



NATS



TITLE

# r:Evolution

Systems Thinking and the  
4<sup>TH</sup> Industrial Revolution

PRESENTER

MARK FLANIGAN

NATS Chief Innovation Officer

The NATS logo is displayed in a white, bold, sans-serif font in the top right corner. The background of the slide features a dark, stylized map of the United States with glowing orange and red lines radiating from a point labeled 'Atlantic City', suggesting a network or data flow.

NATS

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# 01 PHYSICAL

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01/01

# SMART AIRPORTS & CITIES

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## WHAT IS A SMART AIRPORT?

### ■ THE PASSENGER

The SMART Airport connects the total journey, enabling passengers to personalise their journey from 'booking to back home', to enhance their experience through choice, flexibility and convenience.



01/01

**SMART**  
AIRPORTS  
& CITIES

### ■ THE OPERATION

The SMART Airport is an advanced, seamlessly connected operation where all actors and stakeholders collaborate to create and manage an optimised plan that delivers predictability and punctuality at the best price for the passenger.

### ■ THE BUSINESS

The SMART Airport delivers outstanding performance and value, enabling Airports and Airlines to satisfy their customers and shareholders through optimum use of assets, infrastructure, resources and investments.





01/01

# SMART AIRPORTS & CITIES

## WHAT IS A SMART AIRPORT?

VALUE

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3

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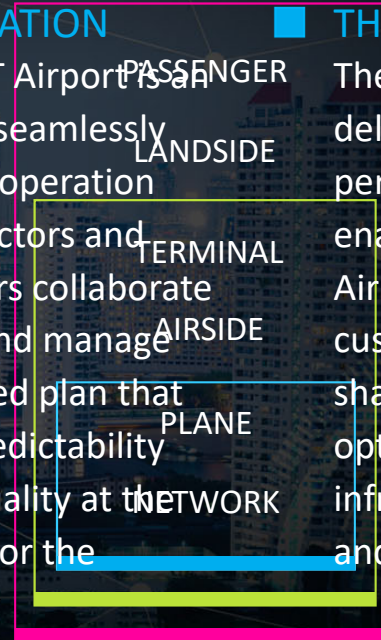
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### ■ THE OPERATION

Smart Airport of the future - achieving the best performance and adds greatest value through a connected operation where all factors and stakeholders collaborate to create and manage an optimised plan that delivers predictability and punctuality at the best price for the passenger.

