

NAS Voice Switch



Federal Aviation
Administration



NAS Voice Switch (NVS)

The NAS Voice Switch (NVS) is a forward-looking program to replace national airspace system (NAS) voice switches more than 20 years old with a new technology switching system capable of supporting future requirements for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The current inventory has 17 different NAS voice switches, each with different training and logistics requirements and tech refresh approaches. Many of these switches are experiencing increasing obsolescence and failures and are in need of replacement. They are not capable of supporting flexible reallocation of access to communications resources, and lack security needed for a network-based communications infrastructure, which is a key concept in modernization of the NAS. The NVS program will provide a key transitional element in the air traffic control voice communications infrastructure as it moves toward realizing the NextGen vision, Operational Evolution Partnership (OEP) goals, and a more operationally efficient and economic NAS.

Improvements provided by NVS will benefit the FAA and the airspace user. The fact of fewer switch baselines in the NAS will significantly simplify and cut costs of training and logistics/support. As NextGen infrastructure is put into place, the benefits of networked communications that NVS supports will manifest in numerous ways. Flexible access to communications assets will support dynamic response to contingencies of weather, equipment or facility outages and other events that demand load balancing or sharing, dynamic airspace reconfiguration, or business continuity planning operations. These operations lead, in turn, to better balance of air traffic controller workloads and more efficient use of the airspace.

