Another milestone in the Communication, Navigation, Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Programme was achieved on 2 September 2016 as the power down of the NE-3A FTD took place at NE-3A Main Operating Base (MOB) at Geilenkirchen, Germany, signaling the beginning of major modifications to the NE-3A Component’s flight simulators.

Executed under a contract between NAPMA and CAE GmbH located in Stolberg, Germany, the two NATO E-3A Flight Simulator Training Devices will be updated over the next two years to reflect the new CNS/ATM cockpit configuration. This update is a planned follow on to the design, development and qualification of the CNS/ATM capabilities executed via a cooperative program with the United States Air Force under a contract with the Boeing Company in Seattle, USA. Planned delivery of the first modified aircraft to MOB Geilenkirchen is planned to occur before the end of 2016.

In order to support HQ Force Command and NE-3A Component’s training requirements, and thus provide a seamless transition from legacy to CNS/ATM aircrew training, the two flight simulation devices will be updated to the CNS/ATM configuration in a serial manner with a spiral approach. The Flight Training Device (FTD), pictured at left, will be brought back “on line” in mid-April 2017. Approximately 3 months later, The Full Flight Simulator (FFS), pictured at right, will begin modification. The FFS update will take approximately seven months and NAPMA expects it to become available for training in Spring 2018.