



# Reporting Points



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## **Salina Airport's New Runway Open for Business**

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View Opening Ceremonies Here: [http://www.salair.org/runway\\_video.htm](http://www.salair.org/runway_video.htm)

Salina, Kan. – Salina's new runway opened for business today in ceremonies at the threshold of the 4,300-foot runway to much fanfare and with a number of dignitaries taking part in the ceremonies.

Salina Airport Authority board member, Dr. Randy Hassler, piloted the inaugural aircraft flight from the new runway. He took-off in a twin-engine piston-powered Aerostar Super 700 from the general aviation runway designated 18-36. The new runway was designed to relieve runway congestion at Salina Airport's much longer parallel 13,337-foot runway and to reduce delays for substantial military, government, corporate, transient, and flight training aircraft activities.

Aircraft activity from Kansas State University, Salina College of Technology & Aviation, military training, flight-tests from Wichita's aircraft manufacturers, corporate aircraft, air carrier flights and other GA traffic will be accommodated more efficiently and safely. There were nearly 100,000 total aircraft operations at the airport in 2002.

The Salina Municipal Airport is a popular mid-continent fuel stop for corporate jet operators. Salina's two FBOs Flower Aviation and Midway Aviation combined last year to deliver 4.7 million gallons of aviation fuel.

“The new runway at the Salina Airport is an exceptional development for the economy of this region,” said First District Congressman Jerry Moran (R-KS), who serves on the House Aviation Subcommittee and who participated in the opening ceremonies.

“The Salina Airport Authority is to be commended for its foresight in adding to the community’s infrastructure and in the process making the Salina Airport & Industrial Center an even stronger participant in the economic recovery of the region,” he added.

Also at the opening ceremonies for the runway were:

Don Morris, Salina Airport Authority Board Chairman; Mayor Alan Jilka, City of Salina; Craig Stephenson, Saline County Commission; Sheldon Walle, Chairman Elect, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Dennis Kuhlman, Dean, Kansas State University-Salina College of Technology and Aviation; Bruce Boyle, Manager, Salina Air Traffic Control Tower; Mark Williams, HNTB; and Vern Hopkins, APAC-Shears, Salina Branch.

The Board of the Salina Airport Authority was able to finance the \$1.4 million new runway with its own General Obligation Bond funding, making it one of the country’s few new runways paid for without using federal funds. Interestingly the first paved runway at Salina’s Municipal Airport was also 4,300-foot long and cost \$203,205.00 to build in 1949.

The Salina Municipal Airport and Industrial Center covers 4,000 acres and is home to more than 70 businesses employing more than 4,500 employees. The Salina Airport and Airport Industrial Center are integral components to the region's economy and the state's economic development efforts.

Businesses and organizations such as Eldorado National of Kansas, Inc., Kansas Army National Guard, Kansas State University-Salina College of Technology and Aviation, Aerospace Systems and Technologies, Inc., Professional Flight Training, LC, Flower Aviation, Midway Aviation, Love Box Company, Salina Aircraft Services, Inc., ADM Milling Company, Blue Beacon International, Raytheon Aircraft Company's Salina Division, Salina Vortex Corporation, and Tony's Pizza Service, Inc., combine to contribute more than \$120 million in annual payroll to the Salina economy.