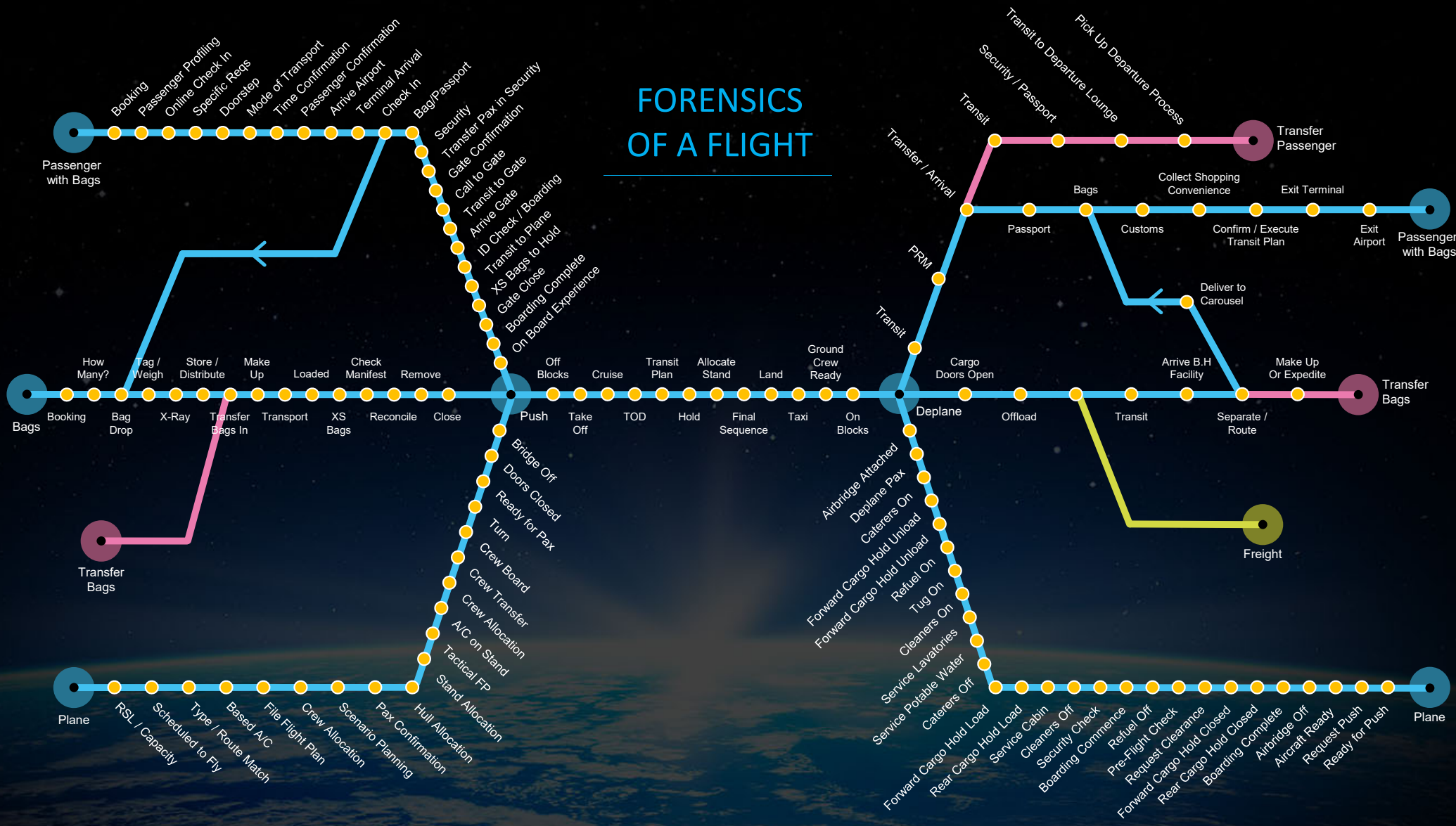
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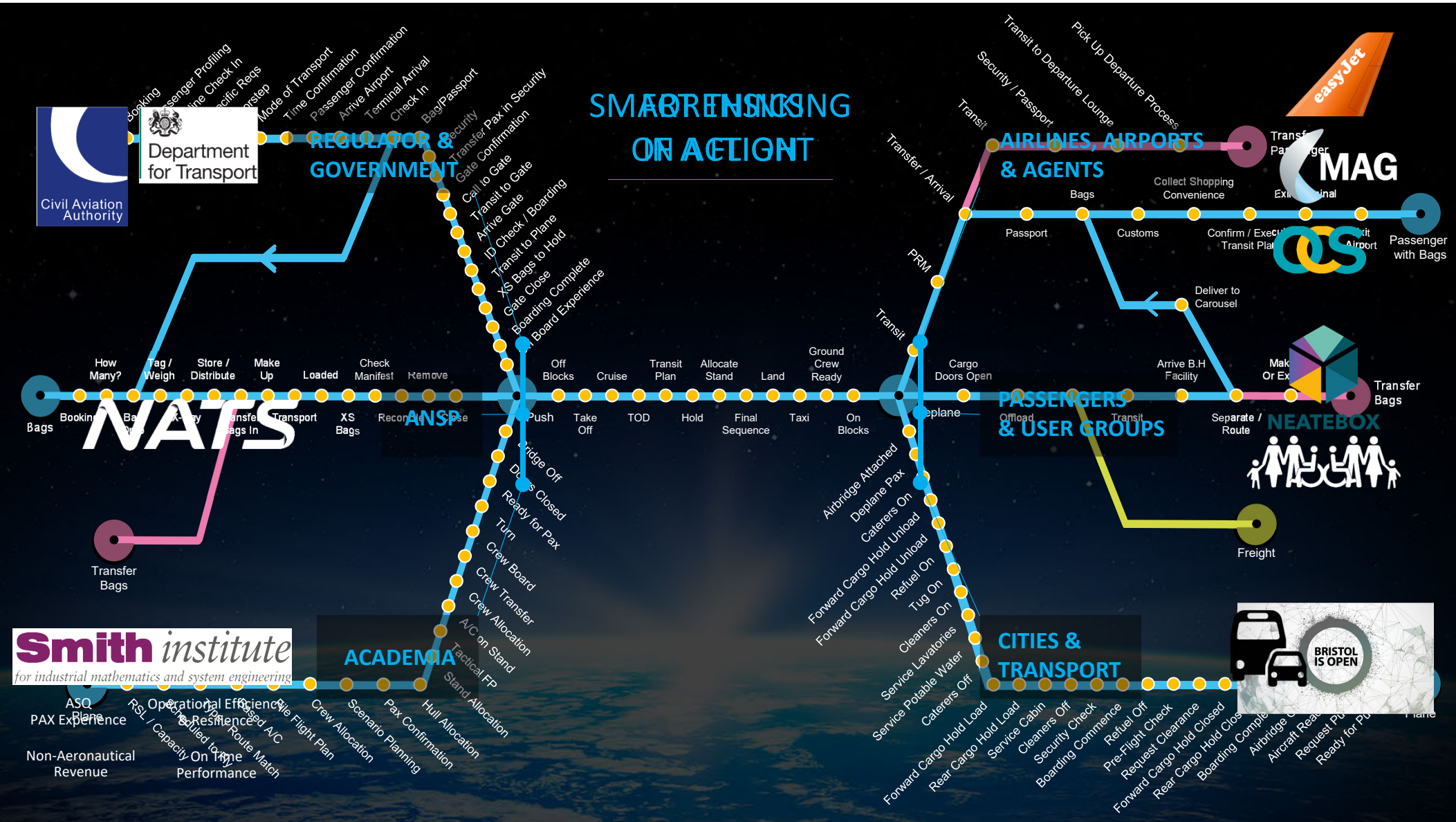


