Delivering aircraft, infrastructure, service and training.
AirTanker
Delivering a unique air-to-air refuelling, air transport and aero-medical capability to the UK Armed Forces and their global partners.

About AirTanker
AirTanker is the company behind the Royal Air Force (RAF) Voyager, the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) 27 year contract. Appointed in 2008, AirTanker deliver a step-change in the RAF’s operational capability, providing the RAF with 14 new Airbus A330-200 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft.

A consortium made up of leading Aerospace, Defence and facilities management specialists; Airbus Group, Babcock, Cobham, Rolls-Royce and Thales, forms AirTanker’s primary supply chain, responsible for through-life support of the aircraft and facilities used to deliver the service. This arrangement brings unparalleled depth of expertise in Aerospace and Defence to AirTanker’s frontline operation, which includes a full CAA Part M and Part 145 approved engineering and maintenance service.

AirTanker also holds its own Air Operator Certificate, employing a team of civilian pilots, engineers and cabin crews drawn from leading global airlines. Operating within the Voyager programme, some of these personnel have the capability to also step across into a Sponsored Reservist role to deliver military air transport, air-to-air refuelling (AAR) and training, offering greater crewing and personnel flexibility to the RAF.

Our aircraft can be operated either as civil or military assets. This unique contract provides a fleet of 14 aircraft; 9 of these form a ‘core fleet’ for the RAF. The 5 non-core’ aircraft are available as required to the RAF, however when not required, they can be made available to other parties. This can include military capability to other Nations, or civil lease with the military equipment removed.

Aircraft specification:
RAF Voyager – KC2 and KC3
A derivative of the Airbus A330-200 and the largest aircraft in the RAF fleet, Voyager represents a proven and cutting-edge technology. Simultaneously able to perform air-to-air refuelling plus passenger, aeromedical evacuation and freight transport roles, Voyager delivers a powerful, new and flexible capability.

Air-to-air refuelling (AAR)
• Fuel capacity of 111 tonnes held in standard Airbus A330-200 fuel tanks. The aircraft’s full cargo and air transport capabilities consequently remain available.
• All aircraft can be fitted with wing-pods and seven aircraft in the fleet can also be fitted with a Fuselage Refueling Unit (FRU), which gives Voyager a centreline refuelling capability for larger refuelling aircraft receivers such as the A400M.

Cabin/pasenger capacity
• Our passenger cabin offers all normal civil airline comforts, including:
  • 291 single economy class seats in an eight abreast 2-4-2 configuration.
  • Standard Airbus civilian seating, featuring a 34 inch pitch (legroom).
  • Aircraft are fitted with an In Flight Entertainment system.

Freight
• Capable of carrying 53 tonnes of freight, either in civilian standard cargo containers or up to eight NATO pallets.
• All freight is accommodated below deck.
• Automated cargo handling system capable of loading both military and civilian cargo containers. The NATO pallet capability facilitates cross loading at a Forward Operating Base.

Aeromedical evacuation
• Passenger cabin can be configured to provide a 40 stretcher aeromedical evacuation capability.
• Includes two rapidly configurable stretchers and three critical care patient facilities.

Aircraft availability and scope
In addition to its primary Air-to-Air Refueling role, one aircraft within the core-fleet has undergone an enhanced cabin refit to provide a secure transport capability for senior government officials and members of the Royal family. This secure enhanced cabin aircraft provides suitable comfort for VIPs when traveling long-haul distances, with the opportunity to hold in-flight business engagements and conferences.

Up to five aircraft could be available to 3rd party users, when not required by the RAF. This represents a unique opportunity for the UK and its global partners to explore opportunities for bilateral cooperation in air power and also wider military capability. AirTanker can release these additional aircraft to the RAF to support service tasking or to satisfy requests for support from partner nations.

Alternatively non-core fleet aircraft could be released by AirTanker to partner nations on a ‘dry’ or ‘damp’ lease basis to be flown on their individual military aircraft registers by their own crews, alongside the RAF and other NATO nations. Under the terms of this agreement AirTanker could continue to provide an engineering service to ensure aircraft continue to be maintained in line with Civil Aviation Authority Part M and Part 145.

AirTanker also operates non-core capacity in the civil market and damp leases aircraft to a number of commercial airlines, maximising the usability of the aircraft and maintaining currency of its crew.

Training
Offering one of the world’s most sophisticated military aviation training programmes, a training partnership between AirTanker and the RAF can also offer specialist support to accelerate the early stage introduction of MRTT programmes globally, through the Voyager Training Service.

This offers more than 250 courses covering A330-200 type rating; Pilot and Mission Systems Operator Air-to-Air Refuelling training, amongst others. AirTanker is already geared to deliver ground based training through its pioneering classroom and simulator training programme. With RAF support to deliver airborne AAR and protected air transport, the opportunity is created to establish a world leading A30/MRTT centre of excellence.
AirTanker is the company appointed in 2008 to deliver RAF Voyager, the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) contract, a 27 year service that delivers a step-change in the RAF's operational capability.