

# Strategic Consulting

## Regulator Improvement – Airworthiness Standards



## Review of the Airworthiness Standards for Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority



Baines Simmons was commissioned by the Honorable Minister of Aviation, Nigeria, and contracted to perform a fundamental review of The Airworthiness Standards of Nigerian registered aircraft, their Operators, and Aircraft Maintenance Organisations (AMO) and standard of NCAA oversight.

### Client Profile

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) is the regulatory body for aviation in Nigeria. It became autonomous with the passing into law of the Civil Aviation Act 2006. The Act not only empowers the Authority to regulate Aviation Safety without political interference, but also to carry out Oversight functions of Airports, Airspace, Meteorological Services, etc. as well as economic regulations of the industry. With over 25 Airports, 30 Airlines, 590 Pilots, 19 Flight Engineers, 258 Air Traffic Controllers (ATC), 677 Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, 1103 Cabin Crew and 4 Aircraft Dispatchers, the Nigerian civil aviation sector is extensive and complex, requiring an agile and adaptable regulatory approach.

### The Challenge

The Minister of Aviation required a high-level review and benchmark of NCAA standards and oversight within an international (ICAO) and Nigerian context. Due to time constraints and the stage of development of the Nigerian aviation industry the review needed to be focused on high-level safety and airworthiness issues and avoid direct comparison with complex advanced systems of regulation. The project objectives required a structured examination of safety standards related to the Airworthiness of Nigerian aircraft from both a regulatory systems and product sample perspective. The project required highly experienced regulatory management skills, international and local contextualisation, pragmatism and strong facilitation expertise.

### The Solution

The Baines Simmons project team's review of the NCAA looked at:

- ▶ Requirements and internal procedures (including Certificate of Airworthiness)
- ▶ Oversight of the continued airworthiness of aircraft
- ▶ Oversight of Operators and Approved Maintenance Organisations
- ▶ Airworthiness Department competence

In order to meet the objectives within the project scope, a number of key interviews were conducted with NCAA Airworthiness department surveyors and managers along with surveys of operational aircraft. Structured visits were made to approved Operators and AMOs at Lagos and Abuja.

Within a relatively short timeframe, Baines Simmons' consultants processed a significant amount of data which was subsequently compiled, assimilated, analysed, benchmarked, evaluated and interpreted.

*"We were very pleased with the insights, recommendations and overview provided by Baines Simmons.*

*"They have given us fresh perspectives and direction for future development."*

- Dr Kema Chikwe Honorable  
Minister of Aviation

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### The Outcome

The Nigerian national airworthiness regulations and requirements were successfully evaluated and reported upon against the benchmark of internationally recognised standards (ICAO standards and recommended practices).

Advice and insight was provided on the structural arrangements and independence of the regulatory function to more effectively manage oversight activities. Specific and prioritised NCAA departmental competence development recommendations were outlined along with infrastructure and facilities recommendations.

An executive summary and detailed report outlined all the findings and recommendations of the consulting project team. Dr Harold Demuren, Director General of the NCAA, has subsequently been recognised for the achievements of the NCAA in improving Nigerian aviation safety standards, including FAA Category certification.

### Summary of Baines Simmons services utilised

#### Consulting support

National Regulatory Authority Oversight – strategic, operational and technical support