New NATS' Customer value Propositions

# FORENSICS OF A FLIGHT











## SMART SUMMARY

A man and two women are sitting on a wooden bench in what appears to be an airport or travel setting. The man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt and glasses, looking at a smartphone held by the woman in the middle. The woman on the right is wearing a white t-shirt and a plaid skirt, also looking at the phone. There are several yellow and black suitcases on the floor next to them. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and airport infrastructure. The overall tone is professional and modern.

### NON-AERO REVENUE

Airports are huge retail and car parking business

### ON TIME PERFORMANCE

Passengers, Bag and Planes – together, to schedule!

### EFFICIENCY & RESILIENCE

Streamlined operations with rapid recovery from disruption

### PAX EXPERIENCE

Happy passengers spend more money – fact!

### CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Airport, Airlines, ATC and Cities - working together for a seamless travel experience



01/02

**AIREON**

SATELLITE  
SURVEILLANCE







01/02

## AIREON

SATELLITE  
SURVEILLANCE

### SEEING FURTHER

- \$69m investment in disruptive technology
- Combination of LEO & Airborne positioning & prediction will prevail
- Industrial Maths and Intelligent Systems will drive new possibilities in Flight and Network Optimisation
- Emergence of global, on-demand Trajectory Services from new players
- Builds on Free Route, Business User Trajectories





