Punctuality.
- The Main Stakeholders in the A-CDM Process.
- The Business Case for A-CDM Implementation.
- Understanding the Local, Network, and Global Impact of A-CDM.
- Introduction to EUROCONTROL and ICAO A-CDM Frameworks.

Unit Two: The A-CDM Process Milestones and Information Sharing

- The Concept of the Turnaround Process and its Sub-processes.
- Detailed Analysis of the 16 A-CDM Information Sharing Milestones.
- The Critical Role of the Target Off-Block Time (TOBT).
- Calculating and Managing the Target Start-up Approval Time (TSAT).
- Understanding Departure Planning Information (DPI) Messages.
- The Function of Calculated Off-Block Time (COBT).
- Integrating A-CDM with Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) and CTOTs.

Unit Three: Strategic Planning for A-CDM Implementation

- Developing the A-CDM Concept of Operations (CONOPS).
- Conducting a Gap Analysis and Feasibility Study.
- Building a Robust Project Governance Structure.
- Effective Stakeholder Engagement and Management Strategies.
- Creating a Phased Implementation Roadmap and Timeline.
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning for A-CDM Projects.
- Managing Change and Fostering a Collaborative Culture.

Unit Four: Technology, Systems, and Data Integration in A-CDM

- The A-CDM Information Sharing Platform Architecture.
- Key Data Elements and Quality Requirements.
- Integration with Airport Operational Databases (AODB).
- Connecting with Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Airline Systems.
- The Role of Surface Movement Guidance and Control Systems (A-SMGCS).
- Cybersecurity Considerations for A-CDM Platforms.
- Future Trends in Aviation Data Exchange and Technology.

Unit Five: Performance Measurement, Benefits, and the Future of A-CDM

- Defining Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for A-CDM Success.
- Measuring Improvements in Predictability and Punctuality.
- Quantifying Environmental and Economic Benefits (Fuel, Emissions).
- Conducting Post-Implementation Reviews and Continuous Improvement.
- Adverse Conditions and Irregular Operations Management with A-CDM.
- The Link Between A-CDM and Total Airport Management (TAM).
- Exploring the Future Evolution of Collaborative Decision Making in Aviation.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

Beyond operational efficiency, how can the principles of A-CDM be extended to enhance airport-wide resilience against unforeseen disruptions like extreme weather or security events?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course distinguishes itself by adopting a holistic, strategic perspective on A-CDM that transcends a mere technical or procedural overview. While many programs focus narrowly on the sequence of milestones, this course dedicates significant attention to the critical, and often overlooked, aspects of implementation strategy, stakeholder politics, and change management. We move beyond the "what" to deeply explore the "how" and "why". The curriculum is built on a foundation of global best practices, drawing heavily from the successful and mature EUROCONTROL model, providing participants with a proven framework for success. Rather than simply listing benefits, we equip participants with the tools to build a compelling business case and establish robust Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure and articulate the value of A-CDM to executive leadership. The course emphasizes the human element of collaboration, featuring modules on negotiation, communication, and fostering a shared operational culture. This unique blend of technical detail, strategic project management, and human factors provides a far more comprehensive and practical learning experience, preparing participants not just to understand A-CDM, but to successfully lead its implementation in any airport environment.

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