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SHG Press Office

SA Airlink - Preferred Bidder for St Helena Airport

SA Airlink has been chosen as the preferred bidder for the provision of a scheduled commercial air service to St Helena.



SA Airlink making its way to St Helena Airport

St Helena Government (SHG) has now entered into a period of contractual negotiations with SA Airlink. It is anticipated that a formal announcement will be made in the coming weeks on completion of negotiations and contract signing.

It is at this point SHG will be able to confirm details such as the commencement date, frequency, aircraft type, the international hub and connecting airports. Details on the cost of fares and sales distribution will be released shortly after contract signing.

The public is asked to be patient during this period of negotiation after which all of the details outlined above will be publicised.

LEMP Update

The Landscape Ecology & Mitigation Programme (LEMP) is making good progress in its work to reinstate areas affected by the construction of the Airport and new road. Sites planted in Bottom Woods are becoming well established with some self-sown seedlings of the Island's native endemic plants, which are beginning to come through.

Over the past year, LEMP has erected 5.6km of fencing (mainly rabbit proof fencing) and laid irrigation over 1.3 hectares of land. More than 27,000 plants have been planted and mulched, using 17.8m³ of mulch, with a further 33,000 new seedlings being potted out at the LEMP nursery.

There is a lot to achieve this year, but good progress is being made with early works focussing on fencing and other site preparations ready for planting to start in late June/ July.



LEMP Workers at Bottomwoods

Haul Road Remains Closed

The public is reminded that the Haul Road - from Rupert's through to Reggie's Takeaway at Bottom Woods - remains a part of the Airport Project and is still a construction site.

The road is therefore closed to all members of the public.

The public is thanked for their cooperation.



Road Closure sign at Rupert's

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Airport Operations Team Returns From Work Placement Training

Following a month of intensive training and work placement experience, Tessa Roberts and James Kellett returned to St Helena last month, to continue their roles in the Airport Operations section of the Airport Directorate. Their time away began with three days at London City Airport, with their Airside Safety Team. Both met with a number of teams at London City including Airside Operations, Air Traffic Control, Rescue & Fire Fighting, Bird Management, Ramp Services, and Health & Safety. They also got practical experience of airside operations, including overseeing the turnaround of aircraft, ramp audits and runway inspections.



Tessa and James attending a training course in Atlanta

Tessa and James also spent nine days at Jersey Airport, meeting with the same teams as London City, and visiting other teams involved with the airport including Terminal Services, Commercial & Revenue Management, Marketing & Communications, and the Corporate/General Aviation Management Company. Prior to their departure from Jersey, Tessa also got the opportunity to fly a Piper Warrior II aircraft as it took a scenic tour of the Island.

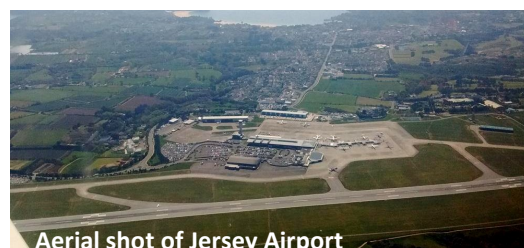
Back in the UK, Tessa and James had various meetings with Air Safety Support International (ASSI), the UK Department for Transport (DFT) and the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB), before flying to Atlanta USA for a week's intensive training course. The course is the first of four in a training package designed for airport professionals. They were introduced to topics such as airports as businesses, the Chicago Convention, public & private aviation law, risks to aviation and their management, subsidies & competition, and how major events have shaped the aviation industry. The course also required them to work with their fellow students, in small groups, to deliver three presentations to the tutors and participants. Following their successful completion of the course, Tessa and James will continue their professional development over the coming years in an effort to achieve an Associate Diploma - an internationally-recognised qualification - issued to airport professionals by the Airports Council International (ACI) in conjunction with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Speaking of her experience, Tessa said:

"I would like to thank all involved for making our work placements and the training course possible. I have benefited from them a great deal as I now have a better understanding of the aviation world. I look forward to continuing my study to further develop my knowledge in aviation and to apply what I have learnt to my role within the Airport Directorate."

James added:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the work placements and training course. The work placements at the two airports gave me a better sense of how international airports operate. Likewise, the meetings with various behind-the-scenes teams also gave me a good insight into how airports are run and how they can become successful businesses in their own right."



Aerial shot of Jersey Airport

"I look forward to applying my work placement experience and knowledge gained from the training course in my role as Deputy Airport Contracts Manager."

Tessa and James will use the knowledge and skills gained from the work placements to assist them in their management of the contracts SHG has with the Airport Operator, Air Service Provider, Fuel Management Contractor, and the UK Met Office.

Permanent Installation of LiDAR at St Helena Airport

For three months in the latter part of 2016, a LiDAR (Light Detection & Ranging) unit was temporarily installed at St Helena Airport. LiDAR uses a beam of light to detect the movement of air in order to determine instances of turbulence and windshear. The successful trial of LiDAR gathered valuable information relating to the conditions on the approaches to the Airport and this data is being fed into the wider work, to better understand and predict the flying conditions in its vicinity.

A business case to install a permanent LiDAR at St Helena Airport has recently been agreed and work is due to start on determining the optimum site, installing & commissioning the equipment. The information produced by the LiDAR system will be used to inform pilots of the conditions on the approach to the Airport from the north, as well as for flight planning purposes in order to enhance operational safety.

A spokesman from the MET Office said:

"The LiDAR will provide our Airport Meteorologist and Air Traffic Control with invaluable additional data to help support accurate forecasting and observations of the wind flow and turbulence along the approach to Runway 20."

The implementation of LiDAR will allow St Helena Airport to continue to build-up a database of information on the weather conditions at and around the airfield, allowing for a more accurate forecast to be made.