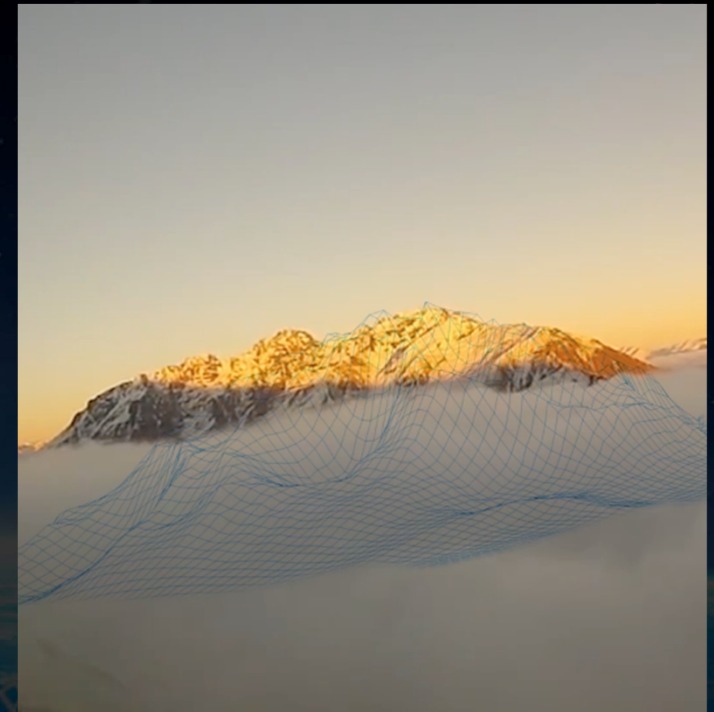
01/02

# AIREON

SATELLITE  
SURVEILLANCE

## SEEING FURTHER

- Add in Self Separation, RNP-AR and TMA Systemisation
- Greater ability for airlines to demand lower costs, and develop assured separation capabilities in Airline Ops
- As we assure Aireon coverage to ground -and for drones- and with automated airspace design and digital towers...
- The 70yr old system has just changed...better get thinking!



A global trajectory prediction capability enables long-range and regional flow management solutions for ANSPs

ANSPMIL

AIRLINE

DRONE

INCUBATOR SPACE LAB

Enhanced situational awareness and intervention capabilities enable ATC-like Ops centres for airlines

Ground level coverage coupled with Drone Assist & advanced VR creates the leading platform for Virtual Drone Control

An incubation accelerator with the SPACE Lab at its heart that harnesses the brainpower of academia and entrepreneurs

The combination of NATS data platforms and analytics provide the ability to offer 'wholesale' or bespoke services direct to customers

Dynamic, immersive visualisation engine to generate new insights, bring analytics to life

ANALYTICS ENGINE

VISUAL ENGINE

SHOWCASE

CUSTOMER DEV NETWORK

SPACE Network (NATS, LHR, CAAS) integrated with Aireon/Iridium R&D, creates a development and validation lab for future capability

SPACE becomes a physical showcase for VIP visits to demonstrate Aireon integration with legacy as well as fast prototyping of customer concepts





01/03

# URBAN TRAFFIC

DRONES AND  
MOBILITY

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01/03

# URBAN TRAFFIC

DRONES AND  
MOBILITY



## UNIFIED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (UTM)

- Already flown/proven (Military) Drones in controlled airspace
- Issued Operating Guidance with CAA to advance awareness across the UK for commercial and leisure users
- Deliver accredited commercial Pilot training
- Have launched an App to manage registration, and build a data platform
- Now demonstrating BVLOS for Medical, Emergency, Security, Construction and Community in 5 major UK cities
- Conducting Industry Demonstration event at Manchester Airport
- Establishing UK-wide, integrated approach to Unified Traffic Management
- This is a commercial space to play in the UK; NATS has no right to the licence!



01/03

# URBAN TRAFFIC

DRONES AND  
MOBILITY



## URBAN AIR MOBILITY (UAM)

- Newer focus on Urban Mobility, Electric Engines, Personal Air Vehicles and Taxis
- And how to evolve our system thinking to stay in control
- Some Cities want to 'control' their own airspace in the future as part of an extended connected transport network
- We must always have a bigger picture, a smarter way of decongesting and deconflicting
- And better ways of delivering value for corporates and citizens
- Or the combined challenge of evolving airborne and urban technology
- And new player capability...
- Could signal the start of the end of traditional air traffic control!





