

At A Glance

Airports and Aviation Experience

Overview

NERA has been applying economic principles on behalf of clients around the world for half a century, providing analysis, expert testimony, and regulatory insight in complex litigation, regulation, and business situations. Our reputation for innovation and insight rooted in economics analysis has made NERA the firm of choice for clients seeking solutions to their most serious legal, regulatory, and market challenges.

Our team of experts offers an unmatched combination of economic credentials, industry expertise, and testifying experience. We bring together a thorough understanding of markets, a commitment to innovative application of economics, accounting, statistics, finance, and quantitative techniques, and a passion for finding the right answer. NERA brings the right perspective and the most valuable insights to every project we take on, no matter the circumstances.

NERA has extensive and specific expertise in the airport and aviation industries around the globe, where our experts have been involved with the economic policy questions raised by virtually every aspect of the sector. We advise airports, airlines, regulators, and policy makers on issues of industry structure, competition, regulation, pricing, efficiency, and environmental assessment.

Key Areas of Expertise

NERA's capabilities in the airport and aviation industries include:

Privatisation and Liberalisation

NERA has advised airport operators and governments around the world on options for restructuring and privatising airport industries, and on the impact of liberalising airline markets.

Economic Regulation

NERA is a leading adviser on economic regulation. We have carried out recent projects on the regulation of airports and air traffic control services in locations

including Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Portugal, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, and the UK.

Cost and Pricing Analysis

NERA has helped to develop fair and efficient pricing structures for individual airports, and worked extensively on the assessment of efficient costs for airport and air traffic control organisations.

Competition Analysis

NERA has participated extensively in many aviation antitrust proceedings, including airport access and airline merger cases and international arbitrations involving airports and other infrastructure projects.

Policy Appraisal and Evaluation

NERA has extensive expertise in public policy evaluation. Our work has included a major study for the European Commission on the impact of market-based airport slot allocation mechanisms, and advice to international agencies on policies to increase private sector participation in aviation markets.

Modelling and Forecasting

Many NERA projects involve quantitative analysis. We have constructed financial models for a number of airport operators, assessed forecasts of future airline traffic, and used econometrics to benchmark airport operators' costs.

Selected Clients

Aeroporti di Roma, Italy
Aeroportos do Portugal / Novo Aeroporto, Portugal
Air Navigation Services (ENAV), Italy
Airport Authority of Hong Kong
Airport Company of South Africa
Air Services Australia
Amsterdam Airport – Schiphol, Holland
Auckland International Airport, New Zealand
BAA plc
Civil Aviation Authority, UK
Competition Commission, UK
Dublin Airports Authority
easyJet
European Commission
Hong Kong International Airport
Iberia Airlines
Qantas Airways
Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM)
Sydney Airport Corporation, Australia
Zambia Privatisation Agency

Client Experience

- Assisted the BAA in the context of the UK Competition Commission's review of the London airports.
- Major project for the European Commission to assess the impact of different market-based airport slot allocation systems.
- Large number of airline merger cases on behalf of clients including Qantas Airways, BA, KLM, Iberia, American, and United in a range of jurisdictions around the globe.
- Assistance to the UK Competition Commission in its 2002 review of the UK Civil Aviation Authority's proposals for airport charges at the UK's three largest airports.
- Retained by the Dublin Airport Authority (formerly Aer Rianta) to provide advice on a range of regulatory issues.
- Prepared a report for Aeroporti di Roma assessing the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to determining the regulatory asset base.

- Advised Hong Kong Airport Authority (via Goldman Sachs) regarding a suitable regulatory framework, including the scope of regulatory coverage, pricing principles, and dispute resolution mechanisms for the airport's impending privatisation.
- Report on the implications for the Italian Air Traffic Control Provider (ENAV) of recent international benchmarking exercises.
- Long-standing advisor on regulatory and competition matters to Auckland International Airport in New Zealand and to Sydney Airport Corporation in Australia.
- Conducted a study for the UK Civil Aviation Authority providing advice on the use of international benchmarking comparisons of airport efficiency.

About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (www.nera.com) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For over half a century, NERA's economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world's leading law firms and corporations. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.

Contacts

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