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Bern Airport

Business Aviation: a necessary complement to scheduled flights

Bern Airport and Business Aviation are collaborating successfully to provide what scheduled airlines are unable to offer – and this partnership is yielding major competitive advantages for the Espace Mittelland economic region. Missions such as the one undertaken by Prof. Thierry Carrel make it clear why this is so. To meet a commitment for a charitable cause, the renowned heart surgeon needed to fly out to Rabat (Morocco) and back to Switzerland in just one day so that he could be at the operating table again next morning.

It was still dark when a delegation of medics headed by Prof. Thierry Carrel boarded a business jet at Bern Airport a few days ago. On behalf of the Corelina Foundation, they were flying to Rabat, the Moroccan capital, to meet there with representatives of the University Hospital, the Moroccan Ministry of Health and Switzerland's ambassador to Morocco. The talks focused on setting up a centre for paediatric heart surgery. The Corelina Foundation's commitment to this centre, which began in 2015, includes financing for aid missions that enable doctors and medical staff to train their Moroccan colleagues in their free time. These missions have already made it possible for over 50 children to undergo life-saving heart surgery.

Unique possibilities – unparalleled efficiency

Carrel and his team have to work to a very tight schedule. The medics needed to be back at the operating table in the Inselspital – Bern's University Hospital – on the morning after their trip. This posed a challenge, because there are no scheduled air services between Switzerland and Rabat. But thanks to Business Aviation, a solution was found: Cat Aviation AG, the Swiss business jet airline, made an eight-seater Hawker 125 available from Bern-Belp airport free of charge for this charitable mission. Because of this gesture, the team of doctors had no problems keeping to their strict schedule – and at the same time, they benefited from the short distances at Bern Airport as well as its excellent punctuality.

A key economic factor

This case is not an isolated example: in fact, it is typical of the flexibility and versatility that Business Aviation can offer clients from the worlds of business, politics and society. Business Aviation thrives mainly because it can offer routes that are not operated by scheduled airlines. Another benefit: flight schedules are tailored to clients' timing requirements. It is even possible to fly to multiple destinations, one after another, on the same day. These advantages make Business Aviation an important complement to scheduled air services – and thanks to Bern Airport, it also plays a key part in the economic performance of the Espace Mittelland region. This is attested by a little-known fact: no less than 20% of all commercial aviation departures in Switzerland are generated by Business Aviation.

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