



ST HELENA AIRPORT

Tender Process

- On 7 December 2016, St Helena Government released a Request for Proposals to provide scheduled air services to St Helena over a three year period. The closing date for receipt of bids was 6 February 2017.
- It is hoped to announce the preferred bidder in early UK summer 2017. Commencement of air services will follow once the regulatory permissions are granted and the necessary practical arrangements are in place.

General Lines

- St Helena Airport has been granted an aerodrome certificate by Air Safety Support International and is open and operational. Whilst it has not yet been possible to commence regular scheduled commercial air services to the Island, operations at St Helena Airport are underway and consist primarily of one-off charter flights and vital medevac flights.
- Work continues to understand better the conditions at St Helena Airport, including the challenges of windshear. We are confident the body of knowledge being developed will be of significant value to potential operators.
- The Governor continues to chair weekly meetings of her senior technical and planning staff in order to manage the issues, liaise with DFID, make decisions, ensure the public are properly informed in a timely manner, and push forward all areas of work. These meetings began as soon as the issue of windshear became apparent and they continue. Councillors are represented at these meetings.
- Enterprise St Helena, the Bank of St Helena and SHG's Business Support Initiative continues to offer financial and technical assistance to tourism-related businesses that might find it challenging to operate given the delays to scheduled air services. The Business Support Initiative is a relatively new venture, launched in September 2016
- DFID has established a Quality Assurance Panel for the St Helena Airport Project, made up of highly qualified external experts, whose role it is to provide external validation of any technical decisions being proposed for the Project. The QA Panel has reviewed the outcomes from a number of successful tests flights, provided advice on the most appropriate aircraft and flight procedures for the

prevailing conditions and assessed extensive wind data reports (collected to the end of December 2016).

- The Airport Project has also been reviewed eleven times since 2003 by the Infrastructure Projects Authority (IPA). The IPA is the UK government's centre of expertise for infrastructure and major projects, reporting to the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury.
- Meanwhile, medevac flights and charter aircraft continue to operate at St Helena Airport, and the RMS extension is providing certainty of access for St Helenians

Comair

- The agreement with Comair for the provision of a scheduled air service to St Helena is still in place, albeit in a temporarily suspended state whilst a more permanent, reliable solution for the Island is considered.
- Comair remain very much engaged with SHG on air service provision issues.

SHG

24 March 2017