



Aerial Photos of St Helena Airport

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St Helena Airport



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A selection of aerial photos of the St Helena Airport site are now available on the Access website. The photos, taken by Remi Bruneton, capture incredible views of ongoing construction progress at the Airport site, Prosperous Bay Plain. The full gallery can be viewed at www.sainthelenaaccess.com/news/photos/

Sea Rescue Boat Trials

The St Helena Sea Rescue Service is soon to receive two new custom-built fast Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs) as part of the Airport Project. The boats were recently subject to sea trials by the manufacturer in South Africa (Gemini Marine Boats). A short video clip of the sea trials has been uploaded to YouTube at the following link - http://www.youtube.com/attribution_link?a=-n5FD5gYtVI&u=/watch%3Fv%3D5VpQY74t2_U%26feature%3Dem-share_video_user. Following their delivery to St Helena in early July 2015, the RIBs will be used as part of a month-long training schedule conducted by the South African National Sea Rescue Institute for the St Helena Sea Rescue staff. The RIBs, which will eventually be based at the permanent sea rescue facility in Rupert's, will greatly improve and enhance the search and rescue capability of the Sea Rescue Service, covering both maritime and aviation operations.

AIRPORT PROJECT INFORMATION LINE - Tel: 24026

Contact Details

St Helena Government
Air Access Office
Tel: +290 22494

Email: tessa.roberts@sainthelena.gov.sh

Halcrow
Project Management Unit
Tel: +290 24258

Email: Andreas.Huber@ch2m.com

Basil Read
Contractor
Tel: +290 24026

Email: pr@brshap.co.za

Visit us online at www.sainthelenaaccess.com and on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Helena-Government/292300047580382>

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Airport Manager Impressed with Progress

The new Manager for St Helena Airport, Nigel Spackman, visited the Island from 29 May to 6 June 2015. This was a familiarisation visit for Nigel before taking up residency on the Island in August.

Employed by Basil Read, Nigel has been working in South Africa in preparation for his job on St Helena, which includes reviewing and signing off all manuals for St Helena Airport.

Nigel explains:

"As the accountable Manager for when the Airport is operational I need to be aware of what's in the manuals and what the roles and responsibilities are. Essentially when I get on site, my primary objective is to ensure that the Airport remains safe.

"There is also a security element to my role and I'll be responsible for ensuring that the Airport is secure and in doing so ensure that personnel responsible for screening passengers remain certified and are kept fully trained. This applies to everyone at the Airport and everyone will be trained in general airport security, plus the safety training required on the airfield."

Nigel will be based in the Combined Building at the Airport and will be responsible for all teams - Air Traffic Control, Rescue and Fire Fighting, Check-in Agents, Security Personnel and everyone else who is part of the operation.

During his familiarisation visit Nigel met with key individuals from SHG and those he will be working with, both in terms of manuals, and physical accommodation, and different job roles. When he returns in August, first steps for Nigel will be to prepare for Airport Calibration, where in September a series of test flights will take place to ensure that all the navigational aids and lighting systems are all calibrated correctly. Airport Certification will follow thereafter. Following Certification, Nigel will ensure that all operations at the Airport are kept current and training programmes are put together to make sure everyone is trained and all documentation is prepared before the Airport opening.

Nigel shared his thoughts on the construction of St Helena Airport:

"I was very impressed with the progress when I went to visit the Airport site. The challenges that were involved with just filling Dry Gut were a phenomenal engineering task and achievement in itself. It is clearly evident that there will be a really high finish to the entire product and something the Island can be very proud of when it's complete."

Upon his return to Johannesburg, Nigel will be coordinating the calibration flights and certification, concentrating on manual and document preparation, ensuring the rescue and fire fighting service are trained at Lanseria Airport and coordinating with Lanseria on some of the training aspects for general preparedness.

Nigel concluded:

"I'm really looking forward to working on St Helena, and we will do our utmost to ensure the Island gets a superb Airport."



New Fire Fighters off to Training in Jo'Burg

After a lengthy and thorough interview process, a highly qualified Rescue and Fire fighting Service (RFFS) team was appointed for the St Helena Airport on 1 June 2015.

Marc Fowler has been appointed as the RFFS Manager, to lead the team with ten Crew and crew leaders Ryan Moyce and Mario George. The other members of the team are Kurt Bennett, Dennis Stroud, Deon Leo, Trevor Magellan, Robert George, Onray Williams and Phillip Newman.

The team departed on 6 June 2015 for extensive refresher training at Lanseria Airport in Johannesburg. The training period in South Africa is expected to be in the region of two months, with the team back on the Island in time for the trial flights due to take place in September this year.

