

Siv-Len Strandskog
Deputy Mayor, Sola Municipality

Official Opening and Opening Speech – Solakonferansen 2021.

As the deputy mayor, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to Sola. I'm proud to see that this conference again is gathering so many great specialists. It is good to see that society is gradually returning to something close to where we were before the pandemic.

Aviation has a great history here in Sola, and the aviation industry is, and has been important for us. The region's airport is Norway's oldest civilian airport. Since 1937, the airport has taken us out into the world, but also contributed to development, activity and influence from outside, in the same way as when the Vikings went back and forth over the North Sea, over 1000 years ago.

When Norway became an oil and gas nation in the 1960s, Sola and the airport were strategically important for transporting people and equipment.

The fact that the region has a strong aviation cluster is emphasized by the location of both The Joint Rescue Coordination Center, The Royal Norwegian Air Force Helicopter Search and Rescue Service and the 330 squadron, Avinor's control center, helicopter companies and workshops. Many inhabitants have their work and livelihood associated with this important competence cluster. We both see and hear activity in and around the airport, both from planes and helicopters. That's good!

Helicopter safety remains the core topic for this conference, but like the rest of us, the industry and this conference has to keep up with the rapid technological development and expectations of attention to environmental issues. I am glad that the industry already seems to be very future-oriented and prepared. We already have companies within unmanned Aircraft Systems and electrification of flight.

Norway is at the forefront of phasing in electric cars. Range anxiety, or "rekkeviddeangst" as we say, has already become an established concept for many Norwegians, a concept I do not hope to become a concept in aviation in a few years. Safety first!

Again: Welcome to Sola and this important and exciting conference. I hope and believe you get some good work sessions and inspiring input during your stay here. I hope that the conference, and the facilities, will promote sharing thoughts, ideas, and standards, as well as discussing opportunities and making new contacts. Or catching up on contacts you already have.

Thank you for the attention.

Solakonferansen

*For Safety in Aviation – the most important independent arena for debate and exchange of knowledge.
For those having new knowledge – those in need of knowledge – those who want to obtain knowledge (SKB/Oct 13).*

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