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New Zealand runway damaged by lightning

On Saturday, lightning struck a section of the Westport Airport in New Zealand, damaging sections of the runway. The bolt also destroyed 34 of the lights lining the airstrip and broke a lighted windsock.

At the time of the storm, despite a loss of access to their computer system, airport staff worked quickly removing debris to ensure that conditions were safe enough for an approaching plane to land. The flight was able to land without incident.

An assessment of the damage has determined that new parts will be required to repair the destruction, some of which could take weeks to be replaced.

No flights will be flown in or out of Westport in total darkness until the lights have been replaced. In the meantime, all other activities at will continue as normal.

Scandinavian Airline looking to cut costs

On Friday, Danish online magazine Takeoff issued a report that Scandinavian Airline (SAS), who has not turned a full-year profit since 2007, will announce a new cost-cutting package in an effort to save USD\$748 million annually as a result of economic pressures and continuing overcapacity in the industry.

Additionally, the magazine alleges SAS will make structural changes, including the reduction of employee costs by 15 percent through pay cuts and changes to work conditions.

SAS spokeswoman Malin Selander confirmed reports that was exploring options to reduce costs and improve efficiency, however denied that any formal decisions have made.