



Emirates President Criticizes 'Utterly Irresponsible' 5G Rollout

by **Tom Boon** · January 19, 2022 · 🔊 8 shares · ⌚ 3 minute read

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Emirates' President, Sir Tim Clark, has criticized the roll-out of 5G in the United States after his airline was forced to cancel flights to the country at short notice. The aviation industry veteran called the roll-out utterly irresponsible during an interview with CNN's Richard Quest on this morning's episode of Quest Means Business.





Emirates's President has commented on the US 5G roll-out that has dominated headlines this week. Photo: Tom Boon – Simple Flying

Concerns over 5G aren't new as far as the aviation industry is concerned. Simple Flying [first reported the issue back in December 2020](#), when an FCC auction of the 5G spectrum sparked some controversy. Two years have passed since, and AT&T and Verizon were ready to switch on their new 5G networks. A wave of flight cancelations from airlines worldwide meant that this has now been suspended once more.

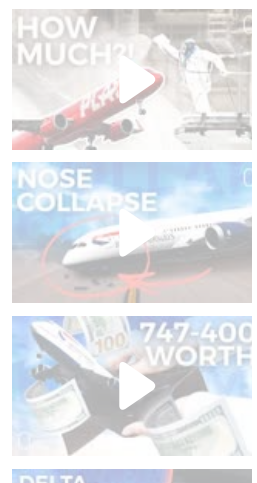
“Utterly Irresponsible”

Speaking to [CNN's Richard Quest](#) earlier today, Emirates President Sir Tim Clark called out the US' 5G roll-out as utterly irresponsible. While the 5G issue has been ongoing since late 2020, it has only really taken center stage in the last couple of weeks. Clark picked up on this, commenting,

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Somebody should have told [the government] at the time – that the risks



Tim Clark was critical of how the 5G roll-out has been handled. Photo: Getty Images

Emirates has canceled flights

Yesterday Emirates canceled many flights to the United States reasonably suddenly. Only flights to New York (JFK), Los Angeles (LAX), and Washington (IAD) were spared as the Airbus A380 operates them. Explaining his own short notice cancellations, Clark said that his airline had no idea how serious the 5G issues were until yesterday morning.

Read more: [5G Has Been Around For Years: Why Is It Causing A Problem Now?](#)

5G isn't a new challenge for Emirates, with Dubai hosting its own such network capable of incredibly high speeds. This may prompt the question, why is it an issue in the US, but not the UAE? A handful of cell providers in the United States are essentially using beefed-up 5G antennas, which can impact the radio altimeters on some jets. The Boeing 777 has been most notably affected by flight cancellations across the globe.

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Despite the 5G issues, Emirates hasn't stopped A380 flights to the USA. Photo: Tom Boon | Simple Flying

While the Airbus A380 is not on [a list of unaffected aircraft issued by the FAA](#), Emirates believes that they can continue to be safely used according to Air Insight,



Are flights getting back on track?

It seems as though the worst of the situation is now behind us. Shortly after [several airlines canceled flights to major US airports, an agreement was reached to delay the roll-out](#). Clark told how services would be restored if such a delay was implemented. According to the airline's travel alerts, a handful of services have since been rescheduled. At the time of writing, these were,

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- EK 255 – Dubai to San Francisco – January 20th
- EK 211 – Dubai to Houston – January 20th
- EK 238 – Boston to Dubai – January 21st
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Do you think the 5G roll-out was utterly irresponsible? Let us know what you think and why in the comments!

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Tom Boon

Content Manager – Degree educated in Aerospace Technology, this certified pilot is a passionate specialist in European aviation.

Working closely with British Airways, Lufthansa and others, Tom provides commentary on topical issues for outlets including the BBC. Based in Frankfurt, Germany.

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T# Test Monkey #15 • 2 days ago



Tim Clark is spot on this .. “utterly irresponsible” like using somebody else’s money to buy 120 A380s when you really only needed 40.. or firing overnight most of your good safe pilots in an epic mood swing to penny pincher.

Reply

J JoeM 2.7K Points • 20 January, 2022



The whole thing is starting to become a bit farcical given so much of the rest of the world has had 5G without any impact on aviation for a few years. Were the US cell phone companies trying to do it on the cheap and it's backfired? Does the problem lie squarely at the aviation industry's door as ...**See more**

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William Jones-Halibut 2.9K Points • 20 January, 2022





...rameter and say a certain radar altimeter. I think 7 years would be about the speed the laborious aviation industry can m...**See more**

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M Martyn 20.6K Points • 19 January, 2022

The telecommunication companies have paid over \$80 Billion so far for the frequencies and more auctions are planned they are going to want to use the frequencies or their money back so it's not their fault. The aircraft manufacturers use internationally agreed frequencies so it not their fault. Thi...**See more**

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William Jones-Halibut 2.9K Points • 19 January, 2022

The FAA overseen by the Transport Secretary who is appointed by the President as part of the cabinet.

The FCC is overseen by the Secretary of the FCC who is appointed by Congress.

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s sdadas • 19 January, 2022

Boeing planes have issues on their own home field, the USA. How crazy

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G GEWhiz 3.4K Points • 2 days ago

No, this is something that yhe FCC, ATT, and Verizon need to redesign.

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JFP 51.9K Points • 19 January, 2022

The FCC has been irresponsible snce 1934... This is nothing new. *(Edited)*

Reply

PE Peter Ehrler • 19 January, 2022

I always thought that the ITU is responsible for the coordination and allocation of frequencies world wide.

The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies. It was established in...**See more**

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G Guest • 19 January, 2022

That's the issue- US spectrum much closer to the radar altimeter spectrum, thus less separation. Frequencies bleed over due to many factors, that's why there is



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Aussie Singh 510 Points • 19 January, 2022



I agree with him. It's a matter of public safety.

Reply 4

JFP 51.9K Points • 19 January, 2022



In the U.S., that's often the least concern. The regard the U.S. has for human life is reflted in its crime statistics.

Reply 2

Raymond Chuang 3.6K Points • 19 January, 2022



I will guarantee that when American Airlines, Delta Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest
Enter your search topic **SEARCH** Verizon, the FAA and FCC over this debacle, both
AT&T and Verizon will admit their mistake and quickly back down.

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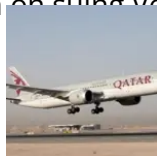


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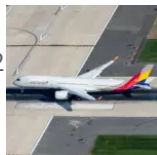


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What's silly with the 5G roll... seems to be no consulting or anything to check it
won't pose problems before... decision about how the roll out would go

Reply 2



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The FCC will spe... 22 MHz, ham radio operators had to move their
unpublished link frequencies in that spectrum elsewhere.





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