

TAKEOFF



Seinäjoki Airport preparing the whole region for take off

Seinäjoki Airport at Ilmajoki's Rengonharju is vital for the vitality, internationalization and growth of the entire economic area in the Seinäjoki region.

Many of the strong investments in the development of the airport area are directly and indirectly reflected in the operations of the airport as well as in the well-being of the entire region. It is therefore very important that the airport remains operational to enable all the great future visions to be realized, embarking the whole province on an ascent towards a better future.

The latest achievement of new co-operation is the regional rescue helicopter base, that is being built at the Seinäjoki Airport.

Minimum financing secured for the coming years

In the absence of regular air traffic, Seinäjoki Airport lost its previous annual state subsidy of EUR 150,000. The Association of Southern Ostrobothnia granted AKKE funding for the Nousukiito project (Ascent Project) managed by Into Seinäjoki to secure the airport's future. Through the project, the company's operational and financial pieces have fallen into place.

Jani Karvonen, project manager of the AKKE project, states that the majority of the funding of approximately

EUR 1.4 million for 2022–2025 has been raised.

The company's current owners Ilmajoki municipality, the city of Seinäjoki, the South Ostrobothnia Hospital District and numerous companies see the existence of the airport as very important and have been willing to finance the development and maintenance of regionally important infrastructure.

The only thing that annoys Karvonen is that the airport did not receive any "Christmas gift money" from Parliament in 2021, even though the proposal was granted highest priority at submission from the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia. The grant would also have been very necessary for Seinäjoki Airport, as the company has not received EUR 600,000 in the form of state grants during the last four years, which the airport company was counting on.

Karvonen will work as a project manager until the end of February. After this, Seinäjoki Airport will be responsible for the company's partner cooperation and the completion of the company restructuring process. The partnerships are now well under way, and Karvonen hopes that the business community in the area will take into account the importance of maintaining the crucial airport infrastructure, alongside with the support from the region's municipalities and other stakeholders.

SEINÄJOKI AIRPORT

- **Seinäjoki Airport** operates 24 hours a day as part of the national infrastructure, ready to serve the needs of both national defense and security of supply.
- **The future** medical helicopter base will strengthen the airport's position as a permanent part of the area's services and infrastructure.
- **Dronamics** opens up a new logistics network and a gateway to Europe for same-day freight deliveries from Seinäjoki. The unmanned aircraft is capable of carrying 350 kilograms of cargo over a distance of 2,500 kilometers in about eight hours. Seinäjoki Airport is currently Finland's only contract partner for Dronamics drone port as part of the European network.
- **Logistics** training is provided on the Sedu campus at the airport. Educational cooperation brings synergies and a new model for combining airport operations, teaching and working life.
- **Finnair** sees scheduled traffic to Seinäjoki also possible as electric flights become a reality. Similarly, Seinäjoki Airport is constantly negotiating with other flight operators to open possible scheduled flights from Seinäjoki.
- **There** are still regular business and charter flights to and from Seinäjoki. These services are used by e.g. industrial companies in the region, major music events and international customers of Kuortane Sports College and other service and tourism companies.

Editorial

We deserve a lively airport



No thriving region can do without its own airport. This claim from the world matches well with our situation. With the help of this TAKE OFF tabloid, we want to elaborate how important it is for our region to maintain a lively and operational Seinäjoki Airport in Ilmajoki's Rengonharju.

Freight traffic from the Far East to Europe is projected to double over the next ten years. Seinäjoki Airport Ltd has entered into an agreement with the Bulgarian company Dronamics. This is significant development even on a Finnish scale. As part of the international Dronamics freight network, Far East freight will be delivered from the European drone ports to Seinäjoki within 24 hours.

At the same time, new, more cost-effective aircrafts are being developed for the passenger travel around the world. Electric flying in particular gives new hope to the profitability of passenger traffic from Seinäjoki in the near future. Seinäjoki, Vaasa and Kokkola are actively involved in the electric aviation development in the Nordics. Ostrobothnian airports are expected to be offering a revolutionary new cost-effective way of traveling across the Gulf of Bothnia using electric planes by the time 2030 unfolds.

