

Air traffic control for commercial flights in the UK started in 1920. Croydon was first used as London's air terminal, but all the controller could do was give the pilot a red or green light for take-off and acknowledge position reports sent by radio.

Our forerunner, National Air Traffic Control Services (NATCS), was established in December 1962. It covered civil ATC but liaised with the MoD (RAF) in areas where military traffic needed to cross civilian air routes. When the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) was established in April 1972, NATCS became part of it and shortened its name to NATS.

In 1992 it was recognised that as a service provider NATS should be operated at a distance from its regulator, the CAA. With that in mind, NATS was re-organised into a Companies Act company in April 1996 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of the CAA.

JOSCAR Supplier Selection

NATS uses a number of measures in its Supplier Selection process, in order to ensure fairness in contract awards and a reliable, long-term supplier base. Key to this process is the supplier due diligence process, known as Joint Supply Chain Accreditation Register (JOSCAR) it is designed to standardise our requests for supplier assurance information.

JOSCAR covers company capability, accreditations, information security, corporate social responsibility, financial history and ethical operations. By completing this fully a supplier also increases the possibility of gaining additional business from both NATS and other buying organisations that are members of JOSCAR.

On completion of JOSCAR we do not allocate a pure pass/fail criteria as different projects may place differing emphasis on aspects of a company's structure and abilities.



NATS at all times seeks to select suppliers who can fulfil its needs, whilst maintaining ethical business relationships and enhancing fair and open competition within the marketplace. JOSCAR streamlines our assurance processes, minimise administration and enable our suppliers to gain access to our buying organisations.

Christine Hyde

Head of Supply Chain Service Centre and Best Practice, NATS