



ST. JOHN'S
International Airport Authority

For Immediate Release

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New Instrument Landing Systems Significantly Improve Reliability of Flight Operations

Approximately 920 flights operated on schedule during low visibility conditions in 2016 as a result of the new Category III Instrument Landing Systems at St. John's International Airport

- **Approximately 920 flights operated on schedule in 2016 as a result of new instrument landing systems**
- **Results in year one of operation exceeded expectations (40 flights disrupted versus 300 estimated)**
- **Airfield accessibility increased to 99% during low visibility conditions**
- **Only airport in Canada with an annual passenger volume of less than 10 million to employ this technology**

ST. JOHN'S, NL – St. John's International Airport Authority announced today that after its first full year of operation, the newly installed Category III Instrument Landing System (Cat 3 ILS) resulted in a significant improvement in the reliability of flight operations at the Airport. An estimated 920 flights that would have previously been impacted by low visibility conditions were able to operate on schedule as a result of this new system in 2016.

While 2016 was less foggy than an average year, a total of 291 hours (or 12 days) in which the forward visibility was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or less (CAT 3 ILS conditions) was recorded at St. John's International Airport. All flights operating into and out of the Airport under these low visibility conditions (approximately 960) would have been delayed, diverted or cancelled prior to the installation of the new instrument landing systems. As a result of the new systems, less than 40 flights were impacted due to low visibility conditions in 2016.

"The positive impact that this system has had on the accessibility of our Airport in year one has surpassed our expectations. While 2016 had less low visibility conditions than an average year, there is no doubt that the benefit of this enhanced technology goes beyond the more than 900 flights and accompanying passengers that were able to arrive and depart as scheduled last year. In the long term, the improved reliability of our Airport will reverse our region's reputation for being an inaccessible location, especially during the foggy season," said Glenn Mahon, Director of Operations at St. John's International Airport Authority.

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The implementation of this new instrument landing system creates substantial, long-term benefits to the Airport, passengers, airlines and the entire community. With greater predictability of flight operations for leisure and business travellers, the region will experience increased opportunities for tourism and conventions year-round. A significant reduction in the number of flights impacted by low visibility conditions also results in major cost savings to the airlines and an improved level of customer service for passengers.

The St. John's International Airport supports an average of 80 commercial flight operations each day. In total, the Airport handles approximately 45,000 aircraft movements each year with general aviation, cargo, corporate and military traffic included. Cat 3 ILS improves the level of service for many of these operations as well.

The initial study that was conducted to determine the benefits of the implementation of Cat 3 ILS at St. John's International Airport estimated 1000 flights and 100,000 passengers annually are impacted by low visibility conditions. With the implementation of Cat 3 ILS, it was estimated that the impact on flight operations would be reduced to 300 flights and 30,000 passengers annually.

The Airfield Accessibility and Safety Initiative was a cost-shared project between St. John's International Airport Authority, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of Canada. This three-year, \$37.3 million infrastructure project was required to support the installation and operation of the new instrument landing systems by NAV Canada. The project was completed on budget and ahead of schedule when the Instrument Landing Systems were commissioned and became operational on both ends of the primary runway (R11-29) in January 2016. The implementation of these new landing systems has increased the airfield's accessibility to 99% during low visibility conditions.

The St. John's International Airport is the fourth airport in Canada to utilize this technology, and the only Canadian airport serving less than 10 million passengers annually.

St. John's International Airport Authority is a private, not-for-profit organization with the mandate to provide the region with a safe, cost-efficient transportation facility that is a catalyst for economic growth. Under the provisions of a long-term Ground Lease with the Federal Government of Canada, the Airport Authority is responsible for the airport's operations on behalf of the community it serves.

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