

= Båtsfjord Airport =

Båtsfjord Airport (Norwegian : Båtsfjord lufthavn , IATA : BJF , ICAO : ENBS) is a regional airport serving Båtsfjord in Finnmark , Norway . It consists of a 1 @, @ 000 by 30 meters (3 @, @ 281 by 98 ft) runway and served 12 @, @ 363 passengers in 2014 . Scheduled services are provided by Widerøe using the Dash 8 to Kirkenes , Hammerfest and other communities in Finnmark . The airport is owned and operated by the state @-@ owned Avinor .

It is the second airport in Båtsfjord . The first was built in 1973 , but only had a gravel runway . When Widerøe replaced their smaller de Havilland Canada Twin Otters with the Dash 8 , a new airport was needed to serve Båtsfjord . The new airport cost 178 million Norwegian krone and opened on 9 September 1999 .

= History =

The first airline to operate to Båtsfjord was Varangfly , later renamed Norving , who flew seaplane taxi and ambulance flights in the early 1960s . Construction of an airfield in Båtsfjorddalen was started by the aviation club Båtsfjord Flyklubb in 1972 and completed in May 1973 . It consisted of an 800 @-@ meter (2 @, @ 600 ft) gravel runway and was served with regular flights by Norving . The municipality took over ownership of the airport in 1976 . Norving remained the sole operator until 1990 , when the routes were taken over by Widerøe using the Twin Otter .

The Ministry of Transport and Communications announced in February 1993 that they were considering taking over ownership and operations of the airport through the Civil Aviation Administration (CAA , later renamed Avinor) . In December , Widerøe articulated that Båtsfjord Airport did not meet the demands for future operation as it lacked proper navigational aids and an asphalt runway . Widerøe stated that with the introduction of the Dash 8 , which would be phased in between 1993 and 1995 , they would no longer be able to serve the airport . The CAA stated , instead , that the new airport should be built , estimated to cost between 70 and 80 million Norwegian krone (NOK) . The main reason was that the former airport was poorly located in relation to the terrain , being located in a valley . In April 1994 the ministry stated that they were considering closing many of the smallest regional airports , including Båtsfjord .

In April 1995 , when Parliament decided to nationalize twenty @-@ six regional airports owned by their respective municipalities , they also debated a proposal to build a new airport in Båtsfjord . At the time Widerøe was obliged to operate routes to the airport until 31 March 1997 . In December 1995 , Widerøe took delivery of their fifteenth Dash 8 and thus their only need for a Twin Otter was to serve Båtsfjord . From 1994 to 1997 , the cost estimates for the new airport increased from NOK 95 to 125 million . By June 1998 , Parliament approved additional funding which brought the cost to NOK 178 million , including a new county road for NOK 8 million . The airport opened on 9 September 1999 . From the opening Widerøe used the Twin Otter until 1 April 2000 , when the route was taken over by larger Dash 8 aircraft . Airport security was introduced on 1 January 2005 .

= Facilities =

The terminal consists of a single building , with an integrated control tower , capable of handling 120 passengers per hour . The facade is covered in Russian larch ; the focus on wood as a dominant material was common for Norwegian architecture the 1990s , and is also seen at Oslo Airport , Gardermoen (opened in 1998) and for the venues of the 1994 Winter Olympics . The terminal was designed by Alta @-@ based architect Solveig Thorsen and is shaped like an aircraft wing , similar to the terminal building at Gardermoen . There is a single gate at the airport , which prior to the installation of security control was 17 steps from the entrance .

The airport resides at an elevation of 149 meters (489 ft) above mean sea level . The runway is designated 03 ? 21 , with an asphalt surface measuring 1 @, @ 000 by 30 meters (3 @, @ 281 by 98 ft) . SCAT @-@ I , a Global Positioning System @-@ based landing system , is under deployment . It is possible to extend the runway to 1 @, @ 200 meters (3 @, @ 900 ft) if desirable

in the future . The tarmac has space for three simultaneous aircraft . The airport is located ten minutes ' drive (7 km / 4 mi) from the town center . There are taxis , paid parking and car rental available , but no bus service .

= = Airlines and destinations = =

All services from the airport are operated by Widerøe with 39 @-@ seat Dash @-@ 8 @-@ 100 aircraft . All routes , though not necessarily direct , fly to either Kirkenes Airport , Høybuktnoen , Hammerfest Airport or Tromsø Airport . The routes from Båtsfjord are operated on a public service obligation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications . The airport served 12 @,@ 363 passengers , 2 @,@ 494 aircraft movements and handled 3 tons of cargo in 2012 . The airport operated with a deficit of NOK 20 million in 2012 .