AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

MAG East Midlands Airport

emaeducation.org.uk

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers are in great demand. They make sure aircraft are safe and fully operational. East Midland Airport doesn't employ Aircraft Maintenance Engineers directly.

Most Aircraft Maintenance Engineers work for:

- Airline operators
- Maintenance divisions of aircraft manufacturers
- Specialist aircraft maintenance companies.

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers usually specialise in either mechanical or avionic aircraft maintenance.

Mechanical means the servicing and overhaul of engines, airframes and basic electrical systems.

Avionics deals with the electrical and electronic equipment such as automatic flight control systems, radar, and radio navigation and communication systems.

Aircraft must be safe so aircraft engineers carry out inspections, maintenance and repair, servicing and overhaul of aircraft regularly. Aircraft Maintenance Engineers undertake both line and base maintenance.

Line maintenance is usually carried out on the airfield during aircraft turnaround. Turnaround is the time the aircraft spends on the ground between flights. Line maintenance means carrying out pre-flight checks and minor maintenance tasks before the aircraft is ready and safe to fly again. Base maintenance usually takes place in a hangar. This more in-depth servicing is carried out after aircraft have completed their specified number of flying hours.

All completed maintenance and repair tasks are recorded and inspected. Aircraft maintenance happens 24/7 and so it involves shift working.

Aircraft Maintenance Engineers work in confined spaces and awkward positions in all weather conditions so you need to be physically fit.

A typical scene from the airfield

DO YOU WANT TO WORK IN AIRFIELD OPERATIONS?

If you want to work in Airfield Operations you'll need at least four GCSEs and perhaps 1 to 2 A levels or T levels

You can expect to earn in the region of:

- £16,000 as an apprentice
- £20,000 when newly qualified
- £35,000 to £40,000 as Senior Aircraft Maintenance Engineer.