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A large private jet is parked on a tarmac. The aircraft is white with dark accents. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky. The entire image has a purple tint.

# WHERE SHOULD I REGISTER MY AIRCRAFT?

[www.sentientinternational.com](http://www.sentientinternational.com)

## **Safety Standards**

Ensure your chosen registry has high regulatory standards and treats safety and the safe operation of all of its registered aircraft as its highest priority.

## **Systems & Processes**

Whilst the registration process is broadly similar in most jurisdictions, each registry aims to offer a unique selling point i.e. use of a sophisticated online system or other innovative ways to increase efficiency. Consider these factors when making a decision on where to register your aircraft.

## Expertise & Customer Service

Ensure that you feel comfortable in your chosen registry's knowledge and experience as well as their ability to provide a high quality customer service – this will leave you assured that they can assist you effectively and efficiently as and when required.

## Intended Use of Aircraft

Whether for commercial or private use, the intended use of your aircraft should play a vital role in your choice of registry. Be aware of any limitations or restrictions in certain jurisdictions that might apply to specific aircraft.

## Competitive Fees

Fees undoubtedly vary from one registry to another. It is important that you and your asset receive the right support, guidance and protection from your chosen registry, according to your requirements and the intended use of your aircraft. As with most things, you get what you pay for – be mindful that the cheapest is unlikely to provide you with the best quality.

## Fiscal Benefits

Some jurisdictions offer attractive fiscal benefits such as competitive tax regimes and in some cases, tax exemptions. Seeking the appropriate professional advice to understand any tax/VAT implications or liabilities is imperative for the effective structuring and subsequent operation of your aircraft.



## Legal & Regulatory Framework

Choose a jurisdiction that is home to a comprehensive and robust legal and statutory framework for the registration of aircraft. A robust legislative environment will afford you and your asset additional protection.

## Reputation

Choose a registry in a well-regulated and credible jurisdiction that operates in a safe, efficient and professional manner.

## Registration prefix

Each jurisdiction has its own unique registration prefix. You should consider whether you want your aircraft to bear its own registration mark that is personal to you or your business, or whether you want a neutral nationality registration prefix. You may also want to find out whether your chosen registry permits out of sequence marks and the transfer of registration marks to future aircraft.

## Geographical Location

Think about the geographical location of your chosen registry – consider time zones, potential language barriers and political stability. Think about how these might affect the intended use and operation of your aircraft.

## Ownership

Ensure that the way in which you structure ownership of your aircraft is accepted and considered a qualified owner by your chosen registry.

## Minimum Aircraft Age

If an aircraft has had regular maintenance and inspections during its life span, its age may not cause any limitations. Nevertheless, ensure you consider the number of flight hours and pressurisation cycles it has undertaken – whilst an aircraft may be fairly-new, it may have a high number of flight hours and subsequently completed many take offs and landings. This can make it reach its end-of-life sooner.

## Cape Town Convention

Consider a registry that has adopted the Cape Town Convention, an international treaty intended to standardise transactions involving movable property. It provides secured lenders a higher degree of protection and more effective remedies, whilst allowing lower borrowing costs for large, high value mobile assets that routinely cross borders.

## OECD – Transparency

Registering your aircraft in a jurisdiction that is on the OECD 'white list' will offer piece of mind that it is registered in a jurisdiction with high regulatory standards and committed to complying with global standards for tax co-operation and exchange of information.





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## Leasing

Rules surrounding leasing an aircraft to third parties can differ from one registry to another. If you are looking to charter or dry-lease your aircraft, be sure to check that your chosen registry permits this before you commit.

## Impact on Aircraft Value

Be conscious that some registration prefixes may depreciate the value of your aircraft and/or cause issues of inconvenience if/when you try to transfer its registration to another jurisdiction. This usually comes down to the reputation and regulatory standards of the country of registration.



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# Maintenance

The maintenance of aircraft is highly regulated to ensure safe and correct functioning during flight. Choose a jurisdiction that places significant importance on monitoring the maintenance of your aircraft. Regular maintenance can prevent lost travel time, maintain good aircraft performance, extend the useful life of your aircraft, ensure increased passenger safety and save you money in the long run. There are no shortcuts – just different regulatory regimes – but the safety of you, your crew and your aircraft should always be paramount.



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