



Owatonna Degner Regional Airport Quarterly EDA Report, January 2021

Owatonna Degner Regional Airport 2021 Goals

The Airport has established a number of goals for 2021. These goals are established in coordination with the Airport Commission and related to the overall administration and operation of the facility. Many of these goals involve business and economic development. Some of these include:

- Provide high quality transportation infrastructure for corporate and general aviation users.
- Work with airport business development group to identify and develop qualified leads for prospective airport based business.
- Maintain and operate safe and efficient airport facilities and services.
- Maintain high level of customer satisfaction.
- Work with EDA and business leaders to promote business use of airport and overall business expansion in Owatonna.
- Continue to serve the aviation needs of our users to facilitate the flow of commerce, business opportunities, and job creation, enhancing the quality of life for the entire Owatonna community.



Accelerated Aviation

Based flight school, Accelerated Aviation continues to grow. The company is now utilizing an additional multi-engine trainer. Accelerated is actively pursuing the acquisition of additional hangar space and plans to add both aircraft and instructors in 2021. Now providing private pilot and all advanced ratings utilizing:

- Four (4) single engine aircraft
- Two (2) multi-engine aircraft
- One (1) Advanced Red Bird Flight Simulator
- Nine (9) certified flight instructors

A recent report in *FlightGlobal* (1/8/21) magazine forecasts continued needs for future pilots:

- Several industry-written forecasts predict the sector will eventually return to the rapid expansion that characterized the sector before the pandemic.
- Boeing's 2020 market outlook predicts the world's airlines will need 43,110 new commercial jets in the next 20 years. That figure is down just 2% from Boeing's 2019 outlook.
- The US manufacturer anticipates 605,000 new pilots will be needed within 20 years.
- Likewise, a 2020 report from pilot training company CAE estimated airlines will need 264,000 new pilots in the next decade.

Trending In Aviation

Update on drones or unmanned aircraft (UA)

The FAA is completing the rulemaking process to update a number of requirements for use of unmanned aircraft in the national airspace system. According to the FAA, most drones operating in the US airspace will need to have remote ID capability. Remote ID will provide information about drones in flight, such as the identity, location, and altitude of the drone and its control station or take-off location. Authorized individuals from public safety organizations may request identity of the drone's owner from the FAA.

These rules will help facilitate the ability of drone pilots to fly in controlled airspace. The FAA is also allowing commercial unmanned aircraft operators to fly small drones over people and at night. This is considered a step towards allowing drones to be used for delivery.

As an example, on-line resource, *Drone DJ* 1/12/21 reports that Verizon Skyward and UPS Flight Forward have announced they will be working together to bring drone delivery to The Villages in Florida. The drones will use Verizon's 4G and 5G networks, running on Skywards' drone management platform.

Supersonic Flight

Remember the days of the Concorde? Supersonic flight may be on the cusp of a new era in aviation. Will the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport (OWA) soon be accommodating a new breed of business aircraft?

One thing for sure is that the development of these aircraft is big business. According to a recent article in AIN Online 12/10/2020. Aerion Supersonic has announced the development of a \$300 million headquarter facility complex at Florida's Orlando Melbourne International Airport. It is anticipated to be a two million square foot facility. This is where the production of the AS2, Mach 1.4 business jet is slated to begin in 2023.

Related to this, the FAA recently announced the easing of restriction on supersonic flight testing in the US.



Photo - AIN OnLine 12/10/2020 Aerion AS2