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31.12.2011 14:48 Uhr



**International airport bid attacked by greens**

**Bitburg airport or energy centre?**



Photo: *Holpert*

Bitburg airport in Germany, a former air base which could be converted into an international airport to rival Luxembourg's Findel

Plans to build a rival to Findel airport over the border in Germany may have hit a snag because of pressure from green politicians to construct a sustainable energy centre.

Developer Frank Lamparski announced more than a year ago his scheme to convert the former US air base in Bitburg into a commercial airport.


He says he has already secured funding to the tune of 30 million euros for the project which is expected to cost a total 380 million euros.


However he cannot act until he receives the green light from the Rhineland-Palatinate state parliament, which has

received a rival bid from environmentalists.

Green party representatives in the area have called the proposal "irresponsible" and "unfeasible", suggesting that a new international airport would be subject to competition from nearby low-cost airport Hahn, just 90 kilometres away.

They would prefer to see the construction of photovoltaic and wind energy systems as well as the growth of biogas producing energy crops.

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