

Air Traffic Control is a service that regulates air traffic, preventing collisions between aircraft, collisions between aircraft and obstructions on the ground, and expediting and maintaining the orderly flow of traffic. Air Traffic Control is provided by Air Traffic Controllers who rely on air traffic control systems to safely and efficiently control aircraft.

Surveillance is a key function of air traffic control. Surveillance systems are the “eyes” of air traffic controllers; they show who is in the sky, where they are and when they were there. They are at the beginning of the air traffic control process. Surveillance systems detect aircraft and send detailed information to the air traffic control system allowing air traffic controllers to safely guide the aircraft. Air traffic control is not possible without surveillance systems mainly in the areas of high traffic intensity. Surveillance is most widely provided by primary and secondary radars. However new surveillance technologies such as GPS-based and ADS systems are progressively being used nowadays.