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Airport Terminals

The BEUMER Group has been chosen as the vendor for a new baggage handling system (BHS) for the terminal expansion at Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Michigan (United States). This system is a key component of the airport's USD 135 million Terminal Enhancement Project. The BEUMER CrisBag system, known for its automation and security features, uses a tote-based individual carrier system (ICS) that provides "one bag per tote" efficiency. This selection makes Ford International the first small-hub airport in the U.S. to implement such advanced technology. The expansion aims to enhance the airport's capacity, improve environmental sustainability, and boost passenger experience. The Terminal Expansion Project is part of a broader USD 600 million regional capital investment plan to support increasing passenger and air service demands. The Christman Company serves as the main contractor for the project, with VTC handling the BHS design and BEUMER Group managing the BHS installation. This upgrade is expected to offer significant long-term savings and operational efficiencies.

ESS Technology has completed the installation of its initial system at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, marking a significant step towards reducing carbon emissions through the electrification of ground operations. The system will replace diesel ground power units with Electric Ground Power Units (E-GPUs), significantly lowering carbon emissions and air pollution. This initiative aligns with the Royal Schiphol Group's goal to achieve zero emissions by 2030 across all its operations. The project is part of the TULIPS consortium, an EU-funded group that aims to enhance the adoption of renewable energy in Europe's aviation sector. ESS's iron flow battery system, known for its safety and efficiency, powers this new setup, providing a reliable and sustainable energy source for up to twelve hours.

This initiative not only demonstrates a significant advancement in airport decarbonisation but also serves as a model for other airports in Europe to follow, potentially accelerating the broader industry's transition towards sustainable operations.

Piller Power Systems has upgraded the runway lighting power protection system at Düsseldorf Airport by replacing the old UPS system, installed in 1997, with their latest high-efficiency technology. The new system incorporates sustainable UNIBLOCK UBT+ UPS with POWERBRIDGE kinetic energy storage, providing greater efficiency and significantly reduced power consumption compared to the older model.

This update retires the original system that has supported safe aircraft operations for nearly three decades. Piller, a company with a strong presence in various critical power applications globally, continues to enhance infrastructure reliability with its innovative solutions.

Milan Linate Airport (Italy) has fully implemented a biometric service called FaceBoarding, which allows passengers to go through security and board planes using facial recognition

technology. This service, developed in partnership with Thales and Dormakaba, enables registered passengers to bypass the traditional document checks at pre-security turnstiles and boarding gates, which are now self-service. Participation is voluntary and can be done per flight or annually via airport kiosks or a forthcoming mobile app.

The service is currently available for airlines that choose to integrate this technology, with Ita Airways and SAS among the first to adopt it. FaceBoarding aims to enhance security while making the boarding process quicker and more efficient, ensuring the privacy and security of passenger data.

Trieste International Airport (Italy), in partnership with ADB SAFEGATE, has launched a 2-year Innovation Trial Project to revolutionise airside operations through the implementation of a fully cloud-based, wireless connectivity solution. This initiative aims to integrate airport assets seamlessly, boosting operational efficiencies, digitisation, and automation across the board. The project includes the recent deployment of three advanced docking systems and utilises ADB SAFEGATE's AiPRON Manager for enhanced wireless connectivity.

This collaboration positions Trieste Airport as a leader in innovative airport management solutions, focusing on sustainability, energy efficiency, predictive maintenance, and improving turnaround times. This partnership is expected to significantly influence future airport operations management and contribute to the development of smart airports worldwide.

ADM Aéroports de Montréal has acquired five Oshkosh Striker 6x6 ARFF (Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting) vehicles from Oshkosh Airport Products, enhancing emergency response capabilities at Montréal-Trudeau International Airport and YMX International Aerocity of Mirabel (Quebec, Canada). This significant purchase, facilitated by Commercial Emergency Equipment Co. and L'Arsenal in Quebec, stands as one of the largest non-military ARFF sales in Canadian aviation history.

These vehicles, equipped with modern firefighting features like high-reach extendable turrets and independent suspension systems, will replace older models, boosting ADM's firefighting efficiency and response time. Local aftermarket service and parts will be provided by L'Arsenal, ensuring ongoing support for the newly modernised fleet.

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) has approved the purchase of 10 COBUS 3000 buses to serve as backup transportation at Orlando International Airport (Florida, United States) during the replacement of the GateLink system for Airsides 2 and 4. These buses are designed to handle large groups of airline passengers, featuring a capacity of up to 110 passengers, extra-large doors for rapid loading and unloading, and doors on both sides to eliminate extra manoeuvring.

The GateLink replacement project involves the replacement of all vehicles, running surfaces, and central control equipment. The COBUS buses aim to maintain smooth passenger service during the construction process, minimising disruptions to travel. GOAA expects to receive the buses before the project's onset in December 2025, with completion anticipated by Spring 2027.

The Bermuda Airport Authority has successfully completed the replacement of the Instrument Landing System/Distance Measuring Equipment (ILS/DME) at the LF Wade International Airport. The replacement was necessary as the previous system, installed in 2004, had reached the end of its useful life.

The new ILS/DME system was sourced from Selex ES, now part of Indra Air Traffic, with the project starting in January 2023 and concluding with a successful installation in March 2024 after a final inspection by the US Federal Aviation Administration. The project, costing over USD 900,000, involved site surveys, civil works, technician training, system installation, and flight inspection, much of which was conducted at night to minimise disruption to airport operations.

This update is expected to enhance the reliability of landings at LF Wade International Airport during adverse weather conditions and reduce the need for diversions to the US mainland. Indra AT has

committed to supporting the new system for the next 15-20 years, ensuring continued safety and efficiency in Bermuda's air traffic management.

SAFEGATE has secured a contract to provide an Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) for Kuwait International Airport (KIA), extending their partnership of over 35 years. The project aims to enhance airport operations and safety through the implementation of the OneControl solution, addressing challenges like limited visibility due to the new ATC Tower's position and adverse weather conditions.

The contract, signed on 18 April 2024, includes the design, manufacture, installation, and maintenance of the ASMGCS system over a two-year implementation period, followed by four years of technical support. This development is part of KIA's strategy to integrate advanced technologies, aligning with ADB SAFEGATE's Airside 4.0 vision for modernising airport operations.

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 Events (CAL), and the subscriber-selectable modules Airport Operations (OPS), Management, Ownership & Finance (MGT), Ground Support Equipment (GSE), Air Traffic Services (ATC), Consultant & Contractor / Sustainable Aviation (CON), Airport Information Technology (AIT), and Maintenance Base & FBO (MRO). For more information, a sample of a complete newsletter issue, and to order an annual subscription, please visit www.mombergerairport.info