

Aéroports de Paris selects Foreign Objects and Debris detection solution from Thales

Enhanced Safety Comes First at Charles de Gaulle Airport

Aéroports de Paris (ADP), one of the world's largest airport groups in terms of turnover, air mail and freight handling, has selected FODspot™, an automated Foreign Object Debris (FOD) detection system at Charles de Gaulle Airport, the 10th busiest airport worldwide in terms of aircraft movements. The FODspot™ has been installed at one of the key taxiway intersections, ensuring the safety and secure operation of all passing aircraft from FOD.

FODspot™ is a scalable system designed to secure the most critical areas at airports, such as intersections and FOD-prone hotspots where aircraft and vehicles regularly cross. FOD dropped at these places can cause immediate damage to aircraft or be picked up and dropped further along on the runway resulting in damage to other aircraft.

FODspot™ is the only hybrid automatic FOD detection system that simultaneously uses cameras and radar for active detection of debris, including the unique ascription feature, statistical analysis tools and recording.

"We have selected FODspot™ as a cost-effective introduction to the latest FOD detection technology. It is expandable to cover the travel surfaces that are the most subject to FOD. The ascription feature allows CDG to take safety to the next level, FOD is not only detected but the source is also identified, enabling investigation and education for future prevention," stated Gérard Batistella, General Manager Airside Facilities at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport.

Thales is the supplier of the FODspot™ system to ADP and is responsible for the installation, integration and support of the FOD detection system. Seeking to offer runway safety improvement, Thales selected the FOD detection technology developed by its technology and commercial partner, Xsight Systems.

"Enhancing aviation safety is a strategic objective for Thales," said Rémi Gille, VP Thales, Air Traffic Management Business. *"FODspot™ is a leading technology that offers outstanding performance with unique technical features."*

Awareness of FOD hazards worldwide has increased dramatically with the United States Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Advisory Circular 150/5220-24, Airport FOD Detection Equipment, which evaluated the different technologies available on the market today. The FODspot™ technology is fully compliant with FAA requirements issued following a two-year assessment, and meets and exceeds the highest performance levels for every parameter required in the FAA Advisory Circular.

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About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Defence & Security and the Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2010, the company generated revenues of €13.1 billion with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

About X-Sight Systems:

X-Sight Systems Ltd. is a provider of one of the world's leading technologies and systems for runway situational awareness and foreign object debris (FOD) detection in airports, and advanced sensors for surveillance, security and transportation. Xsight offers millimeter wave radar, vision sensors and advanced image processing technologies for static and mobile platforms. Xsight's *FODetect®* and *FODspot™* systems introduce a novel concept for detecting foreign objects on airport ground movement surfaces. www.xsightsys.com

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