


The main investments needed to re-launch the airport operations include:

- reparation of the runway (*grouting*);
- reparation of the runaway illumination system;
- building new passenger and cargo terminals that will meet European requirements and standards including Automatic Cab Floors, Preconditioned Air Units, Ground Power Units as well as aesthetic upgrades. Electrical upgrades will be completed as necessary to fulfil CRAA standard requirements;
- connection to the gas and water pipeline;
- possibly extinction of the runaway (*can be additionally extend up to 500 meters*);





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Profiles of the companies designated for privatisation
by the government of the Republic of Moldova in 2017



BALTI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Balti International Airport started its operation as a civil airport in late 1980s and it was operated by airplanes from Chişinău of the former Moldavian branch of the Soviet company Aeroflot. At that time, the airport was called Bălţi-Leadoveni International Airport and became the most important airport in the north of Moldova. After the independence of Moldova in 1991, the airport was used by Air Moldova, the state company successor of the remaining airplanes of Aeroflot.



Before the break-up of the USSR, the airport was connected, through direct flights, to almost 20 destinations in the former Soviet Union, including Moscow, Kiev, and Sochi.

The international airport code of BIA is LUBL (according to ICAO) and BZY (according to IATA).

At the moment the airport is not being operated by the airway companies, the last flight being operated in 2015. However, with certain investments and renovations, the operations could be relaunched.

Location

Bălţi International Airport is situated in the northern part of Moldova, near the city of Bălţi, the second most important municipality in Moldova, on the land of the commune of Corlăteni in district. The distance from Chisinau (the capital or Moldova) is 130 km.



Infrastructure

Bălți International Airport has a surface of 145 hectares and includes runway (of 2,240 x 42 meters (*Pavement Classification Number is 16 RAWT*), parking space for two airplanes and electrical and electronic equipment necessary for operations.

The airport infrastructure also includes passenger terminal, baggage handling facility, metallic hangar and diesel electric generator. However, this infrastructure is outdated and must be repaired and upgraded.

The choice of the runway location was carefully made taking into consideration the advanced technical and engineer means and notably the direction of winds and absence of stable fog on location of Bălți International Airport. Contrary to other airports in Moldova, Bălți International Airport can be operated in any weather conditions. The runway of the Bălți International Airport is located at an altitude of 231 meters, with surrounding hills as low as down to 100 meters.

Bălți International Airport is certified by the State Design and Prospecting Research Institute for Civil Aviation «Aeroproject» confirming the pavement classification number and indicating the airplanes which may be operated at BZY with no restrictions, namely: *IL-18, AN-12, AN-24, YAK-40, YAK-42, TU-134* and other types of airplanes of the 3rd and 4th categories may be freely operated at BZY, as well as any kinds of helicopters.



Development potential



The Government of the Republic of Moldova intends to establish a Public-Private Partnership with a strategic investor that will be able to explore the airport’s potential. The new role for the Bălți International Airport could be a first hub for low-cost airlines in Moldova, since the only airport which operates taxes regular passenger flights remains Chişinău airport.

Approximately one third or more of all passengers on the routes operated by Air come from Bălți and the northern districts of Moldova. Since May 2015 Air Moldova sells flight tickets with destination point BZY providing a bus transfer service from Bălți to Chişinău airport. Started from one bus per day in the beginning, there are three buses per day as of today circulating between Bălți and Chişinău airport and serving for Air Moldova flights.

Settlement of a sustainable low-cost Airport, on commercial basis with low airport taxes, would serve as an alternative for Chisinau International Airport, which is situated at the distance of 166 kilometers from the Balti airport, and would increase the number of destinations for regular flights and charter.

From national security point of view, the second civil airport in Moldova is a high priority and a necessity as an alternative landing and take-off point to the Chisinau airport.

Preliminary analysis shows that 250,000 passengers per annum will keep the airport financially sound and operationally sustainable. It is about 12% of the aviation traffic in the country, thus very feasible, taking into account that the population of the northern part of Moldova is roughly 1.2 mil. inhabitants , which is 40% of the total population of the country. The forecast is that the number of the passengers served can reach up to 400,000 in the first 2-3 years from starting operations.

Analyzing the regional context we can observe that there are 16 international airports in the neighboring Romania and 19 in Ukraine. An example to follow is the International Airport in Iasi, Romania, which increased the number of destinations served from one in 2012 to 14 in 2016. Also we can mention, that the countries comparable to the size of Moldova like Georgia (*population 4.4 mil.*) and Lithuania (*population 2.9 mil.*) have respectively 4

international airports in Georgia and 4 international airports in Lithuania.

Important development perspectives also appear for Bălți International Airport in the cargo field, which would generate economic growth for the whole northern region of Moldova. The region boasts an 8% annual GDP growth, and real estate investment projects in Bălți by Western European businesses are important growth factors.

This project will contribute to the development of northern region of Moldova in terms of transport of passengers and goods, as Bălți hosts a large Free Economic Zone, Industrial Park Raut, just as northern region in general is home for numerous industries in Moldova. The examples of large international companies that are residents of the Balti FEZ are Draexlmaier and Gebauer&Griller, which constantly increase their production capacities and international trade flows.