As Corona eases, Seinäjoki Airport will become also an interesting partner for direct leisure flights to the southern sun.

The business community of the Seinäjoki region also needs its own local airport.

The industrial development of our region and the growing attractiveness of the tourism industry are dependent on good airport connections. This development work must not be neglected.

Cooperation with the South Ostrobothnia Hospital District is based on 24/7 standby. Enabling the necessary emergency transplant flights throughout the year and the soon-to-be-launched rescue helicopter operation are part of our regional service structure and social responsibility.

On behalf of Seinäjoki Airport, we want to serve the various players in the area with high quality and responsibility. Only with extensive cooperation can we maintain this field infrastructure and guarantee future expanding services for our various consumer groups.

Juhani Pakari
Chairman of the Board
Seinäjoki Airport Ltd

”Seinäjoki Airport has potential to become a logistic center and hub for transport companies and the wholesale industry, as well as attract support service providers around the new visioned future developments at Rengonharju in Ilmajoki.”

Marko Lähde, acting mayor, Ilmajoki

BLACK SWAN

WINGSPAN	6m / 52ft
FUSELAGE	8m / 26 ft
HEIGHT	4m / 13 ft
DIAMETER	1.3m / 4.3 ft
PAYLOAD	350 kg / 770 lbs
RANGE	2,500 km / 1,550 mi
ALTITUDE	22,000 ft
SPEED	200 km/h / 125 mph



Dronamics aims for 30 daily flights from Seinäjoki Airport. Photo credit: Dronamics

Fast freight increase

Unmanned cargo flights will soon be a reality in the South Ostrobothnian plains as well. Dronamics Global Ltd, which has signed an agreement with Seinäjoki Airport, is currently applying for an operating license from the European Aviation Safety Agency and believes that operations will start in Seinäjoki as soon as the matter is clear with the local licensing authority, Traficom.

Test flights in Malta are scheduled to start in summer 2022. We hope to be able to move forward with our plans for Seinäjoki later this year, says Dronamics Droneport Network Development Manager Lulcho Georgiev.

The world's leading developer of medium-distance unmanned cargo transportation will establish a drone port at the Seinäjoki Airport with equipment and systems to start flights in the coming years.

Great news for Seinäjoki!

As a result of a long development process, we will be launching new functionalities at our airport in the coming years. Unmanned cargo flights are the future and we are now part of that future. Dronamics is also a very interesting top company in its field that will be establishing their presence in Seinäjoki, says Leena Perämäki, CEO of Into Seinäjoki Oy.

More business in the area

The goal is to encourage companies in the Seinäjoki area to start doing business with companies in the Dronamics droneport network area even before cargo flights are possible.

Activation of business co-operation ensures that goods are available for transport when scheduled flights depart from Rengonharju.

New business opportunities are created for members of the Dronamics network due to growing freight and ground handling.

Fast, reliable and cost-effective freight transport will continue to be a "civil right". Our ultimate goal is to provide

Sedu Rengonharju continues to grow

Sedu Logistics already has a large unit in Rengonharju at Seinäjoki Airport. The vocational school unit offers training in logistics. One can study to become e.g. a bus or combination vehicle driver or as a warehouse professional.

The educational institution offers training for young

graduates, adult students and short term students completing short courses and certificates related to professional competence, says Pasi Artikainen, Director of Sedu.

- Sedu Rengonharju is a very attractive unit. We have about 400 students and the need for expansion and more space has emerged. We have been

able to use the airport's rental facilities and the extensive driving training area next to the runway for teaching. The location of Rengonharju, just over 10 kilometers from the center of Seinäjoki and in the immediate vicinity of the new bypass road, is a good place for this field of education, Artikainen continues.



es business

daily transportation to every citizen in the world, says Svilen Rangelov, Founder and CEO of Dronamics.

