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London Luton Airport (United Kingdom) has implemented AeroCloud's cloud-based common use passenger processing system (CUPPS) to improve efficiency, flexibility, and the passenger experience. The airport replaced its outdated system, which struggled with increasing passenger volumes and expansion goals, following a tender issued in late 2023. AeroCloud's system was chosen for its cost efficiency, reduced hardware dependency, and operational flexibility. The transition was completed during a busy holiday period through detailed planning and collaboration with stakeholders, ensuring minimal disruption.

AeroCloud highlighted Luton's successful adoption of modern technology, demonstrating its scalability for larger airports.

Malta International Airport has upgraded its Central Security Screening Area with six CTiX computed tomography scanners from Smiths Detection and an automatic tray return system from Cassioli. The new scanners allow passengers to keep liquids and electronics in their hand luggage, improving efficiency. The tray system detects forgotten items before releasing the next tray. The project also features a redundant server system and a remote control room for screeners.

Mallaghan, a global manufacturer of ground support equipment (GSE) for the aviation industry, has introduced North America's first fully electric refrigerated catering truck, the CT6000E, at Boston's Logan International Airport (Massachusetts, United States). The truck, developed in partnership with International Motors, LLC, features a zero-emission electric powertrain that reduces noise pollution and supports global sustainability goals for airport operations.

Known for producing a wide range of GSE, including aircraft stairs, baggage handling systems, and catering trucks, Mallaghan serves airlines and aviation service providers worldwide. The CT6000E incorporates advanced technologies such as an aircraft-controlled approach system (CAS) to reduce aircraft damage, a 360-degree Birds Eye camera system, onboard telemetry, and hard drive storage to enhance operational efficiency and safety. It will initially be operated by premium airline catering company DO & CO.

Mallaghan's products are used in over 100 countries by major aviation clients, including American Airlines, Qatar Airways, and Southwest Airlines, reflecting the company's commitment to innovation and sustainable aviation solutions.

Fukuoka International Airport (Fukuoka, Japan) is enhancing its security infrastructure as part of its international terminal renovation by partnering with Smiths Detection. The airport will deploy seven HI-SCAN 6040 CTiX Model S X-ray scanners and seven iLane A20 automatic tray return systems, designed to streamline the security screening process and improve efficiency.

The HI-SCAN 6040 CTiX Model S, a compact version of Smiths Detection's computed tomography (CT) checkpoint scanner, offers high-resolution 3D imaging for thorough baggage assessment, reducing false alarm rates. Its smaller size and lighter weight make it suitable for integration into new airport

checkpoints. The iLane A20 system further enhances throughput by automating tray handling and including empty tray verification (ETV) technology to prevent unauthorised or restricted items. The installation of this advanced security technology will be completed by the end of March 2025, improving passenger experience and operational efficiency at Fukuoka's international terminal.

Incheon International Airport (South Korea), one of the world's busiest airports, is working to expand its Smart Pass biometric boarding system to connect with other airports, enabling passengers to use facial recognition technology seamlessly at both departure and destination airports. The Smart Pass system, launched in 2023 with Alchera's software, currently integrates self-service check-in, bag drop, and biometric e-gates.

According to Soonil Hwang, Deputy Director of Incheon's Fast Travel Team, the airport aims to implement One ID, a unified system developed in collaboration with other airports and industry stakeholders, to streamline services further and enhance the passenger experience.

SITA has partnered with Palo Alto Networks to enhance cybersecurity for mission-critical airport applications, marking a significant step in SITA's CyberSecurity portfolio. The partnership integrates Palo Alto Networks' AI-powered cybersecurity solutions, such as Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW) and Prisma Access, into SITA's Managed Security Service Edge (SSE). This solution safeguards airport assets, including check-in workstations, kiosks, and baggage scanners, ensuring smooth passenger flows, reduced downtime, and improved operational efficiency.

SSE provides comprehensive network security through services like Secure Web Gateways, threat intelligence, intrusion detection, data loss prevention, and cloud-based protection. Managed by SITA's CyberSOC, these measures align with international cybersecurity standards like NIST and ISO 27000, offering robust protection for the aviation industry's digital infrastructure.

