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Introducing the Digital Tower Technology Coalition, Representing Bold Commitment to Innovation in Effort to Modernize U.S. Aviation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – April 22, 2026 – Inspired by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024, a diverse coalition of aviation stakeholders today announced the formation of the Digital Tower Technology Coalition, a unified alliance dedicated to advancing the implementation of digital and remote tower technology across the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS).

The coalition brings together U.S. airports, regional partners, air traffic controllers, original equipment manufacturers, and federal partners to ensure an efficient and transparent process for deploying this proven technology while strengthening U.S. global competitiveness in cutting-edge aviation innovation.

“I’m excited to see the formation of the Digital Tower Technology Coalition, which represents a bold commitment to innovation across the National Airspace System,” said Richard Kennington of Rinaldi Consultants. Kennington is the spokesperson for the coalition, and has more than 25 years of experience as an air traffic controller. “Digital tower technology delivers immense cost-saving benefits while enhancing safety, supporting long-term growth, and extending reliable air traffic services to communities of all sizes. From major hubs to the smallest zip codes, this technology strengthens access to safe and sustainable air travel nationwide. It has the potential to be one of the most transformative advancements to the NAS since the introduction of automation, redefining how we manage, connect, and protect America’s skies.”

The Digital Tower Technology Coalition is a proud new member of the Modern Skies Coalition.

Congressional Mandate Drives Coalition Formation

Under the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, Congress directed the FAA to establish a formal program and publish clear milestones for achieving both system design and operational approval of remote tower systems within defined timeframes. The legislation requires that this approval process be expanded beyond FAA test facilities to include at least three airport

locations, ensuring broader real-world evaluation. It also mandates regular briefings to Congress on progress implementing the program and deployment activities, providing transparency and oversight as the agency works to integrate remote tower capabilities into the NAS in support of aviation safety and efficiency goals.

Three Core Benefits

The coalition emphasizes three primary advantages of digital tower technology:

Enhanced Safety: Digital towers improve safety at non-towered airports without the cost of building traditional towers. Advanced cameras and sensors provide superior visibility, including infrared capabilities for foggy and dark conditions, while eliminating blind spots common in traditional towers.

Resource Efficiency: Digital towers cost significantly less to build and maintain than traditional control towers. The technology could enable controllers to manage multiple airports from a single remote facility, allowing entities to share resources and costs through centralized ATC digital tower centers.

Expanded Access: Digital towers enable year-round ATC services for rural and seasonal airports currently lacking resources for traditional towers, expanding air service opportunities to underserved communities nationwide.

Coalition Priorities

The Digital Tower Technology Coalition will focus on seven key areas:

- Digital and remote tower system design and approval
- Multi-airport management evaluation
- Expedited deployment to regions with greatest need
- Advanced air mobility integration
- Regulatory improvements for stakeholder participation
- Enhanced visual detection tools development
- Workforce development for air traffic controllers and aviation safety professionals

The coalition will advocate for federal funding and FAA approvals, support early technology implementation projects, develop industry standards and best practices, and educate policymakers and the public about digital tower benefits.

Proven Global Success

Digital tower technology has been successfully deployed in numerous countries. Sweden's Sundsvall Remote Tower Centre manages multiple airports with controllers reporting improved

visibility and situational awareness. Norway's Avinor Remote Tower Centre in Bodø manages up to 15 airports simultaneously, making air travel to remote areas more accessible and affordable.

In the United States, major airports including Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International, Houston-George Bush Intercontinental, Orlando International, and Kansas City International are already utilizing this technology to replace conventional ramp towers.

Call to Action

"Whether you're an airport, technology company, policymaker, or advocate, there's a role for you in the Digital Tower Technology Coalition," added Kennington. "We invite all stakeholders committed to modernizing our air traffic control system to join us in bringing the National Airspace System into the 21st century."

For more information about the Digital Tower Technology Coalition or to inquire about membership, please contact:

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About the Digital Towers Coalition

The Digital Tower Technology Coalition is an alliance of stakeholders advocating for the FAA's implementation of the remote tower program, as outlined in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. By leveraging U.S. airports, regional partners, air traffic controllers, original equipment manufacturers, and federal partners, the coalition seeks to ensure an efficient and transparent process while strengthening U.S. global competitiveness in cutting-edge aviation technology.