

GROUND SUPPORT NEWS

Continental Airlines has awarded JBT AeroTech a new seven-year contract to continue providing airport facilities maintenance services, primarily at Houston's 'George Bush Intercontinental Airport' (IAH). JBT AeroTech will provide comprehensive maintenance services for all of Continental's terminals at IAH and Houston Hobby Airport under this contract, which encompasses more than 100 passenger boarding bridges and three baggage systems as well as 38 off-site facilities located throughout the Houston metropolitan area. The contract also includes continued management and upgrade of JBT AeroTech's Intelligent Operations Performance System (iOPS™), a computerized maintenance management system. JBT AeroTech developed the patented iOPS platform to improve its customers' operational efficiency through real-time monitoring, performance measurement and co-ordination of gate and ground support equipment. "We have a long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship with Continental Airlines and are pleased to expand our partnership through this long-term contract renewal," said John Lee, Vice President of JBT AeroTech. #860.GSE1

Amsterdam Airport has decided to upgrade to the latest Skidata parking management solution for its 40 000 carparking spaces. The airport has used Skidata since 1993 and in 2008 decided to replace its existing parking equipment and bring passenger parking throughout the entire airport up to the next level. Roel Huinink, Senior Manager Parking & Mobility Services, Amsterdam-Schiphol, said that the reason to go with Skidata as exclusive supplier was that their solution stood out as the one to meet all their needs in terms of user convenience, innovation and investment protection. The project, which covers all parking facilities at Schiphol, will go ahead in several stages over the coming years, based on a ten-year frame agreement between the airport parking operator and Skidata. Willem-Jan Balk, Managing Director of Skidata Netherlands & Belgium, said: "This diversity in requirements is precisely where the Skidata solution can play out its strengths. It's extremely flexible when it comes to things like sectioning, tariff management and supporting various business models and revenue streams." #860.GSE2

Amsterdam Airport has introduced its new 'Digital Pier Network'. Advertisements can now be shown in digital quality on energy-efficient Philips screens at nearly all Schiphol piers. This new advertising product has the capacity to reach departing and arriving passengers separately, which is ideal for targeted commercial messages. The digital network allows for advertisements to be interchanged rapidly at low production and handling costs, creating the potential for targeted advertising at specific times in specific locations. Another 90 screens are to be taken into commission during summer 2009. The Digital Pier Network was developed by the airport's Schiphol Media department. In addition to this new network, Schiphol offers hundreds of other screens with advertising space. #860.GSE3

Blast Deflectors Inc. (BDI) has completed its largest ground run-up enclosure (GRE) to date at Dubai International Airport. The GRE, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East region, was completed for Emirates Airlines as part of their new maintenance facility. The enclosure was tested with a Boeing 777-300ER and Airbus A340-500 during acceptance tests at the end of November 2008. The GRE

has since been used to test the A380 and will help reduce noise to the surrounding community. BDI's run-up enclosures use the patented Noiseblotter™ panels and Stabile-Flow™ technologies. The GRE panels, which offer unprecedented noise reduction, absorb more sound per square foot than any other panel available. The Stabile-Flow design allows ground run-up enclosures to be effective in diverse wind conditions, significantly reducing the risk of surges, stalls, and recirculation that can damage an aircraft's engine and reduce facility usability. #860.GSE4

On 1 May 2009, Vanderlande Industries Inc. in the USA was awarded a USD 13.2 million contract by Clark Byrne Construction for the integration of in-line screening at San Antonio International Airport in Texas. A competitor protested the award which resulted in a hearing on 30 April 2009 before the City Council. The protest was dismissed and Vanderlande Industries emerged as the winner. In February 2009, Vanderlande Industries had received a contract award for a small interim system at San Antonio Airport. This project was required to allow for the award of a larger system that included the integration of in-line screening. Vanderlande received the order because the current supplier could not come to terms regarding the schedule with Clark Byrne Construction on the small interim system. Vanderlande believes that reacting to Clark Construction's needs initially during the interim system played a major part in their selection process. #860.GSE5

* Vanderlande Industries has published its financial results for the year ended 31 March 2009. The company achieved net sales of EUR 656 million, an increase of 7% over the same 2008 period. Order intake also increased by 7% to EUR 615 million, while net income increased by 4% to EUR 35.3 million. The order book of EUR 750 million provides a solid base for the coming years. The number of employees rose by 201 to 1943 (+12%), mainly due to the opening of a new subsidiary in India and the extension of the services activities. Michiel Peters, President & CEO of Vanderlande Industries, said: "We have had a good year in which we delivered projects and services around the globe, to the satisfaction of our customers. We have also been successful in terms of new product launches, order intake and market share. Baggage handling, our largest activity, is moderately sensitive to the economic downturn. We succeeded in obtaining more orders from customers around the globe than in the previous year." #860.GSE6