The training will cover a wide range of areas, including Airside/AVOP, Rescue & Fire Fighting, Aircraft Rescue, Dangerous Goods Handling, Marshalling, Dealing with Communicable Diseases, Health and Safety, Bird and Wildlife, Disaster Control, First Responder and Aircraft Equipment Operations. On arrival in South Africa the team visited the Basil Read Head Office, where they were required to do an induction prior to the commencement of training.

Kerry Yon (far right) has also been recruited as a Security Officer and her training will commence on-Island during the course of this year.



Meet the New Fuels Manager

On-Island Fuels Manager for Penspen Ltd, Andy Simpson, started work on 1 May 2015 and is contracted for a period of ten years. Andy has a very important role in the Airport Project in ensuring that the storage and handling of all ground and aviation fuel types is managed in a way that will keep them at the optimum specifications for use in vehicles and aircraft. In doing this, Andy will liaise closely with the UK-based Penspen Project team and also work closely on-Island with the Air Access Office, the Halcrow Project Management Unit, Basil Read and Solomon & Company BFI staff.

Andy explains:

“My role is to ensure that every aspect of the ground and aviation fuels processes is carried out safely with minimal impact on the environment, from point of delivery by ocean tanker, through on Island storage, until delivery to customers and aircraft. Fuel quality is paramount to the success of the operation and the months leading up to the Airport opening will be spent training staff both on Island and in the UK.”

Andy is located at the on-Island Penspen Office in Napoleon Street, opposite the Queen Mary Store. From there, Andy is currently collating the on-Island training package for delivery to staff, so that international standards are achieved and maintained.

Prior to working on St Helena, Andy was Country Manager for a large fuel company based in Afghanistan and Dubai, ensuring all major military airports had the correct fuel, at the correct standards and quantities and at the right time to maintain operational effectiveness.

Before then he had a full time career in the British Army as a Petroleum Operator.

Andy commented:

“I am excited about my role on St Helena. I am used to working under pressure to tight deadlines but also ensuring that health and safety and environmental concerns are addressed and corners are not cut.”



Fuels Manager, Andy Simpson

Penspen Subcontracts Solomon & Company (St Helena)

Since 2012, Solomon & Company (St Helena) has been working closely with Penspen Ltd (formerly Greystar Europe) with a view to supporting the Fuel Management Contract when the new Bulk Fuel Installation (BFI) is complete and operational.

Solomon & Company was therefore delighted to learn that Penspen had been awarded the Fuel Management Contract for an operational period of 10 years. Penspen Head of Operations, Phil Bloomfield, and his team, made a first visit to St Helena in October 2014 and subsequently, during the Penspen visit in April 2015, Solomon & Company were pleased to sign a sub-contract with Penspen which will enable the existing BFI staff to transfer to the new sub-contract arrangement and to be a part of the new BFI operations.

Penspen On-Island Fuels Manager, Andy Simpson, arrived in April 2015 and two of Solomon's BFI staff, Gregory Plato and Daniel Bowers left for the UK on 20 June 2015 for a period of attachment and training with Penspen. Other Penspen personnel will continue to visit St Helena in the months ahead and training will be on-going as the transition to the new BFI progresses.

New LEMP Conservation Leader

The Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Programme (LEMP) welcomed new team member, Paul Cherrett, on 26 May 2015. Paul is the new Conservation Team Leader whose role is to lead and support the LEMP Field Teams and the operations at the Half Tree Hollow Nursery. This involves planning and organising the team's workload and liaising with all stakeholders on and off-Island. Paul's role also encompasses procurement of materials, data collection, reporting, health and safety, recruitment and staff management.

Paul commented:

“I joined the LEMP team as I have a keen interest in conservation on St Helena and therefore took the unique opportunity to be involved in the biggest conservation project on the Island.”

Paul is primarily based at the Air Access Office (2nd Floor of Post Office) but will also spend time at the LEMP Nursery and at the Airport site.



LEMP Conservation Leader, Paul Cherrett

Stakeholder Engagement Forum

A stakeholder engagement meeting was held at St Michael's Church, Rupert's Valley, on Wednesday 3 June 2015. PMU Environmental Monitor, Robert Kleinjan, provided an overview of progress on the Airport Project as well as a look ahead for the coming months, with a particular focus on activities in Rupert's Valley.

Fuels Manager, Andy Simpson, introduced himself and his company, Penspen, which will be operating the new Bulk Fuel Installation and Basil Read's Building Manager, Derrick Alexander, provided information about the new Sea Rescue Building, now under construction adjacent to the Argos building.

LEMP Project Manager, Ross Towers, concluded the meeting elaborating on site rehabilitation plans for Rupert's Valley presented previously to residents.

Following the presentations the meeting broke up into smaller groups discussing specific areas of interest to the audience.