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Jan Müller

03 - 01 - 2012

## Runway extension creates new opportunities

This could also become important for a possible future Faroe oil industry says Johan Dahl, minister of energy. One of the progressive steps forward for the Faroe society in 2011 was the extension of the runway at Vagar Airport, which officially was handed over on the 3rd of December 2011. The airport runway, which beforehand is regarded as one of the most difficult in the world, has been extended by 550 metres, from 1250 metres to 1799 metres. This is estimated by many as a very important and significant step, as it represents the most important connection between the Faroes and the rest of the world. This, for the Faroes a very large development, will create much improved export and travel opportunities for the Faroes. The only Faroes airline, Atlantic Airways, has already contracted a new Airbus aircraft, capable of taking app. 140 passengers, compared to the 90 passenger capacity of the existing aircraft. The aircraft is expected to be delivered this coming spring. The runway extension also makes it possible for larger aircraft to land and in the future it will be possible to fly from the Faroes directly to other more distant destinations. Atlantic Airways has already announced that it will begin to fly directly to Barcelona in Spain during the summer months. It is also contemplating to fly directly to New York in America. Mr Johan Dahl, the government minister in charge of this portfolio says he regards this as a very significant development and is very pleased to see an improvement in the travel opportunities also for tourism. This could also become important for a possible future Faroe oil industry. Competition is expected to increase now the runway has been extended. The Norwegian low-fares airline company Norwegian Airways has already announced it intends to investigate this new opportunity and other airlines have also expressed their interest. This development has cost app. D.kr 260 million and work will now begin