APPG For Aviation (Airspace Working Group)
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

PRESS RELEASE

The reinstatement of EGNOS in the UK

The APPG for Aviation and APPG Air Ambulances UK, request your support to help reinstate EGNOS in the UK.

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) improves the integrity and precision of Global Positioning System (GPS) services. The EGNOS Safety-of-Life (SoL) service is used in safety-critical applications, in the aviation sector. EGNOS enables users of GPS services to be confident that the information being supplied to them is precise and correct. The UK's participation in the EGNOS Programme ended on 25th June 2021, leading to a withdrawal of legal indemnity for the use of EGNOS, resulting in the UK no longer being able to use the EGNOS SoL service. This affects a range of different sectors within aviation. Airports and airlines across the UK have been affected. Smaller airports, which have been unable to invest in costly ground-based navigation systems, have been left without any precision navigation alternatives, leading to reduced safety and unreliable services.

The reinstatement of EGNOS will:

- Improve access to essential services - EGNOS is vital for those living in UK islands with poorer access to NHS hospitals they will miss around 1,200 fewer appointments every year, which tend to be for urgent treatment or diagnosis.

- Improve the reliability of search and rescue (SAR) and helicopter emergency (HEMS) services. EGNOS enables Point in Space (PinS) technology, allowing helicopters to operate in poor weather. The CAA has stated that a number of HEMS and SAR operations have experienced accidents and incidents due to poor visibility, and EGNOS would greatly reduce these risks.

- Improve flight safety - EGNOS reduces controlled flight into terrain (CFIT), one of the CAA's 'Significant Seven' risks, by a factor of four to eight. This means reduced loss of life and damage to aircraft, as well as improved public trust in UK aviation.

- Provide more reliable services, including at the Isles of Scilly, which has no other option but to travel by air in winter. Around 105,000 fewer passengers every year across the UK will experience delays or cancellations if EGNOS is reinstated

- Address the loss of flight training schools. The UK's flight training schools can no longer offer a complete training suite, and they are already losing business and revenues to competing European schools

- Provide greater resilience - airports that have an Instrument Landing System (ILS), e.g. Exeter Airport (that they cannot use), have invested in EGNOS to improve safety and provide back-up in case of ILS unserviceability.

- Improve yields and lower costs in the agriculture sector. EGNOS enables precision farming, which improves the efficiency of field working, fertiliser and pesticide use. This leads to higher crop yields and lower costs

- Improve safety and efficiency in the maritime sector, supporting UK trade. Seaborne trade is expected to double by 2030. EGNOS would enable ships to navigate safely and efficiently in crowded areas, e.g. ports, and therefore support UK trade

The Oxera Report

The first Oxera report was produced in 2022 – The value for money for a temporary reinstatement of EGNOS by Oxera. This highlights the value for money for a temporary reinstatement of EGNOS. It highlights the benefits of EGNOS to the aviation sector focusing particularly on passengers living in more remote communities, and their safety, access to healthcare, and ability to play a full part in the economy.

The conclusion of the 2026 report is reaffirmed: a temporary reinstatement of EGNOS would deliver high value for money to the UK public. With a benefit-cost ratio of 2.63, driven by reduced airline disruption costs, avoided passenger delay, improved flight safety through reduced CFIT risk, and improved patient access to NHS care, the economic case for reinstatement remains robust. With a UK alternative system appearing unlikely to be progressing or expected for many years, the case for reinstating EGNOS remains solid.

Oxera Report 2026 attached

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