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Germany's INFORM GmbH is rolling out its GroundStar software solutions for Singapore Airport Terminal Services Ltd (SATS), a leading provider of food and gateway services, and the chief ground handling and in-flight catering service provider at Singapore Changi Airport (SIN). The system, which was selected to replace SATS' existing legacy system, will be applied in Singapore Changi Airport, and be used in the planning, rostering and real-time management of SATS' 4,000 staff members. The successful implementation has taken place remotely in five pilot departments in parallel. Among the solutions being implemented are the planning and rostering solutions, GroundStar (GS) Planning and GS WorkforcePlus; the real-time allocation solution, GS RealTime including Daily Flight Information Processing and its mobility solution, for processing IATA messages and staff communication to mobile devices, respectively; and the business intelligence solution, GS BIS.
The software project is being rolled out in the different business units in phases. The pilot phase of the project focused on SATS' baggage, loading including ground support equipment operations, load control, flight ops and cabin cleaning processes and successfully went live in mid-November 2021. According to INFORM Project Manager Oliver Tiedt, the Daily Flight Information Processing, the GS Planning and GS WorkforcePlus, GS RealTime and GS BIS applications have been implemented. Rollouts in the passenger, security and catering areas were successfully completed. Due Covid restrictions and to ensure worker safety, all implementation activities have been performed remotely.

Vision-Box has unveiled its latest solution built upon a new generation of biometric technology: Seamless Kiosk. Seamless Kiosk has been developed to provide an exceptional user experience through its biometric and biographic capture performance, increasing the passenger handling process speed with an accessible design and a smart passenger guide system, based on artificial intelligence that better helps any user to follow the instructions intuitively with a new immersive camera system.
Seamless Kiosk is equipped with an audible and highly tactile assistive interface for navigation and selection of screen-based content and braille signs to support passengers with impaired vision, an inability to read, restricted reach, or limited dexterity. It is also compliant with Europe, United States and Canada's disability acts. With its full-frontal face capture module optimised with automatic height and dynamic illumination adjustments, Seamless Kiosk enables an accurate capture process, which enhances the user experience. Key technological features of Seamless Kiosk include: modular design for different configurations of travel documents and barcode reader, card reader, fingerprint scanner and accessibility keypad; printer module customisable for different use cases; biometric-by-design solution compliant with most strict standards; integrated with Vision-Box Orchestra Digital Identity Management Platform; and launch application is based on CUSS 2.0, and it is also compatible with legacy CUSS versions.

Thales has developed a new Cabin Baggage Explosive Detection System (EDS CB) to improve security at airports. The new offering, called HELIXVIEW, is a stationary, compact, and lightweight

EDS CB C3-compliant scanner that leverages X-ray nanotechnology-based electronic scanning along with 3D imaging reconstruction to detect prohibited items inside passenger luggage.

HELIXVIEW also uses artificial intelligence (AI) to interpret threats and notify operators with a threat/no threat assessment. The technology can identify explosives, knives and even parts of dismantled weapons placed in separate bags. According to the company, the deployment of this new technology will eliminate the need for passengers to remove belongings from luggage, facilitating security checks at airports. Additionally, HELIXVIEW's reduced size and weight will enable airport operators to optimise space usage. The new offering is expected to be certified by the end of 2023.

Glidepath Limited (now trading as Alstef Group) has been selected to supply, install, and commission the new baggage handling system at Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM), the main airport on the Caribbean Island of Sint Maarten. The project is part of a major national recovery and resilience programme managed by the World Bank to repair and rebuild the terminal following extensive damage caused to the airport by Hurricane Irma in 2017. The baggage handling system (BHS) replacement includes an outbound sortation system with 22 check-in locations, 12 self-serve bag drops, two in-line Standard 3 CT X-ray machines, a manual encode lane and automatic sortation to three makeup carousels controlled by Alstef Group's proprietary Bagsort Lite software. The new inbound system will comprise three new horizontal carousels with feed lines. The BHS project will be implemented in several phases, with completion set for June 2023.

ADB SAFEGATE's latest A-VDGS product, Safedock FleX, introduces a new, flexible approach that gives users complete control over desired A-VDGS functionality to match their needs and budgets. Safedock FleX is a network integrated A-VDGS that originates from the familiar Safedock X platform and uses the same infrared laser and 3D scanning technology that has helped ADB SAFEGATE become a market leader. The new A-VDGS are compatible with previous SafeControl Apron Management (SAM) software versions and offer integration capacities for real-time gate and apron management. Safedock FleX uses the 3D laser scan to capture and track incoming aircraft to ensure gate compatibility and safely guide pilots to the precise stop position, regardless of operating conditions or gate layout. Automated docking is possible thanks to network integration between Safedock FleX and SAM. A full-colour LED display provides intuitive guidance to pilots and communicates critical RIDS/A-CDM messages to ground crew, and the system can be adapted to operate a second display to further improve turn awareness. Safedock A-VDGS are key to ADB SAFEGATE's Digital Apron offering that brings advanced technologies including automated aircraft docking, data analysis, artificial intelligence, and video surveillance to achieve efficient, safe and sustainable, all-weather airport operations.

Japan-headquartered Soliton Systems is trialling a remote-controlled driverless baggage tractor in the restricted area of Chubu Centrair International Airport (NGO) with the co-operation of Japan Airlines (JAL) and Chubu Sky Support (CSS). The towing tractor is an existing vehicle in operation by JAL that has been modified with a remote-control system developed by Soliton. The tele-driving centre set-up in Nagoya city will be responsible for the remote operation of this vehicle where CSS employees, who are qualified to drive at Chubu International Airport, will take responsibility for the remote driving. The communication between the vehicle and the remote centre uses the Smart-telecaster ™ Zao series of video transmission devices that will enable high stability, with ultra-low latency in video streaming and control communication.

The trial is viewed as an initiative aimed at improving the productivity of freight-towing vehicles in airport operations. The trial will demonstrate that a remote system equipped with functions such as obstacle detection warning, will allow airport stakeholders situated outside the airport to recognize and judge the driving conditions based on these trials and ensure that safety is never compromised. This would open up new opportunities for increased efficiency, especially in a world where there is a lot of pressure on airport operators post Covid.

Swiss global security group Dormakaba has signed a 10-year agreement with Norway's Avinor Group for the sale and maintenance of 450 Argus Air eGate solutions, making the

company an exclusive supplier of self-boarding and boarding-pass-validation gates for all state-owned Norwegian airports. Avinor operates the 44 state-owned airports in Norway and provides safe and efficient travel for around 50 million passengers annually. The Argus Air sensor gates, with their customer-specific design, ensure a fast process flow at airports and a smooth passenger experience, according to Dormakaba. The self-boarding gate Argus Air combines Dormakaba's latest design-oriented sensor barriers with biometric control that enables touchless access.