

for inter airport Europe from Momberger Airport Information #1212 / March 4, 2024

Munich Airport (Germany) and Lufthansa are advancing automated process optimization through a project called "Next Best Process: Systems for Automated Process Improvement."

The project, funded by a EUR 786,000 grant from the Bavarian Research Foundation, aims to enhance operations at Munich Airport as part of the "MUC 2030" premium hub strategy. This two-year research project, implemented by the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Information Technology along with Munich Airport GmbH, Lufthansa, and Terminal 2 Company, focuses on leveraging modern technologies for data-driven process improvements.

Key areas of interest include optimizing aircraft turnaround times by analyzing various operational factors using innovative algorithms. This initiative reflects Bavaria's commitment to technological advancement, particularly in artificial intelligence, and aims to improve passenger experience through efficient and automated airport operations.

Dabico A-Bridge, a division of Dabico Airport Solutions, has secured a significant contract to replace 12 passenger boarding bridges at Buffalo International Airport (New York, United States). Announced on 29 February 2024, the project includes the integration of Dabico 400hz and PCA Units, representing a major upgrade to the airport's infrastructure. The company highlights the substantial energy savings, reduction in CO2 emissions, and minimized environmental impact associated with the renewal of each Passenger Boarding Bridge (PBB).

With this project, Dabico A-Bridge aims to enhance airport operations, improve the passenger experience, and contribute to global sustainability efforts, embodying the future of modern air travel.

Alstef Group is close to finishing a significant baggage handling system (BHS) upgrade at Princess Juliana International Airport in Sint Maarten. Awarded the project in 2019 through a competitive selection process, Alstef Group was chosen based on their capability to meet technical specifications and their extensive experience in delivering similar projects in the Caribbean. The upgrade, part of a broader terminal improvement effort managed by the World Bank after Hurricane Irma's 2017 devastation, includes outbound sortation with 27 check-in locations, two inline Standard 3 Explosive Detection Systems, automatic sortation to three makeup carousels via Alstef's BAGSORT Lite software, and an inbound system with three new horizontal carousels.

Frankfurt Airport (Germany), managed by Fraport AG, is advancing its ground power supply transformation to eliminate the use of diesel-powered units for parked aircraft by 2040. This initiative is part of Fraport's climate protection strategy. Due to the limitations of the airport's infrastructure, not all 255 aircraft positions can be fitted with stationary 400 Hz connections. Instead, these positions will utilize battery-powered ground power units (GPUs). Fraport has received EUR 215,000 in funding from the German Ministry for Digital and Transport's ground power directive funding program to support this transition. This funding will help equip one aircraft position in terminal section C with a battery-powered e-GPU and its charging infrastructure, with a total investment of EUR 307,000.

Currently, about 67% of the positions are connected to stationary power. However, certain locations, such as 'roll-through' aircraft positions, cannot have fixed installations due to the need for aircraft to leave positions without obstruction. Mobile e-GPUs will be used in these instances, offering a significant reduction in diesel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Fraport aims to connect additional positions to the electric grid by 2026, despite challenges like major excavation works required during ongoing operations. The airport currently operates eight e-GPUs alongside approximately 61 diesel-powered units. This initiative is part of a broader effort to adopt climate- and environmentally friendly technologies for aircraft ground power, coordinated by NOW GmbH and approved by Germany's Federal Agency for Administrative Services (BAV). Further details on Fraport's climate actions are available in their climate press kit.

The Vancouver Airport Authority (British Columbia, Canada) has partnered with Moment Energy, a clean-tech company from Coquitlam, British Columbia, to implement a new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) utilizing repurposed electric vehicle (EV) batteries. This initiative is part of British Columbia's Integrated Marketplace and aims to enhance sustainable charging infrastructure at the airport. The BESS will initially support YVR's fleet vehicles at the North Service Building, with plans to evaluate the system for potential expansion, including public access areas. This system serves dual purposes: it extends the life of retired EV batteries, preventing them from becoming waste, and it contributes to modernizing the electrical grid by providing an efficient, off-grid charging solution for EVs at YVR. This project aligns with YVR's commitment to eliminate carbon emissions from its operations and achieve its Roadmap to Net Zero by 2030, specifically addressing fleet greening and building energy conservation and electrification.

Since its launch at the end of 2022, the Digi Yatra biometric airport system has been used by over 14 million people in 14 months, with Delhi and Bengaluru airports experiencing the highest usage. The DigiYatra app has seen significant adoption, with 4.6 million downloads as of 10 February, marking a 20% increase from 3.8 million users at the start of January. The system, which facilitates biometric boarding by allowing travellers to register their ID, biometrics, and flight details on the app, is currently implemented in 13 airports across India. Additionally, Akasa Air plans to adopt Digi Yatra at 9 airports, according to Zee Business.

SITA, an air transport technology provider, is celebrating its 75th anniversary, highlighting its long history of innovation and dedication to the aviation sector. Since its foundation in 1949 by 11 airlines, SITA has been at the forefront of technological advancements in the industry. It created the world's largest data network by the late 1950s and was a pioneer in packet switching technology in the 1960s, contributing significantly to the early development of the internet. Throughout the years, SITA has expanded its services to include support for airlines, airports, and governments in various areas such as passenger and baggage processing, border management, digital efficiencies, and sustainability for aircraft. Notably, in 1984, SITA introduced the Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system, significantly enhancing terminal capacity. SITA has also played a crucial role in global sporting events, developing the world's first e-visa system for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and facilitating digital identity and travel authorization for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. Under the leadership of CEO David Lavorel, SITA says it remains committed to reinventing travel and transport, focusing on flexibility, agility, innovation, operational excellence, digital transformation, and sustainability. The company is investing in Cloud and SaaS solutions, biometric journeys, and data insights to optimize operations. SITA aims to maintain its leadership in the evolving trends and technologies of the travel and transport industry, including expanding into new areas such as regional airports, vertiports, and the maritime and rail sectors.

Publisher's note: The articles in this special report, compiled for **inter airport Europe**, are a few select samples from the biweekly **Momberger Airport Information** newsletter, published since 1973. The newsletter is an advertising-free, global airport news service that consists of 9 modules and allows subscribers to customize their own newsletter package. The modules that make up the biweekly newsletter are: Airport Development (DEV), Calendar of

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