



Corporate Profile

CEO: Marin Rolfe | **Website:** www.nats.aero | **HQ:** Fareham, DK | **Founded:** 1962

Corporate Facts

- NATS is the UK's leading provider of air traffic management services.
- Approximately 4,200 people are currently employed by the company.
- Martin Rolfe has been CEO of NATS since May 2015.
- NATS is split into two main service provision companies: NATS En-Route PLC and NATS Services Ltd.
 - **NATS En-Route PLC** holds the monopoly of civilian en-route air traffic control over the UK and is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority who, for example, determines the charges NATS En-Route PLC can make. NERL is funded by charging airlines for the provision of air traffic services.
 - **NATS Services Ltd** competes for contracts in the free market to provide air traffic control at airports in the UK and overseas, as well as providing engineering, technical and training services in fields related to air traffic control.
- NATS' en-route business is regulated and operated under licence from the CAA.
- The organisation was originally setup as the National Air Traffic Control Services in 1962, bringing together responsibility for the UK's existing military and civil Air Traffic Control services.
- The organisation became National Air Traffic Services when responsibility for sponsoring the civil air traffic service component was transferred to the newly formed Civil Aviation Authority in 1972.
- In 1992 it was recognised that as a service provider, NATS should be operated at some distance from its regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. Although debated, it was decided that NATS should not be privatised at that time. NATS was re-organised into a limited company on 1 April 1996 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Civil Aviation Authority.
- In 1998, a public-private partnership was proposed. This was written into the Transport Act 2000 and in 2001 51% of NATS was transferred to the private sector.

Operations

- NATS provides air traffic services at 13 of the UK's major airports. These include the world's busiest dual-runway airport (Heathrow).
- NATS provides an approach radar service for Sumburgh Airport in the Shetland Islands, Biggin Hill, Kent, RAF St Athan near Cardiff, Gatwick Airport.
- NATS also provides air control services to the MoD at Aberporth range and under the Project Marshall contract air traffic control and associated services at Gibraltar, Wattisham, Middle Wallop and Netheravon.

Financials

- NATS is owned by a Public Private Partnership: the Government (49%) and a golden share; The Airline Group, a consortium of UK airlines and pension fund USS Sherwood Limited (42%); Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited (4%) and an Employee Share Trust (5%).



- The Airline Group comprises: British Airways PLC, Virgin Atlantic, EasyJet, Monarch Airlines Retirement Benefit Plan Limited, Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Thomas Cook Airlines Limited, Thomson Airways Limited and USS Sherwood Group.
- The Public Private Partnership was established in July 2001 and strengthened in 2003 following a financial restructuring prompted by the financial downturn following 9/11.

Fun Fact

- We safely handled 2.6 million flights in 2018.