

Successful first landing by passenger aircraft using Remote Towers in the Arctic



Aviation history was made when the Remote Tower Centre in Bodø, Norway went “live” on the 19th of October. The Remote Tower Centre successfully guided its first commercial passenger flight to the Arctic airport of Røst in Norway.

[Bodø, Norway – Saturday 19th of October 2019] The Remote Towers project in Norway is a collaboration between the airport and air navigation service provider Avinor and the technology companies Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace and Indra.

-After many years of planning, developing and testing it is a pleasure to announce that the new technology has been successfully used within a regular commercial air traffic service with passengers. The remote towers technology is an important capability enabling a sustainable aviation service in the rural areas of Norway, many of which are in the Arctic. The Remote Towers technology is also dimensioned for large airports. It also provides us with the opportunity to build a robust knowledge hub for tower operators, which today are stationed in small towers in rural communities. When fully rolled out the Remote Towers will ensure more cost-effective airport operations and better accessibility to regional airports, says Avinor CEO, Mr. Dag Falk-Petersen.

Equal or better safety than conventional towers

An absolute requirement before getting the final approval from the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority is that the Remote Towers technology can provide equal or better safety standards

compared to conventional towers at airports. The system has now received its first stamp of approval.

-Safety is always the highest priority within aviation. While we are still technically in a test mode, the first commercial passenger flight completed marks an important milestone for us. We had good contact and visuals with the aircraft during the entire approach and landing. The Remote Tower system functioned optimally in this operation. We have had a close dialogue with the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authorities since the beginning of this project, which has been important when introducing new technology into such a safety orientated industry, says Jan Østby, Project Director for Remote Towers at Avinor Air Navigation Services.

High precision military technology used within civil aviation

Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace and Indra Navia delivered technology that Avinor Air Navigation Services has used for the first time.

-Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace is proud to be working together with Avinor in developing and implementing the most comprehensive remote tower launch in the world. The technical solution is in a class of its own – it is unique in both the sensor technology and secure remote control system between the airport and the air traffic control center. Going live with the first airport is a major milestone for Kongsberg as well, and is a result of a great partnership between the industry team and Avinor, says Eirik Lie, President of Kongsberg Defence and Aerospace.

- Through SESAR projects and in collaboration with Avinor we are developing our InNOVA tower system so air traffic controllers will be able to remotely manage multiple airports. With all relevant information on a single integrated screen, and reliable communication via our GAREX voice communication systems, controllers get full situational awareness. We are proud to be part of this important project and look forward to the continuation, says Elin Blakstad, Director of Tower Systems at Indra.

World's largest Remote Tower Centre in the making

-Parallel to rolling out the new technology, Avinor is also currently building the World's largest Remote Tower Centre in Bodø, Norway which is due to open in the second half of 2020. This will accommodate 15 airports by 2022.

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