

▶ IN BRIEF

Cincinnati selects Chroma

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is to install the Lockheed Martin Chroma Airport Collaboration Database (ChromaACDB). The suite of technologies in the ChromaACDB includes BlipTrack, which uses signals from mobile devices to measure time between selected points in the airport. As such, BlipTrack gives anonymised data on passenger movements in the terminal, enabling airport planners to allocate resources accordingly. A system that provides passengers with real-time information on throughput times in key areas such as security would allow travellers to plan their journey through the airport, while also allowing Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International to deliver improved customer service at the checkpoint in conjunction with the Transportation Security Administration. *BV*

Helsinki on board for EMBs

Finavia has ordered guidance software and traffic management communications equipment from Canada-based Jeff Campbell and Associates International, following a worldwide tender. The equipment will be installed in the winter 2014-15 season in the central deicing facility at Helsinki Vantaa International Airport, Helsinki, Finland. A total of 16 Electronic Message Boards will be deployed to communicate operational messages to aircrew, plus customised Bay Management Software to control the flow of aircraft through the centralised facility in Helsinki. Ville Haapasaari, airport director and senior vice-president of Finavia, noted the addition of the equipment would help to improve "safety, efficiency, and operational performance". *BV*

BA picks Citans

Rygor has supplied the British Airways (BA) Ramp Operations team at Heathrow with 28 long-bodied Mercedes-Benz Citan Traveliner 112 vehicles. A further 18 Citans have been delivered to BA Engineering at Heathrow, and 11 more will be delivered in the coming weeks to BA World Cargo Operations. The Citan vehicles for BA are the first to be powered by a 1.2-litre, 114 hp petrol engine. *BV*

Webb to maintain BHSS

Daifuku Webb subsidiary Jervis B Webb has announced a multimillion-dollar maintenance and operations contract for baggage-handling systems (BHSS) at Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada. Jervis B Webb Company of Canada Ltd will continue to operate and maintain three domestic BHSSs and more than seven miles (11.2 km) of conveyor belt in Terminal 1 (T1). The company has supported Toronto Pearson T1 for 10 years. *BV*

American Airlines tests iBeacons

The largest airport deployment of iBeacon location technology is under way with a six-month trial by American Airlines (AA) at Dallas/Fort Worth International.

AA is also the first airline to join the SITA Common-use Beacon Registry, which was launched on 18 June during the SITA Air Transport IT Summit in Brussels.

The iBeacons use a Bluetooth low-energy (BLE) signal with geofencing to simplify the travel experience by showing real-time, location-specific data on passengers' iPhones or iPads. The trial at Dallas is intended to improve wayfinding in Terminal D by displaying walking times to gates and giving real-time boarding

updates to passengers.

"At American Airlines we are working with SITA to use beacon location detection to enhance our mobile app and give our passengers travelling through the airports accurate wayfinding information," confirmed AA Director of Mobile Apps Phil Easter.

At airports, iBeacons could also be used to measure waiting times at security checkpoints; to track baggage or freight; to manage and control airline inventories; or to develop well-measured security credentials (for example, ensuring only senior crew have access to the cockpit or holding rooms).

In the Dallas trial, selected users will use an updated version of

the American Airlines app, which will be synchronised with the iBeacons. Suitably connected passengers will automatically receive information and gate directions via iPhone or iPad when they are in Terminal D. Those passengers in the trial who do not already use the app will be asked to download it when they arrive at the terminal.

By the fourth quarter of 2014, AA plans to roll out iBeacons to beta users on selected routes and airports in North America. "Beacons provide a fantastic opportunity to improve the passenger experience, but to do so they must be consistently deployed at all airports," said Easter.

As reported by *IHS Jane's* in March, SITA worked with Virgin Atlantic to test Estimote beacons at Heathrow. Other international airport trials mentioned by SITA Chief Technology Officer Jim Peters include San Francisco, Shanghai Hongqiao, and Copenhagen.

SITA launched the Common-use Beacon Registry to broaden industry awareness of iBeacons and "to give the industry a single point of contact for common-use beacons deployed at any airport around the world", said Peters. *BV*

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Dallas/Fort Worth is deploying iBeacons in Terminal D (pictured is the South Ticket Hall).

ThyssenKrupp could sell Spanish PBB factory

ThyssenKrupp has announced it is in negotiations with several companies over a potential sale of its ThyssenKrupp Airport Systems passenger boarding bridge (PBB) manufacturing facility at Mieres in the north of Spain.

The German group declined to comment directly on what a Spanish trade union believes is a prelude to selling off the group's airport equipment divisions.

"No decision on portfolio

adjustments has been made yet, so no timelines have been defined so far," a spokesman at the group's headquarters in Germany told *IHS Jane's*.

"As a global industrial company we constantly review all our activities on a regular basis to ensure a sustainable and profitable growth for ThyssenKrupp, its employees and shareholders."

The spokesman described the talks with interested buyers as "an

evaluation of the passenger boarding bridges operating unit", which also has manufacturing sites at Fort Worth in Texas, United States, and at Zhongshan in China.

At local level, the group said production at the Mieres plant is profitable. It told unions that before agreeing on any sale it will be looking for assurances that a new owner will "respect" the current employment levels.

The main trade union involved at the plant, the Workers' Commissions, said the 260 employees have orders to fill for the next 18 months. *DI*

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