



15th January 2020

Judith Ross
NATS/CAA Regulatory Appeal
Competition and Markets Authority
The Cabot
25 Cabot Square
London
E14 4QZ
United Kingdom

NATS/ UK CAA Regulatory Appeal – Space Based ADS-B

Dear Judith

We are writing in support of the IATA submission to the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) proceedings with the respect to NATS utilisation of Space Based ADS-B and particularly the associated service charges.

In addition to supporting the IATA position, Emirates has been participating in the consultation process directly through various meetings and has individually provided formal submissions to both NATS UK and the UK CAA. We understand all such submissions have been and will continue to be made visible to the public.

In short, Emirates strongly objects to the imposition of the service charges associated with Space Based ADS-B.

We recognise that the technology does have potential and may in the future deliver operational and safety benefits. Additionally we recognise that the charge is being imposed by a third party (Aireon) and in this case, NATS UK is simply passing that charge onto airspace users. Unfortunately the technology and associated procedures is also somewhat immature in development and we contend that the purported benefits will not be realised in the short term (substantiated somewhat by NATS own analysis).

As a result, we believe the establishment of such charges to airlines from 1 Jan 2020 to be disproportionate and an inappropriate imposition on operators which will ultimately be a cost imposed on passengers. We contend this is against the interest of the travelling public.

Emirates firmly believes that the introduction of any such technology (and associated charges) should be done so in a balanced and measured way, where costs imposed are directly correlated with proven benefits derived (and subject appropriate coordination and validation by stakeholders). Such mechanisms could take several years to evolve.

Furthermore we continue to have concerns about the relatively long term contracted arrangements associated with a technology which NERL has also invested in.

We are happy to provide further details if and as required.

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Manager - Procurement & Logistics

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