



Norway's biggest airline network

Widerøe was founded in 1934 by Viggo Widerøe, an aviation pioneer in Norway. It started out as a flying boat airline - the most common way to fly in those days since there were no airports. Smaller and remote communities primarily in the Northern and Western regions had to rely on Widerøe's flights to get fast connections to the world. Due to the country's topography the only way to travel was by boat or by air.

In 1953 Widerøe bought the de Havilland Beaver. Since then Widerøe has utilized de Havilland aircrafts; the Twin Otter, Dash 7 and now Dash 8.

By the outbreak of the war and the nazi invasion there were only three airports in Norway. During the war the Germans built several airports in the larger cities. After the war more airports were built and the airline industry grew.

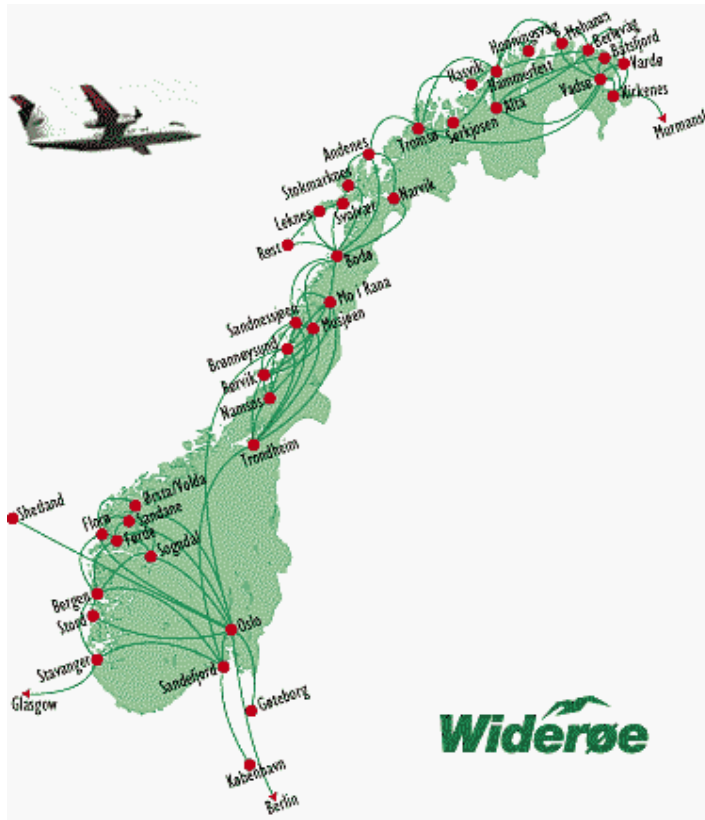
In the sixties the Norwegian parliament decided that smaller communities in rural Norway should be incorporated in the airline network for better connections to the capital and to the world. A series of STOL-ports (runway lengths of 2,500-2,800 ft) were built in western and northern Norway and Widerøe used Twin Otters to these Kyllingmarkers (so called because of the then minister of DoT mr Kyllingmark). At the time Widerøe was the world's largest operator of the Twin Otter.



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Now Widerøe have a fleet of only one Twin Otter but 17 Bombardier de Havilland Dash 8-100 (37 passengers) and 7 Dash 8-300 (50 passengers). It will also be European launch customer for Dash 8-400, the latest extended version of the aircraft with a capacity of 75 passengers. Widerøe is the largest European Dash 8 user.

SAS (who own 29% of Widerøe) and Braathens are the main trunk airlines of Norway but Widerøe have the largest network. It is a regional airline although the region nowadays is the whole of Norway and even international. Widerøe operates over 300 flights a day to 36 Norwegian airports and on international routes to Murmansk, the Shetlands, Glasgow, Goteborg, Copenhagen and Berlin.



Go to:
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[A Flight Bodø – Mo i Rana](#) Read about my flight with Widerøe

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