Douglas Equipment Ltd will be participating in the Inter Airport Europe Exhibition in Munich to be held at the Munich Trade Fair from 6 – 9 October 2009, promoting their range of towbarless and conventional aircraft towing tractors and Mu-Meter Runway Friction Measuring Equipment. On display at Inter Airport will be the Douglas Kalmar TBL600 towbarless tractor, designed for handling aircraft ranging from the Airbus A310/Boeing B.767 up to and including the Airbus A380. The TBL600 incorporates the latest CanBus electronic control technology, latest cab and in-cab layout, and other features, many of which are now incorporated across the complete range of Douglas towbarless tractors. The latest Douglas Tugmaster type DC10-44 conventional aircraft towing tractor will also be on display. The market-leading Douglas Mu-Meter Runway Friction Measuring Equipment will be on display at Munich alongside the revolutionary battery electric power Douglas RAM (Remote Aircraft Mover) for handling military fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. #860.GSE7

International airlines operating to and from Australia have signed a five-year contract renewal worth more than AUD 25 million with Unisys Australia to continue to provide a baggage reconciliation system for 44 international airlines operating from the Australian international airports at Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Cairns, Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, and the Gold Coast. The Board of Airline Representatives Australia (BARA) manages the engagement with Unisys on behalf of the airlines. Unisys has worked with BARA since 2004 to provide the baggage reconciliation system that links passengers with their bags, tracking both as they move through the system. Each year airlines must secure and validate up to 20 million bags for some 10 million air travellers on international flights to or from Australia. The baggage reconciliation system helps airlines comply with the Aviation Security Act's 'Triple A' (account and authorize) regulations relating to baggage handling, which are mandated by the Commonwealth Government's Office of Transport Security. When passengers check in, each bag receives a barcode, which is then scanned and reconciled with a passenger record before it can be loaded onto the aircraft. As the airline has a record of the baggage-loading order, bags can be quickly identified and recovered if passengers fail to board. Sue Carter, Vice President, Commercial Industries, Unisys Asia Pacific, said: "While increased security measures help build public confidence in air carriers, to retain customer satisfaction in the competitive market, it's essential that airlines avoid lengthy processing or flight delays when baggage needs to be found and removed from flights." #860.GSE8

Israel's Elbit Systems will supply the Israeli Ministry of Transportation with the C-MUSIC system (commercial multi-spectral infrared countermeasure) under a contract worth approximately USD 76 million. The system will be supplied by Elbit Systems' wholly-owned subsidiary Elbit Systems Electro-optics EI-Op Ltd, and is to be installed aboard a variety of Israeli commercial aircraft. C-MUSIC is based on the MUSIC® system, a direct infra-red countermeasure technology for military aircraft and helicopters that disrupts missiles fired at aircraft by transmitting a laser beam. The MUSIC® system completed a series of flight tests recently. Joseph Ackerman, President & CEO of Elbit Systems, said: "We take great pride in the selection of C-MUSIC by the Israeli Ministry of Transportation and see it as a mission to assist in protecting commercial aircraft worldwide." #860.GSE9

General Electric (GE) and the Federal Government of Nigeria have signed a landmark 'company-to-country' agreement aimed at promoting collaboration between GE and Nigerian public and private-sector organizations that are driving critical infrastructure projects across the country. Nigeria's Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Michael Kaase Aondoakaa, and GE Vice Chairman, John Rice, signed the agreement at a ceremony held in Abuja, Nigeria. The agreement strengthens Nigeria's existing commercial relationship with GE, expanding the possible opportunities to include railway infrastructure development and rehabilitation, oil and gas processing, distribution and transportation, electric power generation, water and wastewater treatment, healthcare, aviation and integrated safety and security systems. In addition, the two parties are agreeing to explore creating technical and managerial employment opportunities for Nigerians as well as bring GE's management and leadership training to Nigeria's business community.

In the aviation sector, GE Commercial Aviation Services (GECAS) and GE Aviation have a strong presence among leading Nigerian airlines. GE Commercial Aviation Services (GECAS) currently has seven aircraft on lease to Virgin Nigeria Airways and Bellview with a value of about USD 100

million, and recently concluded the sale of four Boeing 737NG series aircraft to Arik Air. In addition, GE Aviation has sold about 95 engines (CF34, CFM56, GEnx, and GE90) in Nigeria since 2006 with a list value of USD 1 billion. #860.GSE10

