



# GROTTAGLIE TEST BED

APULIAN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
FOR AEROSPACE TRIALS





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Over the last five years, the Italian Government paid particular attention to policies aimed at boosting the aerospace industry, pushing its development on top of national strategic sectors, with particular attention to financial commitments, as mandated in 2008 by the Inter-ministerial Aeronautics Development Committee action plan.

Such policy is aimed at providing Italy with top-notch resources in terms of research and aeronautics development. This strategy follows European Union incentive plans, as provided for in relevant EU decisions concerning research and experimentation, in order to stress the importance of fostering Research Development Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) programs.

Through a decision taken on July 14, 2014, ENAC (Italian Civil Aviation Authority) devised a plan for the Taranto-Grottaglie airport (appointed as a National Interest airport on the Airports National Plan) in order to qualify it as an integrated logistic platform aimed at research, development and experimentation hub for aeronautics related products.

Based on that decision, in addition to the Taranto-Grottaglie airport regular operations for civil transport and general aviation activities, it will be possible to start management procedures aimed at a flexible use of air space, in connection with increasing needs for a test range aimed at experimenting remote controlled aircrafts, also taking into consideration the particularly favorable conditions of the surrounding territories for these specific activities.

# APULIAN AEROSPACE POLICIES

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## SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Government is steadily committed to providing substantial aids to the aerospace sector through the following programs:

- Regional Contracting Programs for Big Companies;
- Integrated incentives packages for small and medium enterprises;
- Special aids for new companies and start-ups;
- Aid packages aimed at research and development of innovative businesses.

These policies are aimed at supporting the system's growth, both through research and innovation and through the establishment of new industrial facilities.

Big, medium and small enterprises may apply with their projects, thanks to specific investment and aid tools, custom-tailored according to their needs in terms of business development and investment know-how.

## RESEARCH AND TRAINING

In Puglia, the knowledge base for the above projects is fostered by 3 important Universities, several Technical High Schools, 7 Research Centers, and over 30 specialized laboratories. This network will guarantee the necessary tools to stay competitive.

The Aerospace Technological District favors this process supporting the development of research projects combining Big companies, Small and Medium enterprises, Universities and Research Centers, also benefiting from regional, national and international aid programs.

Particular attention has been devoted to specific education & training programs, with specialized courses for technical high school students and through post-grad Master degrees.

## TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURES

Apulian existing infrastructures comprise of over 12,000 kilometers of modern roads, over 1,500 kilometers of railroads, 4 airports, 9 passengers and freight sea ports, 1 inter-modal hub and over 20 small airport areas, allowing excellent mobility across the entire Regional Territory and modern, high performance domestic and international connections.

Further increase and improvement of existing infrastructures have been undergone, in order to improve passengers and freight transportation facilities.

Currently, over 95 % of the Apulian territory is covered by internet high speed connections, while the completion of the whole Region is underway: by the end of 2015 the entire Apulian territory will be connected with broadband internet networks.

Aeroporti di Puglia manages the entire Apulian aviation network through the Bari, Brindisi, Foggia and Grottaglie airports, under a comprehensive State concession agreement. The Apulian airports network benefits from high-tech structures, professional standards, and is totally integrated with other transportation networks, thus representing an essential asset for Apulian regional socio-economics.

In 2014, the Bari and Brindisi airports totaled more than 5.8 million passengers transiting across Puglia thanks to several direct connections with domestic and international destinations.

Aeroporti di Puglia and ENAC-Italian Civil Aviation Authority have identified the Grottaglie airport with the primary mission of supporting the aerospace industrial sector, also through research and development of new products and solutions, purposely providing fully operating extensive infrastructures. The Apulian airports network, thanks to its geographical position and advanced infrastructures, is nowadays excelling throughout the Italian and European scenario. Its strategic location, at the heart of the Mediterranean, makes it a fundamental hub for European continental transport networks.

## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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### AIRPORT GROUNDS (CIVIL)

The foreseen development of the airport grounds will involve an increase its surface to around 648 hectares, of which 240 hectares are allocated to new production areas and service facilities, and 69 hectares are allocated to further enlargement of infrastructural surfaces.

All pertaining internet high speed broadband infrastructures and relevant general services will be implemented. Particular attention will be dedicated to the environment, so as to create ideal conditions for public health and work environments.

### THE AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

#### RUNWAY, RADIOASSISTANCE AND GROUND CONTROL TOWER

- Length = 3200 m    Width= 45 m
- Asphalt surface: PCN 120/F/A/X/T
- Aprons, taxiways, check locations
- Approach lights and runway lights
- Cleaning services, firefighting and first aid services
- Fuelling
- ATS communication systems  
IFR/VFR flights
- VDF, ILS/GP, VOR/DME,  
VORTAC radio assistance
- Weather forecast



## HANGARS, OFFICES AND SERVICES

- The current airport ground spans over a total area of around 215 hectares.
- Indoor areas dedicated to production activities amount to around 16.000 square meters, while aprons span over an area of around 110.00 square meters.
- Offices areas amount to around 2,000 square meters.
- Since the airport is serving both civil and military aviation, all necessary relevant services are in place.



## EXPERIMENTATION AREAS

Since January 2015 ENAV has enabled to service three reserved areas in which it is possible to operate with priority as to aircraft and systems tests.

The first, within the Grottaglie ATZ control, spans over around 70 square kilometers, with an altitude between GL and 5000 ft. AGL.

The second, serving as a transfer corridor for the other two, spans over an area of around 100 square kilometers, with an altitude between 2000 ft. AGL and 5000 ft. AGL.

The third, totally over the sea surface, amounts to over 200 square kilometers, with a depth of around 6 kilometers and an average width of around 35 kilometers.  
Operating altitude is between SL and 5000 ft. ASL.



The increase will be ensured by progressively enlarging the primary ground testing areas, and especially over the sea, with further areas firstly over the Ionian sea, between Calabria and Sicily, subsequently intervening other Italian air spaces, later involving areas connected to territories in Sardinia and the Adriatic coasts of Puglia, amounting to a total territorial surface of around 100,000 square kilometers.

The connection with reserved corridors, already operative or undergoing approval by ENAC, will further allow to benefit from a civil and military airport network over the rest of the Italian territory.



**AEROPORTI DI PUGLIA**

BARI BRINDISI FOGGIA TARANTO