

# Prestwick Centre

NATS operates two air traffic control centres in the UK. One at Swanwick in Hampshire and the other in Prestwick, Ayrshire.

Prestwick Centre handles air traffic across northern England, Scotland and out into North East Atlantic.

## The Operation

The Centre is continuously operational 24x7x365.



24 hours a day,  
7 days a week,  
365 days a year.

Prestwick Centre is the combined home of what used to be three separate operations:



MACC

Manchester Area Control Centre



SCACC

Scottish Area Control Centre



OACC

Oceanic Area Control Centre

MACC controls aircraft over much of the north of England, the Midlands and north Wales from 2,500 feet up to 28,500 feet.

ScACC controls aircraft over Scotland, Northern Ireland, Northern England and the North Sea from 2,500 feet up to 66,000 feet.

OACC controls the airspace over the eastern half of the North Atlantic from the Azores (45 degrees north) to a boundary with Iceland (61 degrees north).

## The Airspace

Almost all air traffic travelling between the US and Northern Europe passes through Prestwick Centre controlled airspace.



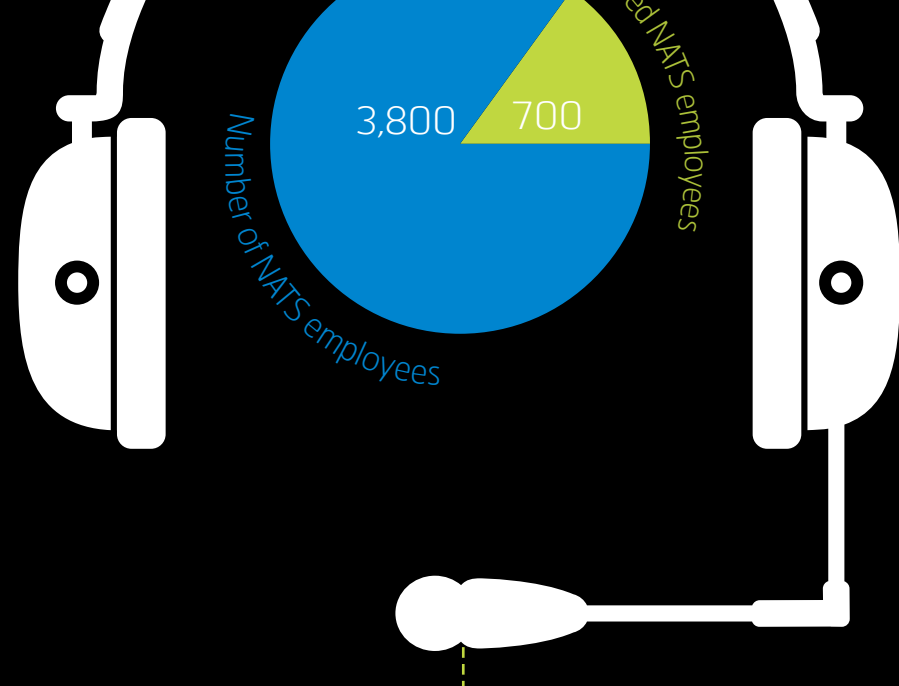
At 2.84 million sq km Prestwick Centre has the largest area of responsibility in Europe.

The centre handles over 42% of aircraft movements in UK's airspace.

Prestwick Centre handles more than 1 million aircraft per year.

## The People

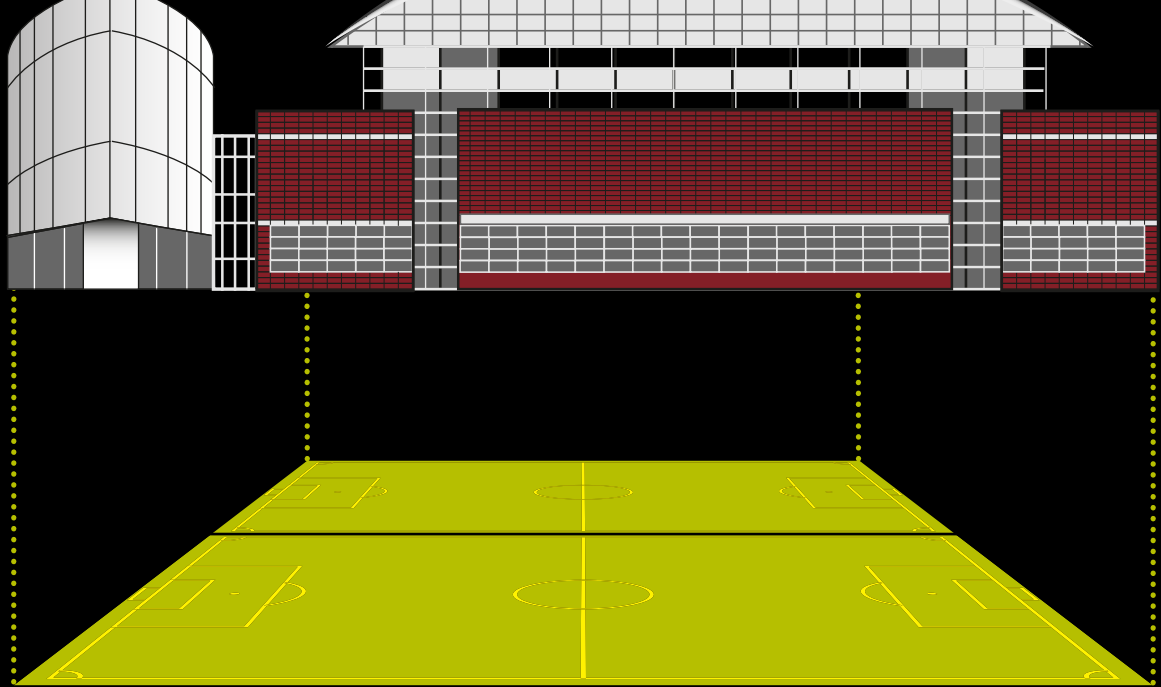
Around 700 people are employed at Prestwick Centre, making NATS one of the largest private employers in Ayrshire. These employees make up around 15% of NATS 4,500 strong workforce.



\* NB numbers fluctuate and those stated are approximations

## The Building

Opened by HRH Princess Anne, Prestwick Centre began operations in 2010. MACC moved into the centre after a 35 year operation at Manchester Airport.



8,000 SQM

The Operations Room measures 8000 square metres. This is equivalent to the size of two premier league football pitches and larger than forty tennis courts.

Approximately 460km of power, data and voice cables are installed throughout the Prestwick Control Centre. These connections ensure Prestwick is at the forefront of air traffic communication technology.

460km

380km  
International Space Station Operates 380km above the Earth.

327km  
Vostok 1 First manned space flight.

110km  
Virgin Galactic Proposed altitude for SpaceShip Two.

Distance above Earth (000 km)

NATS provides air traffic navigation services to aircraft flying through UK controlled airspace. The work we do at our two centres in the UK ensures we can move more than 6,000 flights every day safely and efficiently.

Find out more about NATS at [nats.aero](http://nats.aero) and [nats.aero/blog](http://nats.aero/blog)