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Prague Airport and oil fears



An earnest debate over the future of Prague Airport is only beginning, but the window of opportunity for selling it at a top price could be closing fast. Investors might be willing to pay 100 times earnings now, but such a valuation would assume a significant increase in capacity and/or fees. Who knows, though, how much jet fuel will cost in a year or two. Analysts say that all European airlines would be in the red if oil rose to \$200/barrel. Adding destinations wouldn't be a top priority under such a scenario. There's no guarantee, in fact, that Prague will ever really need its much-coveted new runway. Without it, the new owner would be forced to make its money by raising fees and concessions, which are already a sore point with Czech travelers. The longer the government waits to sell Prague Airport, the more Czechs will ask whether it's in their best interest for it to be sold at all.



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