

East London Airport



AIRPORT OVERVIEW

East London Airport is the second largest “domestic airport” within the Regional Airports, processing more than 600,000 passengers and 10,000 air traffic movements (ATMs) in 2014/15, the airport has a two runway system with a supporting taxiway system with adequately capacitated aircraft parking stands.



The airport positions itself as the gateway into the Eastern Cape and Wild Coast with flight routes which include the 3 major international airports and Port Elizabeth International Airport.

The company has invested in more than R1 billion in airport upgrades and expansion projects in the last 6 years, some of the bigger Landside projects include the Terminal Building expansion and refurbishment at a cost R108 million, which included all aspects of the end to end process with an increased design capacity of 1.2 million/annum. A new and expanded Car Rental building with 299 parking bays at a cost of R7 million, passenger parking expansions totaling more than R6 million inclusive of a parking management system were also completed.



Some of the bigger Airside projects include a major refurbishment of the runway and taxiway systems, project scope of this refurbishment included resurfacing, markings and extension of runway end safety areas (RESAs) at a cost of R 160 million. The replacement of the instrument landing system (ILS) for the main runway, as per the maintenance replacement plan, at a cost of R 17 million and the entire airfield general lighting (AGL) systems with illuminated airfield signage and stop bars at a cost of R 16 million. A new fire hydrant ring main system with booster pump and reservoir tanks at a cost of R 12.5 million. Four new apron light masks were installed to improve the lighting lux levels to the total apron parking stand at a cost of R 2 million.



The airport was nominated as the “most improved airport in Africa” in both 2011 and 2013 by the Airports Council International (ACI).

REGIONAL ECONOMY

The airport services the Buffalo City Municipal Metro and is situated 5km North West of the city centre and is in close proximity to the fastest growing Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) in South Africa, the city has a population of about 760000 spread over the greater metropolitan area, one of the main economic drivers for the region is the automotive industry with Mercedes Benz the biggest player with other associated industries in the supply chain management.

The airport is currently operating at 55% of it’s design capacity and an airport master plan (AMP) to proactively manage future capacity requirements, there is a plan to install common user self-service (CUSS) systems in the next year, this technology will further enhance passenger processing and will capacitate the airport to absorb passenger growth in the short to medium term without the need to invest in capacity.



COMMERCIAL

The airport has three food and beverage outlets, two of which include a Mugg and Bean franchise at both the terminal departures and arrivals for passenger convenience; these are supported by a large Wimpy Restaurant on the first floor. Shops at the airport include a Cosmic Candy, Voda-Com Shop, Sneakers and trendy clothing store. The airport also boasts 7 car rental outlets for passengers to choose from.

GREEN INITIATIVES

The airport achieved ISO 14001 accreditation in 2012 and is committed to identifying all opportunities for continuous improvement to reduce energy/water consumption and reducing its carbon footprint, waste recycling through its “waste transfer site”, is all managed by a dedicated appointed environmental officer to oversee the airport’s Environmental Management System. (EMS)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The airport social economic development (SED) committee is focused on informal communities surrounding airport precinct, with a strong emphasis to support educational material, equipment and infrastructure. Several day care centre’s, an orphanage, and four primary schools with high school all form part of this support program with a total of +-3000 enrolled pupils benefiting from these initiatives.

The airport is also a major sponsor for the local Makhaya Ntini Cricket Training Academy for children coming from disadvantaged schools.