

AirTanker Services

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AirTanker Services, operating as **AirTanker**, is a British airline which operates charter services using reserve aerial refuelling aircraft.

In 2008 the Ministry of Defence signed the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) contract with AirTanker to provide the Royal Air Force (RAF) with an air transport and air-to-air refuelling capability. As well as supporting the RAF, AirTanker holds a United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority Type A Operating Licence, permitting it to carry passengers, cargo and mail on aircraft with 20 or more seats.^[1]

Following the granting of an operating licence the airline flew its first charter flight to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus for the UK Ministry of Defence in January 2013.^[2] After delays in certification, its first operational refuelling flight took place on 20 May 2013.^[3]

From May 2015, AirTanker leased one aircraft to Thomas Cook Airlines to be deployed on holiday routes. The contract will initially run for three years and involve mainly long haul flights from Glasgow, Manchester and London Stansted Airport. Their first commercial flight took place on 1 May 2015 from Manchester to Cancun and Punta Cana for Thomas Cook Airlines using an Airbus A330.^[4]

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Passenger destinations

- RAF Ascension Island
- RAF Akrotiri
- RAF Brize Norton **Hub**
- Calgary
- RAF Mount Pleasant

On behalf of Thomas Cook Airlines (as a charter)

- Cancun

AirTanker



IATA	ICAO	Callsign
	TOW	TOWLINE
Founded	2007	
Commenced operations	2013	
AOC #	2388	
Hubs	RAF Brize Norton	
Fleet size	12	
Parent company	Airbus Group (40%) Rolls-Royce plc (20%) Cobham plc (13.33%) Babcock International (13.33%) and Thales Group (13.33%)	
Headquarters	RAF Brize Norton, United Kingdom	
Website	www.airtanker.co.uk (http://www.airtanker.co.uk)	

- Montego Bay
- Tenerife
- Dalaman
- Orlando
- Las Vegas

Fleet

AirTanker has ordered 14 Airbus Voyagers, the RAF version of the Airbus A330 MRTT. As of July 2013 the AirTanker fleet comprises the following: Currently the Airline has 12 A330's

- 9 x Airbus Voyager
- 3 x Airbus A330 (used for air transport/charter work but will be converted to an MRTT in due course).^[3]



An AirTanker Airbus Voyager

References

1. Type A Operating Licence Holders (<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=183&pageid=340>)
2. AirTanker's first flight as an airline (<http://www.airtanker.co.uk/news/airtanker%E2%80%99s-first-flight-as-an-airline>)
3. Osborne, Anthony (20 May 2013). "AirTanker Cleared To Begin Air-To-Air Refueling Operations". *Aviation Week*. Retrieved 25 May 2013.
4. "AirTanker Makes Commercial Debut". *Airliner World*: 5. July 2015.

External links

Official website (<http://www.airtanker.co.uk/>)

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Categories: Airlines of the United Kingdom | Airlines established in 2012

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