

**ST. JOHN'S**  
*International Airport Authority*

**For Immediate Release**

## **Media Statement**

### **Category III ILS Enables Flight Operations During First Low-Visibility Event**

*More than 900 airline passengers were able to travel on Friday despite extreme low visibility conditions*

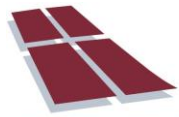
**For Monday, April 25, 2016** – Weather conditions at St. John's International Airport on Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> required the first official use of the new Category III Instrument Landing System (Cat 3 ILS) technology that became operational at the Airport in January of this year. The system operated successfully, as planned. As a result, more than 900 airline passengers were able to travel as scheduled despite the extreme low-visibility conditions experienced during an approximate 12 hour period.

Between 0830 and 2100 local time on Friday, eight flights operated on schedule utilizing Cat 3 ILS and low visibility technology. While two aircraft attempted to land, the forward visibility at the time of approach was less than the minimum 600' required for authorized landings in Canada utilizing this technology. Four other flights were cancelled for reasons unrelated to low visibility operations.

In addition to the commercial airlines, cargo and helicopter aircraft operations continued as a result of the implementation of this new instrument landing system. Without this technology being deployed, all aircraft arrivals would have been cancelled.

The extreme combination of fog and winds made flight operations challenging on Friday, especially for some of the smaller, regional airlines that are not equipped to utilize the new technology.

Eighty per cent (80%) of all passenger traffic at St. John's International Airport is handled by two national airline carriers: Air Canada and WestJet. These airlines have been very strong supporters of the Cat 3 ILS implementation at the Airport, and both have aircraft and crew capability to utilize Cat 3 ILS operations. While not every aircraft in the airlines' entire fleets are yet capable to operate using this advanced technology, we have been assured by each airline that during low-visibility events, the appropriate aircraft and crews will be deployed at St. John's International Airport. We will be working with the airlines to encourage them to be prepared to fully utilize this technology for all their flight operations prior to the next low visibility event, and for decades to come.



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