## 02 DIGITAL

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02/01

# TOWER

DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION







## DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN TOWERS

02/01

# TOWER

DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION

- Roadmap will quickly deploy new thinking based on Computer Vision
- But will quickly drive towards assured executive control for routine ops
- Our digital tower lab network will accelerate new dev and validation
- Creating ability to reduce workload, costs and evolve tower ATCO roles

Today's  
Tasks

### AUGMENT

#### Ultra HD VCR

Enhanced situational awareness through application of computer vision and analytics

### AGGREGATE

#### Smart Tower

Smart Tower with fully connected airside-landside Operation; replaces 50% of Tower OR/Workload

### ASSIST

#### Executive Assistant

Executive 'Digital' Assistant replaces 75% of Tower OR/Workload, and performs ATC for all routine Ops

### AUTOMATE

#### Auto Tower

A Strategist/Orchestrator oversees Autonomous Control of Airside Ops; 90% of OR/Workload replaced

New  
Tasks





02/02

**AI**

AUGMENTED  
INTELLIGENCE





02/02

**AI**

AUGMENTED  
INTELLIGENCE

## AI – ASSURING THE THINKING MACHINE

“ Classical decision theory in a modern-day machine learning environment, with applied mathematics and optimisation theory ”

**BIG CHALLENGE:** Making the safety case for executive control

### STEPS

- Design an ATCO Agent
- Input the NATS college curriculum
- Train it in the AI Lab using our game data
- Inject human-centred design and values
- Assess it as you would a typical NATS Trainee
- Evidence and assure its behaviours

## KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EXPERIMENT

We are going to train an AI agent in our LAB to separate aircraft and assess and score it as we would a current trainee

### THE COLLABORATION

UK Centre of Excellence for AI with world class track record



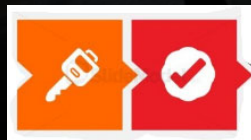
### THE AI LABORATORY

Delivering a new research platform, customisable to the AI experiment



### GLOBAL COLLABORATION

A 14 month engagement convening worldwide experts in AI



### THE AI ATCO

Training an agent to make good decisions



### CONTINUATION

Where we go next and the new opportunities we will have





# THE AI ATCO

## SENSING

### Computer Vision

Using cameras to find the objects and actions of interest at the airfield  
Has tremendous value as a standalone capability e.g. blind spot alerts, drone detection, debris spotter, push-back, wheels-up, runway incursion...  
Other sensors are radar, ADS-B and in the future, biometrics.

### Sensor Fusion

Merge the data from the sensors to build a total picture of the airport, the airspace the ops room



## MODELS OF THE REAL WORLD

### Logical and Analytical

Driverless cars have already created models for objects: cyclists, cars, buses etc. We need to build models for objects in our system, e.g. aircraft, tugs, Driverless cars already understand actions: a cyclist's arm being extended = turn. We need to build model that understand significant events e.g. manoeuvre start  
Better model = better decisions, better decision means more automation

## THINKING AND ACTING

### Localisation and Path Planning

Where we are relative to other objects, and their intent

### Acting

Choosing the right tasks to automate for the ATCO and executing.

### Decision Making

Classical Decision Theory with uncertainty.

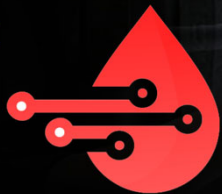
We are coordinating multiple objects so special treatment of decision theory is required. What is optimal for the aircraft, for the ATCO, for the system?