The first of its kind in the world

Dronamics aims to build a logistics network for cargo airports in the EU, with a simplified supply chain providing a revolutionary solution for accessibility.

Dronamics fixed-wing aircraft with a single propeller and gas-powered Rotax engine, the Black Swan, is the size of a traditional small aircraft. It is expected to be significantly cheaper to manufacture than a traditional aircraft. Significant savings are also made in operating costs.

The Black Swan is able to transport 350 kilos of cargo over a distance of 2,500 km in about eight hours. Its maximum flight altitude is about 6.5 kilometers and the flight can be controlled by satellite from control centers at drone ports. The aircraft transports its payload 50 percent cheaper than a conventional aircraft.

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom has a positive attitude towards future-oriented projects.

”Seinäjoki Airport is an enabler of future growth for the entire economic area in South Ostrobothnia. All measures available to find new functions to activate Seinäjoki Airport are worthwhile and desirable.”

Jaakko Kiiskilä, Mayor of Seinäjoki

Medical helicopter base under construction



Medical helicopter operations bring nearly 20 jobs to the region. Photo credit: FinnHEMS

The construction of a medical helicopter base at Seinäjoki Airport is underway. Operations at the base are scheduled to begin later this year.

The medical helicopter base will strengthen the airport’s position as a permanent part of the area’s services and infrastructure. In the future, aid will be even closer. The new base will provide Ostrobothnia with a 24-hour team specializing in the care of emergency patients. The medical helicopter will be able to cover the pre-

viously covered Ostrobothnian provinces and extend the service to the northern parts of Satakunta and Pirkanmaa.

The base building consists of crew quarters and a helicopter and garage hall. The 24-hour base is a welcome addition to the already diverse range of players at the airport and its surroundings. Seinäjoki Central Hospital is one of Finland’s extensive emergency hospitals and is only about a 10-kilometer drive from the airport. From a specially designed base for

medical helicopter operations, the crew is ready for operation in just a few minutes, either by helicopter or by an emergency vehicle. The conditions and operating environment, both inside and outside the walls of the base, at the airport must enable the well-being and rapid operation of the crew on duty in the event of an alarm.

The base is located next to the airport car park. Upon finalization, the base will employ 15 to 20 people: pilots, paramedics and first aid and aviation professionals working as HCM (hems crew members).

Holiday and business flights are slowly recovering

Corona silenced air traffic at Seinäjoki Airport. Summers 2020 and 2021 were quiet as major summer events in the area were canceled. Normally, there are a lot of foreign planes at Seinäjoki

Airport during the events along the summer.

Now the situation is recovering. Leisure flights are scheduled to start from Seinäjoki when the Corona situation eases. And if and when big events take place, more business planes will be seen on the ground again, promises Juhani Pakari, Chairman of the Board of Seinäjoki Airport Ltd.

According to Pakari, leisure flights start faster than business flights.

The role of regional airports will be emphasized in the future, as it will be possible to

fly business flights directly to destinations without stopovers. Before Corona, the route network was so comprehensive that business flights did not play a major role. Because of the Corona, this situation has changed.

There are roughly some thousands of flight operations at the airport each year, most of which are general aviation activities. There are approximately a few hundred private business flights annually. Most of the private flights to Seinäjoki are business trips to large companies in the region.





In the 2030s, electric aircrafts will be flying within a radius of 600 kilometers. Kuva: Heart Aerospace

Seinäjoki is preparing for electric flights

Seinäjoki Airport is one of the airports in the Kvarken region for which scheduled electric traffic is planned.

This is in accordance with the development visions in the Seinäjoki region. Electric flying gives hope in the future for small airports like Seinäjoki Airport. Electric airplanes also make it possible to operate routes that cannot be operated profitably with current aircrafts.

“Electric flying is part of the range of tools for the future in tackling the climate issues of flying, especially on short routes.” This is what Anne Larilahti, Finnair’s Vice President, Corporate Responsibility, said in the spring of 2021.

