NLR Flight Test Operations

“What really matters is the flight testing of your application. And that is exactly what we can offer you. We operate a Cessna Citation II research aircraft from the well-accessible Amsterdam Airport Schiphol in the Netherlands. Our experienced team of experts will ensure that your application will be successfully tested to your needs.

History: NLR’s flight test facility represents over 90 years of experience. Flight testing at NLR started in 1920, the beginning years of aviation. Since then, NLR has modified and flown many different aircraft types.”
BENEFITS
• Flexible and affordable flight test services due to unique facility in terms of organisation and size
• Flight test facility that represents over 90 years of experience in the business
• High quality flight testing of your application by a dedicated team of experts
• Wide range of supporting facilities, knowledge and personnel within NLR

SERVICES
We can offer you the following services:
• Accommodate your application in our aircraft
• Modify our aircraft if required (design, manufacturing, certification)
• Provide instruments to collect flight test data
• Execute test flights in a safe and efficient way
• Plan, prepare and support test campaigns all over the world
• Support you with your own flight test activities
• Support you in all phases of research, development, test, evaluation and certification

TOPICS
Flight test topics that we have accumulated over the years range from aerodynamics, flight mechanics, zero-gravity, atmosphere, airborne remote sensing and flight test methods, to system tests, air traffic management, avionics, alternative fuel, flight inspection and on-board class-room instruction for educational purposes. These flights have brought us to different parts of the world, including cold weather areas and remote locations.

AIRCRAFT
We operate a modified Cessna Citation II research aircraft. The aircraft has several hard points to accommodate external stores as well as a dedicated electrical and hydraulic system to support the experiment setup. Among others, a nose boom, antenna box and high-accuracy positioning system can be readily installed on the aircraft. The cockpit is equipped with a digital integrated avionics system which offers the opportunity to test new display formats in flight.

We also have access to other types of test aircraft through our partnerships. These aircraft range from (motor)glider, general aviation aircraft and business jet aircraft to light jet trainer, helicopters and passenger airliner aircraft.

ORGANISATION
Due to the nature of our operations, our continuing airworthiness- and design organisations are unique. Our research aircraft operates in accordance with Part OPS. For the design, classification and approval of modifications, NLR holds an approval based on Part 21, while our maintenance organisation is Part 145 and Part-M approved.

PERSONNEL
Our experienced team of experts consists of qualified people like research pilots, flight test (instrumentation) engineers, R&D engineers, certifying staff, technicians and support personnel.

QUALITY
Our facility is subjected to regular inspections from the aviation authorities as well as to frequent audits required by our internal quality system.

CONTEXT
Our flight test facility is linked to other NLR capabilities. We can provide you a broader platform for aviation research in general and other facilities in particular, like e.g. flight simulators, air traffic control simulators and wind tunnels.

“And you thought size matters? ... Small aircraft, great affordability!”

PERFORMANCE
CESSNA CITATION II RESEARCH AIRCRAFT:
• Max take-off weight 14,600 lbs
• Max altitude 43,000 ft
• Max speed 262 kts/Mach 0.7
• Max endurance 5 hrs