

Wellington software company Superstructure Group has been bought by a subsidiary of Britain's Rolls-Royce.

Superstructure makes a software database, AQD, that is used by more than 100 airlines to record and manage information about accidents and safety risks.

The 28-year-old firm employs 20 staff at its offices in Tory St and another six or seven at an office in London.

Its customers include Air New Zealand, Qantas, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific.

Senior vice-president Ted Thomas said the privately owned firm turned over about \$5 million a year.

Its sale to Rolls-Royce software subsidiary Optimized Systems and Solutions (OSyS), for an undisclosed sum, would enable it to grow and pursue bigger opportunities, he said.

Superstructure had a related business developing software for police and security agencies, which was spun out into a separate firm in 2010.

OSyS employs 400 staff. Its larger balance sheet, complementary software products and international offices would let Superstructure take advantage of economies of scale, Thomas said