Finnair sees the low operating costs of electric flying as enabling fact to fly to airports where there is currently no operation. Seinäjoki would be one of those airports in the future.

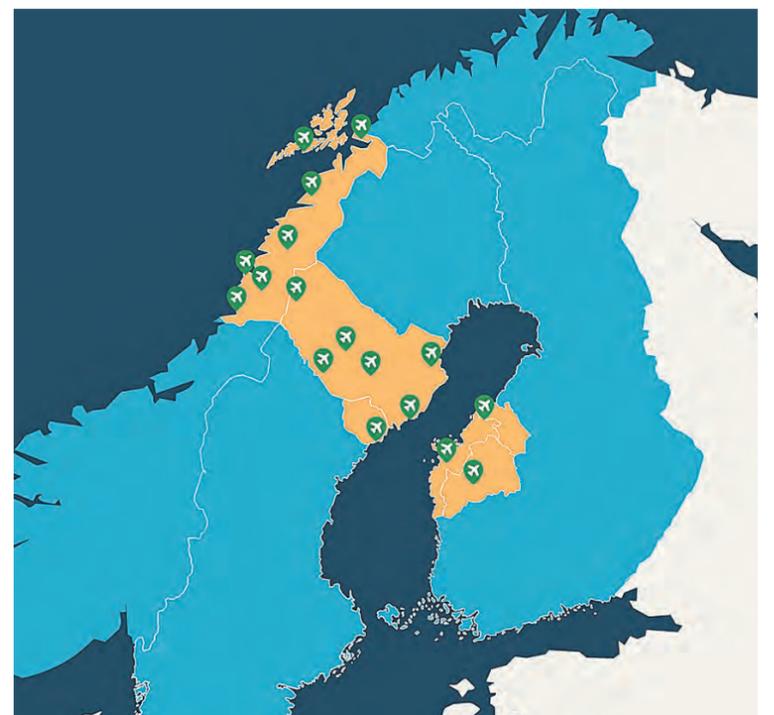
The aim of the ongoing development project (FAIR - Finding Innovations to Accelerate Electric Aviation in the Kvarken Region) is to create synergies with other electric flying projects and to jointly increase knowledge of the possibilities of electric flying and to accelerate the introduction of regional electric flights and related development projects.

- The biggest impact of participation in the FAIR project will be the increased awareness of Seinäjoki Airport and the fact that we will be put on the map of electric traffic in the Kvarken region as one of the partners and players in the future aviation development network, says Key Account Manager Elisabet Kivimäki of Into Seinäjoki.

According to Mathias Lindström, director of the Kvarken Council, the studies carried out in the project show that flying an electric plane is

probably much cheaper than flying a traditional plane. As it becomes more widespread, the use and importance of small regional airports will be emphasized.

- Regional airports will experience emergence of new routes, passengers and opportunities. Electric planes will be like flying buses in the future that can be used by students, tourists and ordinary people, Lindström envisions.



Electric airtraffic is planned for the Kvarken Region.

Photo: Kvarken Council

“Atria’s international customers come to Seinäjoki on direct flights. They wouldn’t come if they had to come by train via Helsinki. Because of the Corona times, we at Atria also have a huge need to enter the world finally. Without a functioning airport, Seinäjoki’s international reach is very poor.”

Juha Gröhn, President and CEO, Atria

“Prima-Power has air traffic going in two directions. The installation staff regularly travel the world. The airport is of great importance to us in the future. Our global customers are constantly visiting Seinäjoki. Agile connections are vital to us.”

Kalle Kujanpää, General Manager, Prima-Power

The interests of companies, organizations and municipalities in securing the operating conditions of the Seinäjoki Airport were evaluated in the “Future of Seinäjoki Airport and Securing its Operating Conditions” project. This tabloid is part of the project activities. The project received funding from the Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia Development Fund (AKKE)

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Seinäjoki Airport Ltd. and Into Seinäjoki Ltd. thank all the partners for their commitment to develop the airport.

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