Martin Smillie, SITA's Senior Vice President for Communications and Data Exchange, emphasized the importance of combating evolving cyber threats to protect vital digital applications. Patricia Murphy of Palo Alto Networks highlighted the transformative potential of this partnership, ensuring critical aviation systems are equipped with advanced, AI-driven cybersecurity to foster a safer and more efficient global air travel environment.

dnata Catering & Retail has commenced a USD 50 million expansion of its Melbourne Airport (Victoria, Australia) facility, adding 5,700 m² to increase its total size to 16,000 m², making it the largest airline catering centre in Victoria. Once completed, the facility will have the capacity to produce 25 million meals annually.

The project, set to be operational by September 2026, supports dnata's broader USD 80 million infrastructure investment across Australia over the next three years. It is expected to create new jobs, accommodate additional customers, and support the growth of existing airlines. dnata currently serves over 60,000 flights annually across 20 airlines from the Melbourne site, employing more than 1,000 staff. Melbourne Airport's chief of ground transport, property, and retail, Jai McDermott, highlighted the project's alignment with the airport's expansion plans, including the construction of a third runway, ensuring dnata's ability to meet future demand.

IDEMIA Public Security has extended its partnership with the Australian Department of Home Affairs for another 10 years to continue supporting and upgrading biometric border control systems at eight major international airports in Australia, including Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. This follows the successful implementation of IDEMIA's Gen3 kiosks, which enable seamless self-service authentication and shorter wait times for travelers through facial recognition technology.

The agreement includes ongoing updates to IDEMIA's biometric solutions, integrating kiosks and Smart Gates to enhance security and improve the travel experience. Tim Ferris, Senior Vice President of IDEMIA Public Security, highlighted the company's 18-year collaboration with the Australian government and its commitment to deploying advanced technologies to serve travelers and residents efficiently.

The partnership aims to facilitate technology refreshes, maintain innovation, and reinforce Australia's position at the forefront of secure and convenient border management.

Rohde & Schwarz, a technology company specialising in electronic solutions for test and measurement, broadcast, and cybersecurity, is collaborating with Dormakaba, a global provider of access and security solutions, to extend their partnership from the airport sector into critical infrastructure. Together, they have developed a new people screening system aimed at streamlining security checks, increasing capacity, and enhancing efficiency.

The Automated Personnel Screening (APS) system integrates Dormakaba's AI-driven position guidance and security interlocks with Rohde & Schwarz's advanced millimetre wave scanners. These scanners can detect modern threats such as ceramic knives, suspicious liquids, and 3D-printed weapons. Originally designed for airports, the system will now be deployed in other critical infrastructure settings.

Pilot projects are currently underway in the USA, Singapore, and the Netherlands, with trial operations scheduled to begin at Munich Airport (Germany) in January 2025. The system is designed to minimise manual intervention, requiring it only when threats are detected, and represents a new benchmark in security screening innovation.

IDEMIA and SITA have partnered to revolutionize baggage handling and airport operations by integrating IDEMIA's advanced computer vision and biometric technology with SITA's global expertise in baggage processing. Central to the collaboration is IDEMIA's Augmented Luggage Identification Experience (ALIX), an AI-driven system capable of identifying and tracking baggage without physical tags, aiming to reduce mishandling, improve operational efficiency, and enhance the passenger experience.

With air travel rebounding strongly, handling efficiency has become critical. In 2023, passenger numbers exceeded 5.2 billion, with the baggage mishandling rate improving by 9.2% year-on-year. This partnership seeks to build on such progress by providing enhanced baggage tracking from check-in to destination, reducing errors, and giving travelers more control over their luggage.

The initiative also aligns with broader automation trends, as 85% of airports have introduced self-bag drop systems, and 32% of passengers use mobile updates for baggage status. IDEMIA and SITA aim to redefine baggage processing, supporting interoperability among airports, airlines, and governments, while setting new standards in operational efficiency and customer satisfaction. Their collaboration builds on SITA's existing solutions, like WorldTracer, which has already reduced lost baggage by 77%. Together, they are developing next-generation systems to meet the growing demands of the aviation industry.

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