



24 November 2015

## NEW CAPABILITY FOR ANTARCTIC AVIATION FROM HOBART AIRPORT

Exciting new developments in Antarctic aviation are taking place at Hobart Airport this summer. On 5 November 2015 the first of a series of proof-of-concept flights to Antarctica took place with a C-17A Globemaster III aircraft, operated by the Royal Australian Airforce.

Until now all flights to Antarctica were limited to the services of the A319 passenger jet chartered by the Australian Antarctic Division. With the trial flights of the C-17 this may be set to change. This heavy lift aircraft has the capability to transport vehicles and heavy oversized cargo, which until now were dependent on being transported by ship only. Instead of several weeks at sea, cargo can be flown to Antarctica in the space of five hours or less. Vehicles can be flown to Hobart for servicing or repair and returned to Antarctica within the space of weeks rather than taking 12 or more months as is the case when they are shipped. The first of such flights took place on 24 November, returning a large tractor to Hobart for servicing.

The development of a 'regular heavy lift aircraft flight' capability from Hobart to Wilkins Aerodrome was recommended in the 20 Year Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan report, commissioned by the Australian Government in 2013.

Hobart Airport welcomes this development which is aided by its current \$40 million runway extension project.



Photo courtesy of the Antarctic Division