MEGA PROJECT NEWS

Construction begins on new Beijing Daxing International Airport

$13 Billion facility designed for 72 million passengers is to be completed in five years

26 December 2014 – Beijing, China – As reported in various international media, construction has begun on a massive new international airport to serve Beijing, China’s capital city. Beijing’s current international airport is the world’s second busiest, but also one of the most delayed, with fewer than 20 percent of commercial passenger flights leaving on schedule according to a 2013 report.

According to Wikipedia, Beijing Daxing International Airport or Beijing Capital Second International Airport is a planned new airport serving Beijing. The airport is to be built in Daxing District, located 46 km (29 mi) south of city center. The airport will be located on the southern part of Daxing along the border with Hebei province.

The new airport which will serve Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, will cover an area of 2,680 hectares. The projected completion date for the new airport is October 2018. A new 37 km (23 mi) high-speed rail line is planned which will connect the airport to Beijing South railway station with a journey time of 30 minutes. All flights from Beijing Nanyuan Airport which is currently only used by China United Airlines, will be transferred to Daxing.

The airport's master plan has been designed by airport consulting firm NACO and will feature a ground transportation centre providing the airport with public transportation links to high-speed rail, metro, expressways, Beijing Airport Bus routes, local buses and inter-airport transportation system. Other consulting firms are competing to design the terminal building [1]

The airport is designed to handle 72 million passengers, 2 million tons of cargo and mail, and 620,000 flights in 2025, the official Xinhua news agency said. The airport is set to cost 80 billion yuan ($13 billion) and will be completed in around five years, Xinhua said. [2]

Travel demand in China has soared as the country has grown to become the world’s second-largest economy and Beijing's current International airport in the city’s northeast has begun to reach its capacity limits. Beijing International Airport was the world’s second busiest airport in terms of passengers in 2013, Xinhua said, ranking behind Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the United States.
But it is also the world’s most delayed, according to a study last year by US-based air travel information service FlightStats, which said just 18 percent of flights were on time. About 42 percent of departures from Beijing suffered delays of 45 minutes or longer, the survey said.

Xinhua cited aviation authorities as saying that the current airport is unable to handle an additional 300 flights daily and almost 10 million passengers annually due to restraints. Jet manufacturer Airbus said this month that China will oust the US in 2023 as the world's biggest domestic air traffic market by passenger numbers, as economic development pushes demand for air travel. [3]

References: