

Feasibility study into ILS upgrade; decision expected in autumn 2021

Eindhoven Airport is investigating whether it will upgrade its current Instrument Landing System (ILS) category I, so that aircraft will be able take off and land at Eindhoven Airport even in poorer weather conditions with limited runway visibility. The study is a response to the severe disruptions to air traffic at Eindhoven Airport that were experienced last year, generally due to poor visibility in combination with the low category ILS on the runway.

Different studies are being conducted and interviews are being held in preparation for making a well-reasoned decision on whether or not to upgrade the ILS to a higher category. Eindhoven Airport has asked the airlines to provide their preferred category and, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence (the owner of the runway), is investigating what modifications are needed to the runway and at the airport itself to make a higher category ILS possible. The construction and maintenance costs of the upgrade have also been mapped out.

In addition to the Ministry of Defence, Eindhoven Airport has employed the expertise of Schiphol Airport and Air Traffic Control the Netherlands (LVNL) to help with the feasibility study. The wisest plan at the moment is to combine a possible upgrade with the next major maintenance on the runway. Those plans are at this stage scheduled for 2025. This will avoid the issue of having to shut down the runway twice for a longer period, and ensures that the modifications to the runway's top layer are not nullified.

Eindhoven Airport is expected to decide on a possible upgrade in the autumn of 2021.

The ILS is a radio navigation system that pilots use to land the plane. The system allows the pilot to navigate a precision approach to the runway. The ILS has three categories (with category IIIB being the most comprehensive). At airports with this highest ILS category, planes can land even with zero visibility of the runway. Eindhoven Airport currently uses an ILS category I, which means that pilots need a minimum runway visibility of 550 metres in order to be granted landing permission.

ABOUT EINDHOVEN AIRPORT

Eindhoven Airport is de tweede luchthaven van Nederland met ruim 6,7 miljoen passagiers in 2019. De luchthaven zorgt voor een makkelijke verbinding van Brainport met Europa en verder, in balans met de omgeving. Het gemak voor de reiziger komt tot uiting in de klantbelofte 'Always Easy'. De luchtvaartmaatschappijen verbinden Zuid-Nederland met meer dan 85 toeristische en zakelijke bestemmingen. Samen met de partnerbedrijven biedt de luchthaven bijna 2000 arbeidsplaatsen en is daarmee een van de grote werkgevers in de regio. We zijn ons bewust van de maatschappelijke impact die een luchthaven heeft. Maatschappelijk verantwoord ondernemen zit in ons DNA, we hebben continu aandacht voor het evenwicht tussen internationale connectiviteit en de leefbaarheid in de omgeving. De aandelen van Eindhoven Airport N.V. zijn in handen van Schiphol Nederland B.V., de Provincie Noord-Brabant en de Gemeente Eindhoven.

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