

PRESS RELEASE

SCDI SAYS THIRD RUNWAY VITAL TO SCOTTISH ECONOMY'S FUTURE

15 January 2009

The Scottish Council for Development and Industry has welcomed the Government's decision to give the go ahead to a £9 billion third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow, saying that the airport's expansion is vital to the future of the Scottish economy.

SCDI spokesperson Niall Stuart, said:

"A third runway is absolutely essential to guarantee Scotland's connections to Heathrow and access to the 150 international destinations served by the UK's main international hub.

"We have to remember that this isn't just an issue of importance to London and the south east – it's absolutely vital to the future of the Scottish economy. Our connections to South America, Asia and the USA are all crucial to businesses that want to access these markets and are also crucial to attracting foreign companies to invest here in Scotland."

"Quite simply demand at Heathrow has outgrown the airport's capacity. Over the last few years Scotland has lost connections to Heathrow, as airlines have chosen to use their limited slots to service more profitable long haul destinations.

"The new runway will mean more planes can get in and out of Heathrow and will safeguard shuttles to and from Scotland, and at least offers the chance of Inverness regaining its link to our international hub and all the routes served from there.

"Extra capacity will also mean fewer delays and less disruption – the two main criticisms of Heathrow."

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