

## **Canada's Private ATC System Offers Alternative for Cost-cutting Nations**

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Controllers were among the groups that embraced the 1996 privatization of Canada's ATC system, anticipating that a nongovernment agency would encounter fewer bureaucratic roadblocks. Nav Canada funds itself purely through fees collected.

Despite the dire consequences predicted for Europe's economy if the euro actually comes unglued, or the monthly chaos that ensues at the U.S. Congress's failure to reauthorize the FAA, nudging close to the brink of financial disaster can sometimes lead to an epiphany and a new way to consider an old problem. Consider, for example, a nation's air traffic control system.

In 1996, "The government of Canada was faced with a large and continuing deficit," Sid Koslow, vice president and chief technology officer for Nav Canada, told **AIN**. "It was looking for a way to rid itself of things that cost money, like the air traffic control system." Then Nav Canada assumed control of the ATC system from Transport Canada.

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