

Press Release

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Leipzig/Halle Airport
Dresden International
PortGround

Leipzig/Halle Airport: the northern runway is to be refurbished

Leipzig/Halle Airport has temporarily taken its northern runway out of service. The concrete surface will be intricately overhauled until September and the classic runway lighting will be placed by modern LED technology: this is an investment in the modernisation and operational performance of the infrastructure.

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The northern runway has in operation at Leipzig/Halle Airport since March 2000. Since that time, about 400,000 planes have taken off or landed on the runway, which is 3,600 metres long. They include the Antonov AN 225 and Airbus A380 aircraft, the largest cargo and passenger planes in the world.

The airport will continue to operate while this work is taking place. Air traffic will be handled by the airport's second runway, the southern runway. The latter, which runs parallel to the northern runway, went into service in July 2007.

Refurbishment work

Following 21 years of intensive use, the concrete surface on the northern runway has suffered substantial damage from the so-called alkali-silica reaction, as is commonplace on motorways. This is commonly referred to as "concrete cancer". This damage poses a risk that porous concrete could break off and damage aircraft engines.

The lights on the taxiways and the runway will be dismantled at the beginning of the repair work. GPS-controlled milling machines will then remove the damaged concrete layer. After this, the fresh concrete will be laid on both the runway and the taxiways. The new LED lights will be installed during the final stage. This will involve more than 2,200 different navigational lights, connected by 350 kilometres of cables.

The approx. 300,000 tonnes of concrete required to repair the runway and the taxiways will be produced at two mixing facilities within the building site area.

The complete work will take place according to a strict timetable and is due to be completed on 30 September. The airport is investing about EUR 90 million in the refurbishment work.

You can obtain more information about the refurbishing work at:

<https://www.mdf-ag.com/SLBNord/>

Building site traffic

The construction vehicles will be directly routed from the Schkeuditz/Airport junction on the A 14 motorway to the building site via Towerstrasse. They will not drive through villages next to the airport.

About Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG

Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG has three subsidiaries: Leipzig/Halle Airport, Dresden Airport and PortGround.

Leipzig/Halle Airport handled 532,690 passengers and approx. 1.38 million tonnes of air freight during 2020. This makes it Germany's second-largest cargo airport. The airport is connected to the A 9 and A 14 motorways and has a railway station that forms an integral part of the central terminal. This ensures that passengers from Central Germany and beyond can reach the airport directly.

Dresden Airport handled 385,651 passengers in 2020. A link to the A 4 motorway and a local railway station in the terminal ensure that passengers from the catchment areas in Saxony, the south of Brandenburg, the north of the Czech Republic and western Poland can reach the airport and leave it again in comfort.

PortGround offers ground, freight and other extensive handling services at Leipzig/Halle and Dresden Airports round the clock.

The two airports belonging to Mitteldeutsche Flughafen AG registered 79,636 aircraft movements and handled 918,341 passengers in 2020.

Northern runway: figures, data, facts

Planning and building work 1994 - 1999
(planning approval decision on 10 July 1997)

Start of operations 24 March 2000

Runway

Numbers: 08L/26R
Length of runway: 3.600 m
Width of runway: 60 m

Concrete surfaces

Total air traffic surfaces 30.4 ha
Runway: 21.6 ha
Taxiways: 8.8 ha

Civil engineering data

Overall height of runway: 110 cm
New concrete surface accounts for: 42 cm

Old concrete removed during the building phase: approx. 300,000 tonnes

Total concrete inserted: approx. 300,000 tonnes

Runway lights including the taxiways

No. of elevated lights: 604
No. of flashing lights as approach lights: 60
No. of lights set into the ground: 1.567
Length of the cables and wires to be laid: 350 km