

Scores of jobs at risk under Manston Airport closure plans after huge financial losses

Scores of jobs are at risk at Manston Airport after it was announced today it could close.

Staff were called to a meeting today to be told new owners had decided the airport did not have a long-term future and was losing substantial sums of money on a daily basis.

As many as 150 jobs are at risk under the shock proposals.



A consultation has begun into the closure of Manston Airport

A Manston Airport spokesman said: "Following a meeting with staff at Manston Airport in Kent today we can confirm we have commenced a process of consultation over the possible orderly closure of the airport.

"No further comment will be made until the consultation period with staff has been concluded."

The news comes as a shock as there was speculation that under its new owner, the airport could have a future.

But a turnaround team commissioned to examine its prospects concluded its commercial success could not be guaranteed.



Manston Airport chief executive Charles Buchanan

Sources said talks had been held with Ryanair about bringing new routes to Manston, but they had fallen through.

The airport was bought for £1 by Scottish businesswoman Ann Gloag, who established the Stagecoach Group, last year.

She brought in Alastair Welch to the board as a turnaround specialist.