

## Sir Bani Yas airport revamped

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi Airports, which manages the Emirate's five commercial airports, has completed a major rehabilitation project at Sir Bani Yas Airport (XSB).

Located 250 kilometres southwest of Abu Dhabi's coast in the Al Dhafra Region, Sir Bani Yas Airport is the main gateway to the island. The project focused on significant upgrades across the airfield.

The facility's runway, taxiways, and apron pavements have been fully reconstructed. Additionally, the Abu Dhabi Media Office explained in a statement that the airport's lighting systems have undergone a complete revitalisation to enhance night operations and visibility for ground personnel.

According to Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), "The UAE continues to strengthen its position as a global leader in aviation by investing in advanced infrastructure and adopting the highest international

standards in safety, efficiency, and sustainability. The recent rehabilitation at Sir Bani Yas Airport reflects this commitment, supporting seamless connectivity and reinforcing the country's vision for sustainable tourism and economic growth."

He added, "The ongoing modernisation of civil aviation capabilities across the UAE ensures world-class services, meeting the evolving demands of the industry while maintaining the highest levels of safety and operational excellence."

Airport authorities explained that the Airfield Ground Lighting (AGL) system has transitioned to high-performance LED technology as part of Abu Dhabi Airport's sustainability initiatives.

A new Airfield Lighting Control System (ALCS) has been introduced, providing more effective management and control of the airfield's lighting systems.

The airport's weather observation systems have also been upgraded to state-of-the-art technology, ensuring more accurate and timely weather information to assist in operational planning, safety protocols, and constructing new service and emergency roadways that will provide enhanced access during urgent situations.

The Media Office also explained that the widening of the runway supports the airport in accommodating Code 4E aircraft operations. This will assist the airport in managing the growing influx of visitors to the eco-tourism destination.

Elena Sorlini, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer at Abu Dhabi Airports, said, "These enhancements will not only boost the airport's operational capacity but will also play a crucial role in supporting Al Dhafra Region's continued growth as a key eco-tourism destination."

Last year, Abu Dhabi moved its main passenger terminal to a new location and was renamed Zayed International Airport. Abu Dhabi also welcomed almost five million guests through October 2024, with the number of international guests rising by 26 per cent.

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