

AIRPORT OF RODRIGUES LTD

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RUNWAY AT PLAINE CORAIL, RODRIGUES

Project Brief – 15 September 2023



Airport of Rodrigues Ltd.

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New Runway Project at Plaine Corail Airport

1 Introduction

Rodrigues relies heavily on the tourism sector for its economic development. Due to its remote location, 560 kilometres from Mauritius, air transport is vital to the island in every respect and specifically more important from social and economic perspective.

The tourism sector relies heavily on adequate air transport facilities to and from Rodrigues. This involves both the airport itself as well as the airline services that are offered. Therefore, it is essential to enhance the operational facilities of the airport to cater for larger aircraft types that can operate efficiently hence reducing the unit of air travel.

In recognising the importance of the aviation sector for Rodrigues's economy, the Government of Mauritius and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (RRA) have decided to proceed with Plaine Corail Airport's expansion, capacity and service level upgrade.

The project consists of the construction of a new Runway with provision of the various airport facilities to support operations of A321 Neo/ B 737 type of aircrafts.

2 Scope of the Project

The scope of works of the construction of the new runway and associated facilities shall consist of the following:

- Construction of a new runway 2.1 km long x 45m wide in marshall asphalt, including shoulders and Turn Pads for A321 Neo type aircraft.
- Construction of 15m wide new Code C taxiways with shoulders to link the existing runway to the new runway
- Rehabilitation and strengthening of part of pavement of existing runway to be used as a taxiway for A321 Neo type aircraft.
- Construction of three new aircraft parking stands for A321 Neo type aircraft including the two connecting taxiways.
- Construction of an isolated apron including the connecting taxiway.
- Provision of stormwater drains alongside new runway and taxiways.
- Provision of AGL and Control Systems for the new runway
- Provision of floodlighting and ground power units for apron
- Provision of Nav aids for the new Runway, i.e. Provision of DVOR-DME and NDB navigation equipment: and relocation of VSAT.
- New perimeter road, service road, fencing, Gate Post and access roads
- Car Park and Landscaping Works
- New Power Supply System and Water Supply System

The following building infrastructure will also be constructed:

1. New control tower comprising of all ancillary facilities
2. New Rescue and Fire Fighting Station with all associated amenities
3. New Ground Service Equipment Hangar
4. Boat House, Ramp and Jetty
5. New Meteo Building, Quarantine Building, Power Centre Building, Cold Storage and Incinerator Building with all associated amenities

The scope of the project has not allowed for the extension or upgrading of the existing passenger terminal building. However, a terminal capacity assessment has been commissioned by ARL. Terminal expansion will be considered when the need arises, commensurate with traffic.

As per the Airport Masterplan, the existing runway will be decommissioned when the new runway becomes operational. Part of the existing runway will be converted into taxiway.

3 Cost Estimate

The updated cost estimate as per above scope of construction works was submitted by the Design Consultant on 28 July 2023 and amounts to MUR 7.6 billion excluding VAT.

4 Funding

Funding for the project is under consideration. It is planned that the Government of Mauritius contracts a loan of approx. USD 184 million from the World Bank, and a grand of EUR 16 million be provided by the European Union (EU) for a total project cost of approx. USD 200 million. This amount is expected to finance the airport infrastructure works, technical assistance for the implementation of the project as well as to finance projects under the integrated development plan for Rodrigues in the water, food security and tourism sectors.

A delegation of the World Bank was on a Project Appraisal mission to Rodrigues from 22 to 24 August 2023. Negotiation meetings between the World Bank and the Government of Mauritius (Ministry of Finance) were also held on 28 and 29 August 2023. It is expected that the funding of the project be tabled at the World Bank Board of Directors meeting of 29 September 2023.

5 Way Forward and Timeline

Once the financing is approved and all related conditions of the World Bank are met, the next step will be to finalise the detailed design report and complete the bidding documents for the works.

The procurement process is expected to start end of 2023/beginning of 2024, with an aim to start construction works in 2024. The design consultant has estimated that the works would be for a duration of approximately 3 years. It is thus expected that the new runway and ancillary facilities would be operational in FY 2027-8.