

# Nepal's New International Airport

OPSGROUP Team

26 April, 2022



A second international airport has officially opened in Nepal. Here is the lowdown on it.

## Introduce us.

It is called **VNBW/Gautam Buddha**, and it is located in Bhairahawa, approximately 250km west of VNKT/Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.

The airport was officially inaugurated on **April 22, 2022** but won't see any international flights until May 16. It isn't entirely new - an old airport was located here, and the original runway now serves as a taxiway.



The new airport lies on the border with India.

### What's the lowdown on it?

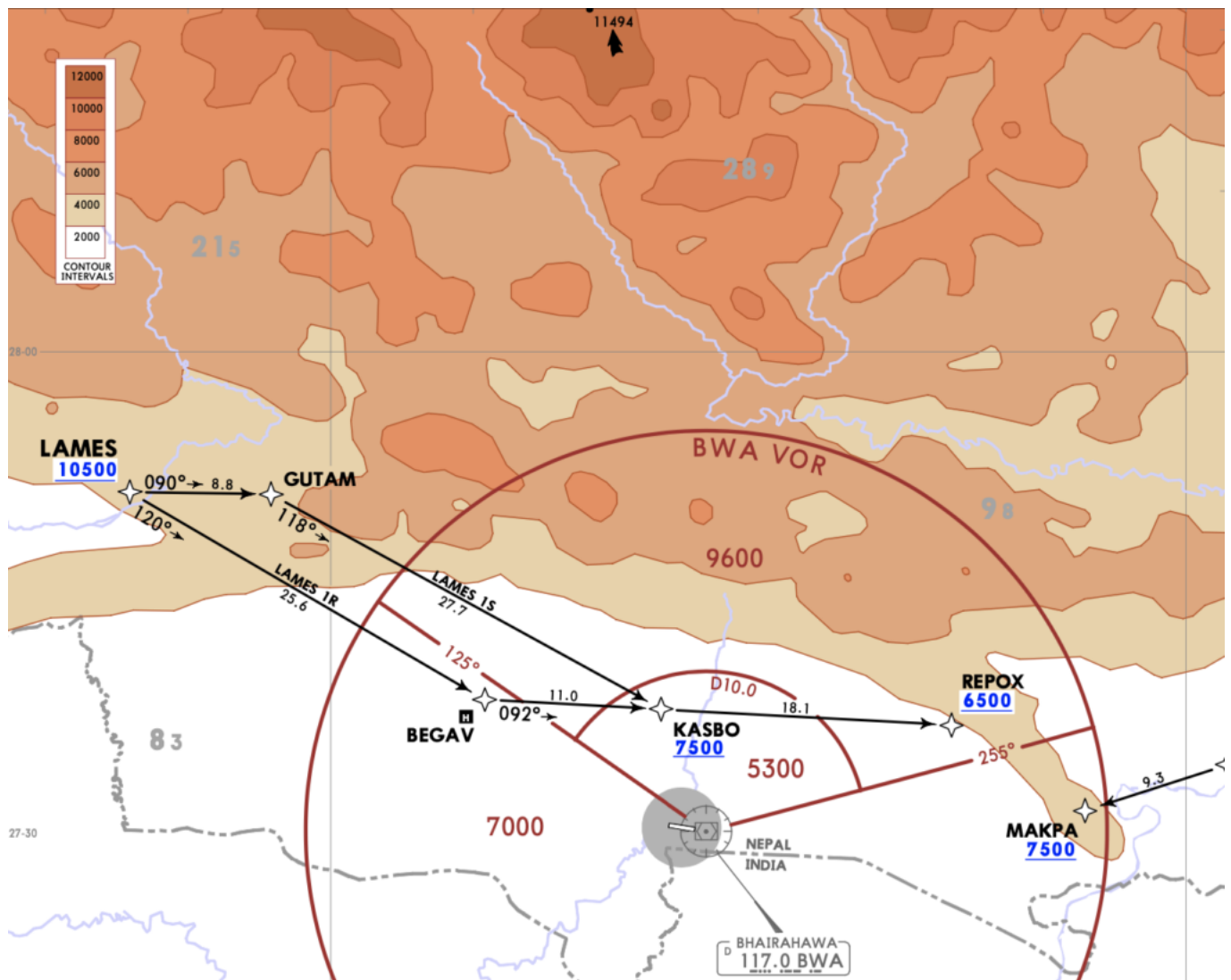
The airport has a **9834' (3000m) runway** with a RNP approach to 10 and 28, and a VOR approach to runway 10 as well.

You're going to want to watch out for the high terrain which lies to the north of the airport. **The MSA is 9600'** in the northerly sector, and 7000' for the rest, all of which makes for some altitude restrictions on the way in and out.

The airport itself is relatively small - just a few stands of the international apron and a few on the domestic apron.

The airport is RFF 5.

**It isn't a 24 hour airport though.** The tower is only operational daily 0600-1845 local time (0015-1300z) and the general operational hours are Sunday-Thursday 1000-1700 local, 1000-1600 Wednesday and Friday 1000-1500.



Watch out for some serious terrain nearby.

## Who can we talk to there?

We have a few contact details for you. Starting with the **general airport info**:

- Telephone: +977 71 507 110
- Email: gautambuddha\_cao@caanepal.org.np
- Tower: 122.5
- AFTN: VNBWYDYX

There is an **agent based in Singapore** who can offer some support if you want to operate in:

- Telephone: +65 6592 7623
- Email: ops@aerogon.aero

Fuel is expected to be supplied by AEG, and they **only have Jet A1**.

## Want some more info?

The AIP section for the aerodrome can be found here. It's valid today, but might not be tomorrow so don't use for operational purposes.

## And they are building more...

**Pokhara International Airport** is expected to open later in 2022, offering connections to neighbouring countries whilst Nijgadh International Airport is expected to open sometime in 2025.