## THE AI LABORATORY

TRAINING  
DATA



EXAM  
DATA



HEATHROW FOR  
ATCO TRAINEES  
WEEK 0 - 4

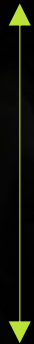


TRAINEE AGENT  
ASSESSMENT  
AI ASSESSMENT  
TRAINING  
PERFORMANCE



## ACADEMIC NETWORK

The  
Alan Turing  
Institute



**EPSRC**

Engineering and Physical Sciences  
Research Council

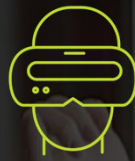




## THE PROPOSAL ARC

We can monitor the AI field or we can activate our approach to design and train an AI ATCO





02/03

# MIXED REALITY

GOING BEYOND  
GAMING





02/03

# MIXED REALITY

GOING BEYOND  
GAMING

## AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL – OUR REALITY

Can we take this beyond a cool way to train or engage users and customers..?

What will be the application of immersive technology in our future system..?

Will consumer demand for new experiences change how we need to think about travel..?

- Built a multi-user Outer-SPACE VR lab for global collaboration
- Built an AR Heathrow
- Built a VR City for Smart City Ops Room applications, eg, traffic, crowd and disruption management
- Looking at more real time, and interactive visual analytics applications as part of a value platform...
- To find where, and if, we can deploy it to augment human intelligence



## 03 BIOLOGICAL

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03/01

# BIO-METRICS

HUMAN  
PERFORMANCE  
DATA

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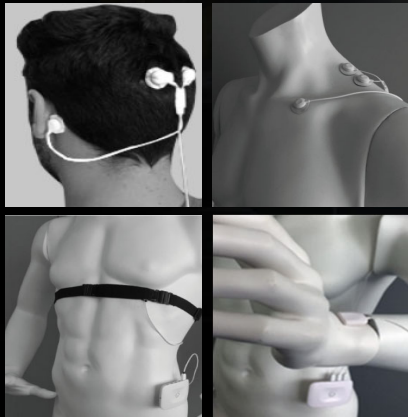




03/01

# BIO-METRICS

HUMAN  
PERFORMANCE  
DATA



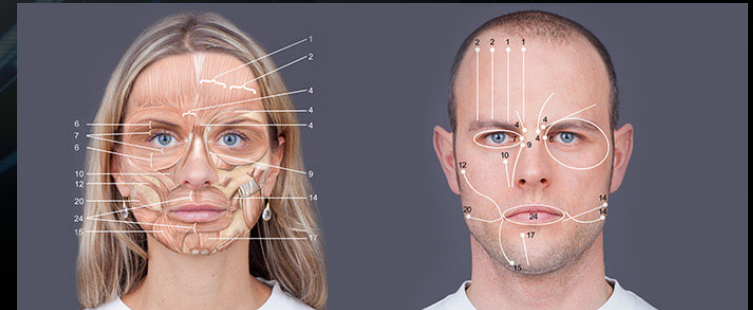
## HUMAN PERFORMANCE - BIOMETRICS

**GOAL 1:** Establish the scientific correlation between biometric data and human performance

**GOAL 2:** Understand and manage real time fatigue and workload

**GOAL 3:** Evidence the case for assured automation

- Conducted live operational trials
- Run hackathons on data
- Focus now on two main areas to develop fast algorithms for video based applications
- Essential we have a human data thread for AI deep learning
- To get the right balance and assurance in our thinking systems of the future.







## SYSTEMS THINKING. SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP

- ❑ 4th. Industrial Revolution could catalyse a new cultural renaissance and create a truly global society
- ❑ But has potential to robotize humanity, and challenge our traditional sources of value – Work, Community, Family, Identity
- ❑ It presents a great challenge of externalities and unintended consequences, and uncertainty of long term impacts on complex social and environmental systems
- ❑ Have to think Systems not Technologies – systems that deliver well-being
- ❑ Design Systems to give people more choice, opportunity, freedom and control over their lives
- ❑ Employ human-centred design alongside System Thinking to encode technologies with societal values
- ❑ It's Systems Leadership -Governments, Businesses and You-that will shape and protect a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world
- ❑ Be alive to the opportunity!

Atlantic City

*NATS*

***NATS***



Making Moving Marvellous



THANK YOU