



### Key Site Deployment is Around the Corner!

The SAS Key Site Deployment is approaching and will address the following integral questions:

- How well does the automation work in an operational environment? Key Sites will verify that the SAS software meets the full range of functional requirements in field operating environments.
- Does the automation support the SAS business processes? Key Sites will validate the alignment between SAS policy and automation.
- How can we do it better? Key Sites will provide an operational field evaluation of SAS training and implementation strategies.

The SASO Program Office will utilize valuable feedback from Key Sites to determine what works effectively, develop lessons learned, and construct best practices for conducting the full deployment of SAS in 2014-2015.

### SAS Testing

**Training Prototypes:** SAS subject matter experts (SMEs) successfully conducted prototype testing for two courses at the FAA Academy in January and February. Students from a range of AFS backgrounds provided valuable feedback on curriculum and delivery methods for the SAS for Inspectors and Field Office Management (21000102) and the SAS for Managers (21000101) instructor-led training courses. Training developers and SMEs will use the data collected at the prototypes to enhance training effectiveness and the overall classroom experience. These courses will continue to evolve until the final versions are completed and available for the full deployment of SAS.

**SAS User Automation Testing (UAT):** During automation testing at the Volpe Center in January, the SAS automation scored a 97 percent pass rate for over 1,000 requirements! This resounding success provides confidence in the system's capability to meet the needs of the SAS users during field operations. User Acceptance Testing in March validated additional requirements and functionality prior to the training and testing at Key Sites.

### SAS Communication Updates

**SAS Transition and Readiness Team (START):**

This SAS News Now video contains an explanation of the START program and the role of the START member during the transition to SAS. Select the thumbnail to view the video.

**SAS Questions and Answers, Part 1:**

SAS SMEs Jeff Phipps and Susan Trask provide insight to some of the most common concerns of AFS personnel. Additional questions will be fielded in upcoming segments.

**SAS News:** To access previous editions of SAS News, select the SAS News thumbnail. After the page loads, under Safety Assurance System (SAS), select SAS News.

#### Your Input is Vital!

To submit a question or comment about SAS, send an email to [9-AWA-AFS-900-SASO@faa.gov](mailto:9-AWA-AFS-900-SASO@faa.gov) or contact your office START member.



#### Leadership Corner

Larry Bird, Division Manager,  
Flight Standards National Field  
Office, AFS-900

A long time ago, as a new inspector in Flight Standards, I was often surprised by the FAA's inconsistent application of policy and regulation. Certificate holders regularly complained that Flight Standards lacked standardization. In the decades since I came to the FAA we have matured. As an organization we have come to recognize that in order for certificate holders to be successful, we must be consistent. The SAS brings a more consistent approach to our oversight program. As we transition to SAS, we expect that there will be anxiety among some certificate holders. They know that when we change things in the FAA it will affect them. In the near future we will begin an outreach process to the certificate holder community. It will include direct contact, training, and information sharing. Your relationship with the certificate holders is invaluable to the process, so please be ready to join with us in that endeavor. We look forward to partnering with you to make sure the certificate holder's concerns are addressed. Working together we can assure the safest aviation system in the world.

### Change Readiness Assessment

The SASO Program Office conducted a Change Readiness Assessment in January. The purpose of the SAS Change Readiness Assessment was to assess AFS workforce readiness to transition to SAS. The assessment focused on three areas: culture for change, management support, and workforce skills. The SASO Program Office is evaluating the assessment information and will be utilizing the data to better support you during the SAS transition. The AFS participation included:

- 1,121 participants; THANK YOU!
- 26 percent participation rate based on an estimated sample size of 4,229
- 22 percent indicated they support multiple regions
- Participation by Region (see table)

Participation Rate by Region*	
• Alaskan	26%
• Central	31%
• Eastern	29%
• Great Lakes	25%
• HQ and AFS-900	28%
• Northwest Mountain	32%
• Southern	18%
• Southwest	24%
• Western Pacific	22%

\*Based on estimated population size