

= Sørkjosen Airport =

Sørkjosen Airport (Norwegian : Sørkjosen lufthavn ; IATA : SOJ , ICAO : ENSR) is a regional airport located at Sørkjosen in Nordreisa , Norway , 4 @. @ 5 kilometres (2 @. @ 8 mi) from the municipal center of Storslett . Owned and operated by the state @- @ owned Avinor , it handled 15 @, @ 198 passengers in 2014 . The airport has a 880 @- @ meter (2 @, @ 890 ft) runway and is served by Widerøe , which operates regional routes using the Dash 8 @- @ 100 to Tromsø and communities in Finnmark on public service obligation contracts . The airport opened in 1974 and was originally served using de Havilland Canada Twin Otter aircraft . Dash 8s were introduced in 1995 and two years later ownership was transferred from Nordreisa Municipality to the state .

= History =

Sørkjosen was launched as part of a national network of regional short take @- @ off and landing airport which was proposed in the mid @- @ 1960s . The final decision to build the airport was taken by Parliament in 1972 . Both Widerøe and Norving applied to operate the subsidized regional routes in Finnmark , which included the route to Sørkjosen . Widerøe was awarded the contract in 1973 . Sørkjosen Airport opened on 1 August 1974 , the same day as four regional airports in Finnmark .

A new fire station , serving both the airport and the municipality , was completed in 1992 , costing 3 @. @ 2 million Norwegian krone . A five @- @ week strike by three employees took place in 1992 , where they demanded a collective agreement . The strike stopped all traffic at the airport , but the employees never received their demands . The Civil Aviation Administration (later renamed Avinor) recommended in 1994 that Sørkjosen and eight other airports be considered closed , as they had high costs and low patronage . Widerøe served the airport using Twin Otters until 1995 , when they were replaced by the Dash 8 . The airport received subsidies of 3 @. @ 9 million Norwegian krone (NOK) in 1996 , which allowed the airport to operate with a profit of NOK 1 @. @ 4 million . The state and the Civil Aviation Administration took over ownership and operations of the airport from 1 January 1997 , in exchange for NOK 3 @. @ 9 million being paid to Nordreisa Municipality . Ground handling remained a municipal responsibility . Flights to Sørkjosen have been subject to public service obligations since 1 April 1997 .

In the mid @- @ 1990s , Nordreisa Municipal Council attempted to change the airport 's name from Sørkjosen to Nordreisa . They argued that it was necessary to use the Nordreisa name to market the region as a tourist destination . The application was rejected by the Ministry of Transport and Communications , who stated that airports were required by regulation to be named after a settlement rather than a municipality . Airport security was introduced on 1 January 2005 . This required the terminal to be slightly rebuilt ; while it previously had a common departure and arrivals hall , it had to be separated into two areas . The municipality therefore decided to transfer the ownership of the ground handling service to the three employees . Avinor carried out a major upgrade to the runway safety area and landing lights in 2008 and 2009 . The investments cost NOK 40 million . The expansion of the safety area resulted in part of the lot of Birkelund Sawmill being expropriated .

= Facilities =

The airport has a 880 @- @ by @- @ 30 @- @ meter (2 @, @ 887 by 98 ft) asphalt runway aligned 15 ? 33 (roughly north ? south) . The airport consists of a passenger terminal and an operations building . The terminal has a capacity of sixty passengers per hour and one airliner on the apron . Twenty people work at the airport , which is five minutes from Storslett . Free parking , taxis and car rental is available .

= Airlines and destinations =

Sørkjosen Airport is served by Widerøe with Dash 8 @- @ 100 aircraft connecting the community

with Tromsø and airports in Finnmark . The routes are operated on public service obligation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications . The airport had 15 @, @ 198 passengers , 2 @, @ 343 aircraft movements and handled 0 tonnes of cargo in 2014 . Sørkjosen 's catchment area covers northern Troms and the airport is the only regional airport in the county .