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An Aviation Consultancy



POLAR ROUTES IMPROVE AIR NAVIGATION — FIFTH IN A SERIES OF MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AVIATION INDUSTRY

Polar navigation is one of the many significant achievements in aviation that have led to faster, safer, and more reliable travel opportunities for passengers and more efficient routes for cargo.

Shortly after midnight on May 9, 1926, two aviators in a Fokker Trimotor took off from Kings Bay, Spitzbergen, Norway. The aviators headed across the formidable arctic ice sheet and, at 9:02 a.m., crossed the "top of the world," 800 miles from their take-off point. Returning 16 hours after their departure amid worldwide acclaim, the aviators had completed the first flight over the North Pole.

This historic aviation milestone led to significant logistical improvements that endure to this day. Polar routes are now used regularly

between Europe, Asia, and North America, leading to significant time and operating cost advantages for both passenger and cargo services. Today's global economy owes a great deal to the vision and determination of these early aviation pioneers.

1. The Josephine Ford, a Fokker Trimotor with a top speed 118 MPH and a range of 1,600 miles with a length of 49' 2"; a wing-span of 63' 3"; and an empty weight of 6,300 pounds. The top speed of the aircraft was 118 MPH and the range was 1600 miles.



2. The Dirigible Italia, which made a second crossing of the North Pole in 1928



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Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's new facility at Washington Dulles International Airport, Virginia.