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PHOTO & CAPTION Zabul Province Gets Its First Airstrip



Photo: USAID/Jennifer Ragland

The completion of the first airstrip in southern Afghanistan's Zabul Province will provide a gateway to further development, economic growth, and communication links.

The first flight on the new airstrip from Qalat to Kabul took off in September 2006. The flight was run by a charter carrier known as PRT Air that serves a broad range of organizations working on development in Afghanistan. PRT Air has scheduled twice-weekly flights.

The first flight, operated by PRT Air, takes off from the first airstrip ever built in Afghanistan's southern Zabul province.

The airstrip is located next to Zabul's main Afghan National Army compound. The army will eventually become the operator of the airfield. USAID funded the construction of the airstrip, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services. One-hundred and twelve Afghan workers were employed to construct the airstrip and another 64 Afghans were employed to provide security during construction.