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St Helena Airport

Thales Update

Currently on-island and working at the Airport site are a number of personnel from the multi national company, Thales, who are subcontracted by Basil Read to install important electronic equipment at the Airport.

Site Manager of the Thales SA team is Robbie Robinson, who with his team manages and resources support for the entire Thales SA installation.

The team comprises six personnel - Barry Richards, John McLinden, Robbie Robinson, Tom James and Johan Venter. Team member, Richard Blackbeard recently arrived on St Helena and another four team members will arrive on 10 March 2015. John McLinden will maintain the equipment for Basil Read for the next ten years.

The team's remit is to install and commission:

- **Remote Obstruction Lights, the Localiser system and Precision Distance Measuring Equipment** - the latter two systems provide landing direction to approaching aircraft and provide accurate measurement of the aircraft's distance away from the runway.
- **The DVOR (Doppler Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Radio Range) equipment** - provides accurate electronic compass bearing information to flying aircraft.
- **NDB (Non Directional Beacon)** - a high frequency radio signal is transmitted into the air and the signal is modulated with a Morse Code audio signal for identification purposes and for route positioning with lesser technologically-advanced aircraft.
- **Meteorological equipment** - Air Traffic Control (ATC) communicates the weather information/ conditions such as cloud height, visibility, temperature, wind direction and speed to the aircraft via radio.
- **ATC facilities** - equipment i.e. radios, telephones - controlled via a Voice Communications Control System (VCCS).
- **AFTN (Automated Fixed Telecommunications Network)** - provides electronic communication to relevant airports and pilots regarding flight planning details of aircraft.
- **Crash Alarm System** - a facility whereby the Air Traffic Controller can raise the alarm to Airport personnel if there is an actual or potential incident.
- **Voice Recording System** - to continuously record all audio messages communicated to an aircraft.
- **GPS Clock System** - provision of accurate time signals.
- **HF radio system** - for long distance radio communication.
- **Fibre Optic communications network** - provides remote control and status feedback to Air Traffic Controller of all sub-systems. All airfield facilities are linked together.

Navigational equipment is vital to the safety of aircraft, both in the air and on the ground. As such, all of the navigational systems use a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) and have redundancy systems in place should a failure occur.

Installation work is progressing well and the target date for flight calibration (test flights) remains July 2015.

Thales Team - L to R: Barry Richards, John McLinden, Robbie Robinson, Tom James, Johan Venter



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New Sea Rescue Manager

In post is newly appointed Sea Rescue Manager/Deputy Emergency Planner, Simon Wade, who joined the Police Directorate on 2 February 2015 with the role to manage St Helena's Sea Rescue Service.

Simon is currently reviewing the present service provided and preparing it for the Airport opening. He explains that the Sea Rescue Service will grow from one to three boats and from around 10 to potentially 100 deployments per year, which includes airport related deployments and training days. The service needs to accommodate the requirements of the Airport and all sea users. Having a modern, and enhanced Sea Rescue Service in place is an important component of the Airport Certification process. Simon has over 10 years' experience and knowledge having worked previously for the Ascension Island Government Fire and Sea Rescue Service where he responded to all domestic and Airport related emergencies.

Simon is also currently understudying Emergency Planner, Ian Johnson, and will take on this role once Ian's contract is completed.

Chief of Police, Trevor Botting, said:

"The Sea Rescue Service is being developed as part of the Airport opening but just as importantly to provide an enhanced service to all users of the seas around St Helena. I am delighted to welcome Simon Wade to the Police Directorate team given his significant experience in leading a Sea Rescue Service. Further enhancements will be made to the Sea Rescue Service in the coming months as we seek to build a service that the local community will be proud of and who will be working hard to keep people safe on the waters around St Helena."



Basil Read Long Term Employee

Jayne Thomas of Longwood has been working on the Airport Project since 1 March 2012. She was interviewed for the Airport Update when first starting her employment with Basil Read and, three years on, we caught up with Jayne to find out how she has progressed within the company and the importance of her role in the Airport Project.

Initially starting her employment as a Junior Accounts Clerk and quickly progressing to Wages Clerk (her current job), Jayne's role is very important to the Airport Project as she is responsible for paying the wages of all Saint employees.

In summary, amongst her duties each week, Jayne calculates the hours worked by each employee before processing their wages, prepares summary sheets per employee showing the number of hours worked in each pay cycle and works closely with the HR Department informing them of non-existent labour, and administers weekly reports for Absence Without Leave (AWOL) and sick absences. Jayne also works with the Tax Office to check all Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deductions and prepares tax returns for each employee, as well as consolidates a PAYE Tax Return.

Jayne commented:

"I joined Basil Read back in 2012 as my job at the time was being made redundant and this opportunity was a perfect opening for me. Three years on I am still with the company, gaining further experience and building my confidence within my work area. Someday I hope that my hard work and enthusiasm will lead to increased recognition and responsibility."

"I love my job as every day I am learning different skills, meeting different people and gaining further awareness of how the company runs."



ADA Construction Areas Out of Bounds to Public

The public is reminded that all construction areas within the Airport Development Area (ADA) are out of bounds. This includes Rupert's Wharf and the Bulk Fuel Installation, the Access Road and Airport Site at Prosperous Bay Plain.

In the interest of public safety, the following restrictions are in place at Rupert's Wharf:

During Construction Times:

- **No public parking or vehicles will be allowed through the entrance way to the seaside between Rupert's fortification wall/lines - visitors can park at the public toilets to access the picnic area.**
- **Members of the public will not be allowed at the seaside other than the picnic area.**

Outside of Construction Times

- **Public (vehicles and persons) will be allowed to make use of the Shears and the picnic area**
- **No entry beyond the Shears i.e. temporary jetty/ permanent Wharf**
- **Individuals wishing to make use of the temporary jetty for private boat or jet ski launches can do so with prior arrangement from the Safety Health Environment and Quality Manager, George Vorster, or Permanent Wharf Production Manager, Gideon Niemand, on telephone number 24026**

Fishermen and marine users are reminded of the 'No Go' area around the immediate construction site. The restricted offshore 'No Go' area is marked by yellow buoys, and fishermen and other marine users are asked to strictly adhere to these markers and remain outside of them (<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/construction-of-ruperts-wharf-update/>)

The public is thanked for their continued cooperation.