UFIS Airport Solutions (UFIS-AS) is upgrading its UFIS® Resource Management System (RMS) at Singapore-Changi Airport by implementing the Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM) module and additional enhancements to the integrated iTrek wireless application. The UFIS solutions support Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) in managing the complex tasks of its ground-handling operations and in-flight catering services. The delivery of the PRM application is in response to SATS' initiative to continuously improve its passenger service quality. The module is to cater for SATS Special Services within the airport's three terminals. With the new module, SATS can track all requests and staffs assignments for the passengers needing special assistance. The UFIS PRM application, a recent addition to UFIS portfolio, is already in use at airports in Rome, Athens, and Hannover. Enhancements to the iTrek wireless application include showing on the handheld devices a list of equipment scheduled to be used, thus enabling SATS to extend its apron service delivery framework. Other enhancements include the introduction of the iTrek Apron Service Report (ASR) on the handheld devices, thereby eliminating the need to travel back to the SATS Operation Control Centre to complete the report. #860.GSE11

On 22 May 2009, baggage-service company Bagport Group was awarded its ISO 9001:2008 Certificate. Underlining its high quality services at airports in Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.A., this certification proves Bagport's competence and skills for transparent and well organized methods for operations at international airports. Quality System Manager for Bagport Group, Oliver Teschner, said: "The certification process went very smoothly as our standards and procedures were planned bottom-up by our members of staff. They formed our key element in developing this system and the auditors were well impressed with the staff's confidence in their daily work." Bagport offers a range of service products, systems and solutions for airport passengers that enhance customer satisfaction. #860.GSE12

U.K.-based Operational security Ltd (OPSEC) has announced CarSCAN, a new system that rapidly inspects cars and light trucks for explosives and contraband at vehicle checkpoints. CarSCAN significantly increases detection capabilities at checkpoints, national infrastructure, and other high-security locations. Concealed items are quickly identified in vehicles travelling at normal checkpoint speeds, reducing wait times. Passengers remain safely inside the vehicle, allowing a thorough inspection with the highest throughput. CarSCAN uses a proprietary dual-energy transmission X-ray technology called K-Edge Switched Energy™. This technique requires only a single view penetrating through the entire vehicle to greatly minimize blind spots. Organic objects are highlighted in colour-coded images; advanced algorithms measure the dimension and weight of concealed organic masses providing additional useful information to the operator. A conventional black and white image is also displayed to locate metal objects such as weapons. CarSCAN's overall operation is similar to an airport baggage scanner. However, the technical challenge of scanning vehicles is more difficult, needing to penetrate through a steel frame

while only using a very low level of X-rays. High-tech security innovator Spectrum San Diego Inc. has developed the K-Edge Switched Energy technology to overcome this problem. #860.GSE13

Arinc Inc. has been awarded a three-year contract to supply, install, operate and maintain the New Common Use Check-In System for Manila's 'Ninoy Aquino International Airport' (NAIA) Terminal 1 and 2 (North wing). Cut-over from the old SITA system to the Arinc system started at the end of June 2009. The new system will service almost 4 million outbound passengers at NAIA's Terminal 1, and 1.6 million outbound passengers at NAIA's Terminal 2 yearly, using the 85 check-in counters and 15 boarding gates at Terminal 1 and 40 check-in counters and 15 boarding gates at Terminal 2. On the average, Terminal 1 services 40 outbound international flights while Terminal 2 services 29 outbound international flights daily. Print and Read 2D Bar Code technology will be used for both boarding passes and the baggage tag identification system. Arinc Managing Director, Randy Pizzi, said that airports are constantly looking for new ways to strengthen security and enhance customer satisfaction. The vMUSE (Multi User-System Environment) system will provide Manila Airport with a scalable and cost-effective common-use platform to further upgrade its operations. #860.GSE14

Melbourne Airport in Australia recently embarked on an upgrade and expansion of its baggage-handling system, enlisting New Zealand-based BCS Group to carry out the redevelopment which involved replacing the existing inbound baggage-handling system and relocating its entry-point to a new inbound bag room on the tarmac. The new inbound system comprises more than 600 m of belt-conveyors and features the latest in automated materials-handling technology. Each of the six single-line belt-conveyor bag lines is approximately 120 m long, and made up of up to 20 separate belt conveyors of various lengths and functionality. Each conveyor is equipped with an SEW-Eurodrive geared motor, paired with a Movitrac LTE IP55 frequency inverter. A central control room oversees the operation of the new baggage-handling system via an airport-wide SCADA system and CCTV network. By interfacing the Movitrac LTEs with the airport's PLCs, operators are provided with central, single-point configurable control of all motion applications. #860.GSE15

International GSE manufacturer TLD has announced an agreement with U.S.-based Aero Industrial Sales Company (AIS) to solely represent, market, and sell TLD ground support equipment in dedicated African countries. Aero industrial Sales Company has distributed aircraft spare parts, materials and GSE for the last two decades and is currently doing an initial provisioning for a new fleet of B.777-200s and B.737-700s for TAAG – Angola Airlines. The carrier has selected the TLD GSE for its new and existing fleet and AIS has been able to deliver a one-stop shopping package of equipment including aircraft pushback tractors, passenger steps, heavy-duty air start/air conditioning/ground power units, safety sensitive baggage loaders, and aircraft service trucks. #860.GSE16