

Link to article: [BTNews: The Business Travel News](#)

Remote air traffic control row

Whilst the London City Airport NATS remote air traffic control awaits certification Highland & Island Airports (HIAL) is developing a system of its own.



The Jersey tower. Notice the array of cameras.

Based at Inverness a number of HIAL's airports could be controlled from a single office in the centre of the town, including Inverness Airport itself. These could include Dundee, Kirkwall, Stornoway and Sumburgh, but are subject to negotiations between the airport operator and the trade unions concerned.

In the meantime Jersey Airport's remote facility has been approved by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

At Jersey the facility is housed outside the airport as a contingency service in the event of emergency, evacuation or equipment failure. A faithful recreation of a controller's 'view' is achieved via 11 fixed cameras and two pan-tilt zoom cameras – which all combine to create a digital image that is stitched across three large screens. All other equipment in the conventional tower is replicated so that controllers are operating in familiar surroundings and undergo a programme of live training. Options are being considered in the future including offering a service for other airports.

www.hial.co.uk