

= Teddy Air =

Teddy Air AS was a regional airline , based at Skien Airport , Geiteryggen , in Norway . Operating between 1989 and 2004 , the company operated Britten @-@ Norman Islander , Embraer 110 and Saab 340 aircraft . The company started by providing a scheduled service between Skien and Oslo in 1990 , followed by services to Stavanger in 1993 and Bergen in 1994 . In 1996 , it won a contract with the Ministry of Transport from Oslo to Fagernes . It was involved in intense competition with other regional airlines , notably Coast Air and Guard Air , following the deregulation of the aviation market . It also had a single international service to Gothenburg , and from 1999 it served Stord Airport , Sørstokken . From 1999 , the company was transformed to a virtual airline , which wet leased aircraft from Golden Air . The company ceased operations in 2004 .

= = History = =

= = = Establishment = = =

In April 1988 , Norwegian regional airline Norving terminated all scheduled services in Southern Norway . As a consequence , airports such as Skien Airport , Geiteryggen , were left without an airline and services to the capital , Oslo . Teddy Air was subsequently established as a Skien @-@ based company to provide an air route between Skien and Oslo Airport , Fornebu . Founded by Harald Sørensen in 1989 , the largest owners were Skien Business Development Fund and Telemark Business Development Fund . It would provide four round trips with a Britten @-@ Norman Islander . The company stated that it needed 8 @,@ 000 passengers annually to cover costs , with the ticket price set at about 500 Norwegian krone ( NOK ) . The fiercest competition would come from the Vestfold Line of the Norwegian State Railways , where a train from Skien to Oslo ran each hour . The three @-@ hour train trip cost NOK 167 , compared to the 25 @-@ minute flight . Concession was granted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications in August 1989 , but the airline did not commence operations until 18 July 1990 .

In Grenland , the metropolitan area surrounding Skien , there was a lot of opposition to the airline , and several local businesspeople claimed that it would be better if Norsk Air was awarded the contract , or Skien Airport was closed and locals instead used the nearby Sandefjord Airport , Torp . Norsk Air stated that it would not be possible for them to make money on the Skien ? Oslo route ; despite that , it operated from Skien to Bergen Airport , Flesland and Stavanger Airport , Sola . In 1993 , Norsk Air announced that it would no longer fly from Skien , and would focus all their operations at Sandefjord . Teddy Air subsequently took over the Stavanger route , while the Bergen route was granted to Air Stord , despite Teddy Air having applied for the concession . In 1994 , the company had a revenue of NOK 7 @.@ 5 million , and a NOK 1 million profit .

= = = Expansion = = =

Following the deregulation of the airline market in 1994 , which allowed any European Economic Area @-@ airline to operate any route they wished , Teddy Air tried to start services at Moss Airport , Rygge . Since it at the time was the military @-@ only Rygge Air Station , with no passenger facilities , the airline was not successful in receiving permission . However , it did choose to start competing with Air Stord on the Skien ? Bergen route , starting 8 May 1995 . Using its Embraer 110 aircraft , it launched tickets for under NOK 1000 , compared with the NOK 1290 price offered by Air Stord . The latter had aircraft half the size , but offered 31 flights per week , compared to the 16 offered by Teddy Air . In addition , Coast Air launched two weekly round trips . The routes were mainly used by commuters working on offshore oil platforms in the North Sea . By 1995 , 60 percent of the airline had been bought by Hermann Løvenskiold .

In 1996 , the company won the first public service obligation tender that was issued by the Ministry of Transport and Communications . Starting 1 August , Teddy Air started serving Fagernes Airport ,

Leirin , with routes to Oslo and Bergen . The contract gave a subsidy of NOK 23 @.@ 7 million for three years , and was 15 percent lower than what Coast Air had been receiving . On 20 May 1997 , Teddy Air started its first international route , from Stavanger to Gothenburg in Sweden .

After the 1998 opening of Oslo Airport , Gardermoen , which is located 50 kilometers ( 31 mi ) north of Oslo , both Teddy Air and Guard Air announced they would start routes to the new airport . Both established six daily round trips ? Teddy Air using an Embraer 110 and Guard Air using a Dornier 228 . The new airport would make driving to the Oslo Airport about an hour longer from Grenland , and both airlines hoped to create a feeder service . Teddy Air withdrew from the route after one month , after having lost more than NOK 1 million .

In February 1999 , Air Stord filed for bankruptcy . On 21 February , Teddy Air launched a route between Stord Airport , Sørstokken , and Oslo , using Saab 340 aircraft . This allowed four daily round trips during the week , and two on Sundays . Other airlines saw the route as attractive , and Coast Air launched eight daily round trips between the two airports . Teddy Air was soon forced to withdraw from the route , after it was unable to make any profits from it . The Fagernes routes were lost from 1 August 1999 , when the contract was won by Widerøe .

= = = Virtual airline = = =

Following the steep decline in routes , the company was reorganized into a virtual airline in 1999 . All operations were taken over by the Swedish airline Golden Air , who would operate the Saab 340 aircraft . At the same time , Golden Air bought half of Teddy Air . In October , Coast Air announced that they had too few aircraft to continue flying from Stord , and would terminate operations . Teddy Air became the only airline to serve Stord . 1999 returned a loss of NOK 6 @.@ 9 million . In 2004 , Teddy Air terminated all services . The contract with Golden Air was discontinued , and the hangar at Geiteryggen was sold . The company remained on paper until 2005 , when the equity was gone and the entity was dissolved .

= = Destinations = =

The following is a list of destinations served by Teddy Air :