

= Røst Airport =

Røst Airport (Norwegian : Røst lufthavn ; IATA : RET , ICAO : ENRS) is a regional airport serving the Røst , Norway. located on the northern edge of the main island of Røstlandet . It is owned and operated by the state @-@ owned Avinor and handled 9 @,@ 889 passengers in 2014 . Services are provided by Widerøe , operating Dash 8 @-@ 100 aircraft on contract with the Ministry of Transport and Communications to Bodø Airport and Leknes Airport .

Røst was first served using seaplanes from the 1960s , and then by helicopters from 1970 . Røst Airport opened on 1 June 1986 , initially with Widerøe operating de Havilland Canada Twin Otters . From 2000 to 2001 the service was operated by Guard Air , and from 2003 to 2008 by Kato Air ; otherwise Widerøe has flown the route .

= = History = =

Services to Røst started in 1965 , when Widerøe commenced seaplane services to the island using de Havilland Canada Otters and Noorduyn Norseman aircraft . The routes were operated two to three times per week as a charter service , with subsidies from the municipalities of Værøy and Røst . Helikopter Service flew between Bodø Airport to Røst and Værøy ? an island community further inland from Røst ? with three weekly services from 1973 . The helicopters doubled as serving for search and rescue duty ; in case they were needed for the latter flights to Værøy and Røst were cancelled . The regional airports in Lofoten and Vesterålen opened in 1972 , with the Værøy and Røst service being taken over by Widerøe on 1 September 1973 . As they did not want to operate helicopters , they subcontracted the operations to Helilift . The service operated twice per day on weekdays and once per day in the weekends , using two sixteen @-@ seat Sikorsky S @-@ 58Ts . Subsidies of 1 @.@ 9 million Norwegian krone (NOK) was granted for the route in 1973 , and the service transported 5 @,@ 359 passengers (from both Røst and Værøy) .

One of the helicopters was bought by Widerøe in December 1976 and the operations were subcontracted to Offshore Helicopters . The second Sikorsky was bought from Helilift in March 1978 and also operated by Offshore Helicopters . Helikopter Service merged with Offshore Helicopters in 1980 , and the new Helikopter Service took over the route . They introduced an eleven @-@ seat Bell 212 helicopters from 1 January 1982 because of the high maintenance costs of the S @-@ 58Ts . In 1982 the service to both islands handled 7 @,@ 145 passengers and three tonnes of post and cargo , and made 744 landings . It received subsidies for NOK 4 million .

Plans for an airport with short take @-@ off and landing flights was launched by the government in December 1983 . The airport was proposed along with five other regional airport : Fagernes Airport , Leirin ; Førde Airport , Bringeland ; Mosjøen Airport , Kjærstad ; Rørvik Airport , Ryum and Værøy Airport . The plans were passed by Parliament on 10 April 1984 and construction started in 1985 . On 22 August 1985 the municipality was granted concession to operate the airport . Værøy and Røst Airports were opened on 1 June 1986 , with Røst Airport having cost about NOK 15 million to build .

The Civil Aviation Administration proposed in 1994 closing the airport along with eight other regional airports , because they had high subsidy levels . Røst Airport was nationalized on 1 January 1997 , along with 25 other regional airports , and placed under the control of the Norwegian Civil Airport Administration (now Avinor) .

= = = Service = = =

After the airport opened , services started with Widerøe @-@ operated twenty @-@ seat de Havilland Canada DHC @-@ 6 Twin Otters . The airline operated two trips Bodø ? Røst ? Værøy ? Bodø on weekdays and one round trip during the weekend . In addition , there were two weekly trips that connected Værøy to Leknes Airport before returning to Bodø . The service was subsidized by the Ministry of Transport and Communications . Widerøe replaced the Twin Otters with 37 @-@ seat de Havilland Canada DHC @-@ 8 @-@ 100 Dash 8s in 1995 . The route from Bodø to Røst

was made subject to public service obligation from 1 April 1997 , which was won by the incumbent , after beating Valdresfly and Helikopter Service in the auction . The following contract , valid from 1 April 2000 , was awarded to Guard Air , but this company folded in 2001 . Helikopter Service operated the route temporarily until Widerøe took it over again the same year .

On 1 April 2003 , Kato Air took over the Bodø ? Røst route , using Dornier Do 228 aircraft . The new airline had a troubled start with the passenger numbers dropping by 27 percent . On 4 December , a flight from Røst to Bodø was hit by lightning , and received severe damage during the landing at Bodø . The choice of the operator was criticized by the Røst Municipal Council following the incident , stated that the ministry had prioritized price over safety . The council stated that they did not feel that Kato Air provided the same service as Widerøe and that the aircraft were a safety hazard . Among the complaints were lack of accessibility for disabled people , no cabin pressurization , no weather radar , more expensive tickets , no discounted tickets and no possibility for carry @-@ on baggage . In February 2006 , there was a wave of cancellations by Kato Air , due to technical problems with both the airline 's aircraft . In June , the airline 's pilots started selling tickets themselves at the airport . The company stated that this was because they had declined Widerøe to do this because of higher costs . The Civil Aviation Authority of Norway withdrew Kato Air 's concession in 2008 due to lack on maintenance . On an interim basis , the helicopter airline Lufthansa , that operated the route to the nearby island of Værøy , took over the route from 5 September to 29 October , when Widerøe started flying again .

= = Facilities = =

Røst Airport is a regional airport owned and operated by Avinor . It serves the island of Røstlandet , the most remote island in the Lofoten archipelago . It has a terminal building with a capacity for 40 passengers per hour . The largest aircraft that can operate at the airport are the Dash 8 @-@ 100 . There is free parking at the airport for 20 vehicles . Taxis can be prebooked . The airport resides at an elevation of 3 meters (9 @.@ 8 feet) above mean sea level . It has one runway designated 03 ? 21 with an asphalt surface measuring 880 by 30 meters (2 @,@ 887 ft × 98 ft) .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

The airport is served twice daily with a de Havilland Canada DHC @-@ 8 @-@ 100 Dash 8 by Widerøe . Flight operate from Bodø Airport via Røst to Leknes Airport before returning to Bodø . The routes are operated as a public service obligation on contract with the Ministry of Transport and Communications .