# Remote Icelandic airport ensures year-round flights

VAISALA

Case Study

**The client:**

Isavia

**Vaisala solution:**

Forward Scatter Sensor FD70

## THE CHALLENGE:

### Remote location, wild weather

Some airports have very few weather challenges. Others have nearly all of them.

The remote island of Grímsey straddles the Arctic Circle 40 km north of Iceland. This Icelandic island has about 60 residents plus visitors who rely on Grímsey Airport for transportation as well as supplies and services — especially because ocean transport can be treacherous in this region. With only a handful of flights occurring each week, weather-related downtime is not an option. Grímsey Airport must operate in every kind of weather, which can occur any time of year. Rain, snow, ice, high winds, salt and low visibility are all common conditions here, so precise weather and visibility detection are crucial for making accurate decisions and maximizing uptime.

Isavia, the organization who operates and maintains the airport, is tasked with ensuring safe and efficient flights no matter what the weather brings. When it was time to replace their visibility and present weather sensor, Isavia sought the highest quality and most dependable solution available.

## THE APPROACH:

### The standard in airport weather accuracy

Because of their longtime experience using Vaisala technology, Isavia confidently chose the Vaisala Forward Scatter Sensor FD70 to optimize airport operations and ensure safe flights.

The FD70 sets the standard in airport weather accuracy, detecting 100% of precipitation from the lightest drop to the end of the storm. As the

*""Grímsey is small community with important ties to the rest of Iceland, so inhabitants depend on Grímsey Airport for everything from imported goods to transportation. The FD70 is critical for helping us ensure safe and efficient flights, especially in freezing conditions."*

*Hjördís Þórhallsdóttir*
*District Manager, Isavia*

leading forward scatter technology for visibility and present weather, including runway visual range (RVR), the pioneering FD70 provides constant, reference grade performance — even freezing drizzle and rain, ice pellets, and intense or mixed precipitation.

Clear messages and remote performance monitoring minimize maintenance, and the FD70's rugged, modular design with no moveable or consumable parts can stand up to every kind of weather.

## THE RESULTS:

### All-weather confidence

Isavia never misses a weather event, thanks to the unprecedented accuracy and reliability of the FD70. The organization can focus on airport operations without worrying about maintaining the sensor, which is important at this remote location. For example, the FD70 status messages indicate when windows are getting dirty in advance, which saves time.

The FD70's robust design, downward looking geometry, heated window, and dirt and salt compensation algorithm all combine to provide long maintenance intervals and ensure reliability. Isavia can operate this crucial airport with confidence all year round to serve this community and everyone who visits.

## Why Vaisala?

For over 45 years, Vaisala has been a pioneer in aviation weather technology, ensuring that every measure is taken for unparalleled safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Our gold standard suite of solutions is trusted in more than 170 countries and over 2000 airports globally. In fact, every commercial flight around the world will use weather observations produced by Vaisala equipment or forecasts driven by our sensor measurements at some point in their journey.

With a commitment to constantly evolving our portfolio, Vaisala remains at the forefront of the industry, continuously exploring new horizons.

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