

# First Steps

16.04.2021 Marco Bähler – Leader PTD vACC Schweiz



Image: Robin DR400 abeam Moossee near Schönbühl, Microsoft Flight Simulator 2020 – Marco Bähler

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## History of changes

### **Version 2.0**

16.04.2021 – Marco Bähler  
Release v2.0

### **Version 1.9.0**

13.11.2020 – Marco Bähler  
Draft new version, translation

### **Version 1.0**

Original version

## 1. Introduction

Welcome to vACC Switzerland!

We're pleased to welcome you as a new member to our community.

On the following pages you will find the most important information to successfully connect to VATSIM for the first time.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask our Pilot Training Department (PTD) or any member of our staff.

- E-Mail [pilot-td@vacc.ch](mailto:pilot-td@vacc.ch)
- Ask another member or staff member on our TeamSpeak 3 server [ts.vacc.ch](https://ts.vacc.ch)
- Forums <http://forum.vacc.ch/>

## 2. About vACC Switzerland

VATSIM is divided into regions and divisions. The region of Europe is represented by VATEUD. All regions contain local «Virtual Area Control Centers (vACC). vACC Switzerland is a member of VATEUD. The local vACCs are responsible for training of pilots and controllers in their area.

We are using an online forum and TeamSpeak 3 server to keep in contact with each other. We also meet regularly in real life. Many great friendships started in our vACC.

## 3. What do I need?

To start flying you will need the following things:

- Computer with internet connection
- Recommended – Headset and microphone (for TeamSpeak and voice frequency)
- A supported flightsim (FSX2004, FSX, P3D, MSFS, X-Plane)
- Pilot client for Vatsim

The following pilot clients are currently supported by Vatsim:

<https://www.vatsim.net/documents/approved-software>

The installation of the pilot clients is very simple. There are lots of instructions on the Vatsim website or on YouTube. We can assist you if you are experiencing issues with the installation.

## 4. Training opportunities

At vACC Switzerland we are having a pilot training department. Our trainers can help you with your questions. Due to the low demand on training in our vACC we can only offer individual trainings on your request. We cannot provide training for official Vatsim ratings. We can help you getting started with Vatsim and certain questions around flying in general. If you are interested in an individual training you should create a lesson request on our website under TMSv2 or send an email to [pilot-td@vacc.ch](mailto:pilot-td@vacc.ch).

Vatsim completely renewed its rating system in 2020. Ratings are quite complex and offer quite a bit of knowledge. **Ratings are not required to fly on Vatsim** but they are an interesting challenge. The official Vatsim pilot ratings are inspired by real pilot licenses.

- **P0** – Basic Vatsim Member -> Initial rating, directly after registration.
- **P1** – Private Pilot Licence (PPL)
- **P2** – Instrument Rating (IR)
- **P3** – Commercial Multi Engine Licence (CMEL)
- **P4** – Airline Transport Licence (ATPL)

If you want to take a Vatsim rating have a look at a Vatsim authorized training organization:

<https://my.vatsim.net/pilots/atos>

## 5. Information / Tools

To be prepared to fly in Switzerland we recommend you to take a look at the charts on our website. [http://www.vacc.ch/en/airports\\_and\\_charts/](http://www.vacc.ch/en/airports_and_charts/) For IFR and also VFR flight planning we can recommend the following tools and pages

- Skyvector <https://skyvector.com/>
- Little Navmap <https://albar965.github.io/littlenavmap.html>
- Plan-G <https://www.tasoftware.co.uk/>
- Simbrief <https://www.simbrief.com/home/>

You can use the following tools to monitor Vatsim traffic:

- Qutescoop <https://sourceforge.net/projects/qutescoop/>
- Vatspy <http://www1.metacraft.com/VATSpy/>
- Vatsim Mobile Monitor <https://vatmm.org/>
- Vatsim Live Map <https://map.vatsim.net/>
- Vattastic <http://www.vattastic.com/>

There are also several apps for iOS and Android.

If you need inspiration where to fly next check the ATC bookings on our website <http://vacc.ch> or planned Vatsim events on <https://www.vatsim.net/events>.

## 6. Important rules

The most important rules for Vatsim are provided here: <https://www.vatsim.net/documents>.

Of course you don't have to know everything but it's a good idea to take a look at the Vatsim. [Code of Conduct](#) before your first flight on the network.

We wish you a lot of fun on your future flights online!

## 7. End

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