



NEWS RELEASE

Airport Book has lift off!

KERRY IN THE JET AGE 1969 - 2009

Book chronicling 40 years of history at Kerry Airport launched today by Dr. Sean Barrett

Sunday 29th of November, Tralee, Kerry, Ireland.

Kerry In The Jet Age, Kerry Airport 1969-2009, is the title of the book by **Donal Hickey**, which traces the story of the Airport's development from humble beginnings in the late 1960's to the present day. The book was officially launched by **Dr Sean Barrett, senior lecturer in economics at Trinity College, Dublin, and an internationally recognised expert in aviation economics**, at a luncheon in the Earl of Desmond Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry, on Sunday 29th of November. The event was attended by past and present Board Directors of Kerry Airport; management, staff and special guests. The book will be available in selected bookshops in Kerry and directly from Kerry Airport. For more information visit www.kerryairport.ie

Kerry Airport, centrally located in **Farranfore**, between Killarney and Tralee, opened with just a short runway in **1969** and is today a key part of the county's transport network and has been described as the **most important piece of infrastructure in Kerry** since the coming of the railway in the 19th century. More than **400,000 passengers pass through the Airport annually**, with people using the Farranfore facility to get directly to Dublin, London, mainland Europe and other destinations quickly, cost effectively and reliably.

Warmly welcoming the book, Dr. Barrett said that it recorded forty years of vision and commitment by the people of Kerry in developing a vital link for industry, trade and tourism in the county. "A surface journey to Dublin is reduced to 30 minutes, London is only 90 minutes away and Frankfurt-Hahn is reached within two hours. Air access is vital to Kerry's economy because of its remoteness from motor-ways and high speed rail.

Dr. Barrett continued, “To date passenger numbers at Kerry have held up remarkably compared to the main airports at Dublin, Cork and Shannon. The partnership of a low cost Airport and Europe's largest low cost airline, Ryanair, is a successful synergy”.

Denis Cregan, Chairman of Kerry Airport, hosted the event on behalf of the board.

“I would like to extend our thanks to you all for attending this celebratory luncheon and I hope you enjoy this exceptionally well researched and written book chronicling 40 historic years at Kerry Airport. As you know, the Airport has played an important role in the on going development of the business and tourist economy in Kerry since 1969. Today as we celebrate 40 years since the Airport's foundation, we look forward to the Region's continued support in this challenging economic climate”.

The **book's author**, Irish Examiner journalist, **Donal Hickey**.

“The Airport was built initially to boost tourism and manufacturing industry in Kerry, which it continues to do, but the people of the county are now among its principal users. The Airport is helping to tackle the county's remoteness and is providing easy access to south-west Ireland from Dublin, the UK, Europe and other parts of the world. Only recently top executives from Google, flew in by private jet from the US for an international conference in Kerry. It's a fantastic asset to the county.”

An instrumental and inspirational force, behind the book, *Kerry in the Jet Age*, current board Director **John O'Sullivan said**, “Many have played a role in developing the Airport over the years. I hope that you share with me that great sense of achievement and satisfaction. I think we have been privileged to have had the opportunity to play a part in providing this marvellous facility that is Kerry Airport, which has done so much for the economic life of the county”.

Kerry in the Jet Age is wonderfully illustrated with many photographs, old and new, some of famous personalities, including former **US President Bill Clinton**, pop singer **Elton John** and the world's number one golfer, **Tiger Woods**, who all came through the Airport over the years.

Kerry Airport currently has direct flights to Dublin, London Stansted, London Luton and Frankfurt Hahn with Ryanair. Kerry Airport won the prestigious Irish Airport of the Year in 2005 from the CCI and was declared as the first Heartsafe Airport in Ireland by the Irish Heart Foundation.

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Ger Cronin attended on behalf of Kerry Airport and can syndicate a photograph to you.

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