

AIRPORT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Airport & Ground Handling

ARINC's Airport Systems Division has been awarded a comprehensive contract to refresh and upgrade multiple airport operational systems and passenger check-in systems at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) in the U.S. The work is scheduled for completion in December 2010. ARINC's customer is the Turner Construction Company, project manager for the Airport. Under the contract, ARINC will replace the airport's nine-year-old operational database with its advanced ARINC AirDB™ database solution. ARINC will also replace existing passenger flight information displays throughout most of the airport with its Internet-enabled AirVUE™ flight information display system (FIDS). Michael Picco, ARINC Vice President Airports, The Americas, said: "We took on the responsibility of Master Systems Integrator in 2000, when the project involved systems from multiple vendors. Now that SFO has decided to modernize all its Common Use IT systems, it only makes sense to choose our AirDB and AirVUE solutions. This will provide a fully integrated suite for better control and greater flexibility in managing their facilities."

The new ARINC AirDB system will manage real-time data and information among more than 12 airport operational systems including finance, scheduling, building management, resource allocation, and other mission-critical management tools. Installation of the new vMUSE passenger technology will immediately reduce the cost of software engineering for airlines, as well as airport costs for custom printers, readers, and hardware. #871.AIT1

Nortel Networks has announced that Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) has awarded its managed services contract to the Enterprise Solutions business unit for five years. Under this contract, Nortel Enterprise Solutions will manage, maintain and monitor MIAL's IT infrastructure comprising the voice, data and wireless networks. Enterprise Solutions will leverage its Network Operations Centre in Bengaluru, opened earlier in 2009, and a team of highly skilled network engineers, to manage the network on MIAL's behalf. MIAL leases out the data and voice network, which is built entirely on Nortel equipment, to its various tenants, the airlines, restaurants, cargo handlers and others. MIAL's network infrastructure has 5000 endpoints and needs to be highly resilient and available 24/7. "We run the network as a profit center, leasing it out to the various tenants at the airport, which makes network uptime and availability critical for us," said the Head of MIAL's Information Technology group. "While MIAL has an on-site support team to manage the routine IT infrastructure issues that crop up from time to time, Nortel Enterprise Solutions introduces another critical level of support by pre-empting issues that can cause disruptions to the network." #871.AIT2

SITA has announced a ten-year, USD 26.7 million agreement with the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) for a complete upgrade of passenger processing at the country's two international gateways, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Nairobi and Moi International Airport (MIA), Mombasa. This includes the installation of the country's first ever self-service check-in kiosks. The installation of the new generation S3 Kiosks by June 2010 will bring passenger self-service to Kenya for the first time and the upgrade of passenger processing to the SITA

AirportConnect Open platform will benefit 37 airlines as it allows them to share check-in and boarding facilities. The AirportConnect S3 Kiosks are environmentally-friendly, boasting the smallest carbon footprint in the industry. Each kiosk weighs just 64 kg, can scan travel documents, and includes a printer that can issue up to 5,300 boarding passes from a single roll. S3 Kiosks take up half the space of previous generation kiosks. Nairobi will receive 32 S3 Kiosks while Mombasa will have 16. In addition, SITA's AirportConnect Open remains the only fully-integrated common use platform supporting CUPPS (Common Use Passenger Processing Systems), the new global IT standard for passenger check-in and boarding, the existing CUTE (Common Use Terminal Equipment) standard, as well as web and CUSS (Common Use Self Service) kiosk applications. #871.AIT3

MindTree Ltd has provided CUPPS (Common Use Passenger Processing Systems) certification services to ARINC Inc., helping the company to qualify its vMUSE™ passenger processing system. As one of the few CUPPS Compliance Testing Entities (CTE) in the world, MindTree engaged with ARINC to conduct rigorous testing of vMUSE, to validate compliance with the CUPPS Technical Specification. ARINC Vice President Keith Margerison, said: "As the industry transitions to this new passenger processing system, CTEs such as MindTree play an integral role in ensuring that vendors comply with the CUPPS specification so that the airlines can achieve widespread interoperability and application portability across different platforms for cost savings."

As a CTE, MindTree assists CUPPS platform vendors in certifying their products, while also providing validation services to the airline and airport applications that use those platforms. In addition, MindTree helps airlines switch their IT applications from CUTE (Common Use Terminal Equipment) to the CUPPS standard.

"CUPPS is poised to change the way airlines and customers interact, and MindTree is proud to be a pioneer, working with early adopters such as ARINC to advance the standard," said MindTree Head of Travel and Transportation Industry Group, Siva Vajjhala. "As market adoption of CUPPS continues to ramp up, MindTree is able to provide airlines, airports and platform vendors an experienced CTE with deep air transport domain expertise. We are able to leverage our domain knowledge in general to fulfill our air transport customers' various IT needs." #871.AIT4

New Zealand-based BCS Group has developed 'Virtual Airport' 3D software to manage airport baggage systems. Freight handling specialist BCS Group has spent more than two years creating the 3D operator control software, which it says has applications beyond its core freight-management capabilities. Its Sym3 software - in use at Melbourne Airport and Courier Post's new South Auckland facility - not only creates a three-dimensional view of the conveyor belts, diverters and carousels, but gives operators a view of individual items moving through the system. Marc Michel, BCS's Group Marketing Manager, said the product was years ahead of the traditional 2D systems. He said the existing off the shelf software products, which had not changed for 15 to 20 years, showed only the status of a system - whether a conveyor is working or stopped, or a diverter device is open or closed. "With our Sym3 operator package it can actually show every bag in the system at any time," said Michel. The company's first Sym3 client, CourierPost, is now handling 600% more parcels an hour through its new facility than the previous manual handling system. #871.AIT5

Air Cargo & logistics

Air China has selected Cargospot Revenue Accounting to further improve the management of its air cargo business. They join a group of more than 15 organizations that have already chosen Cargospot in 2009. Air China will integrate Cargospot Revenue Accounting with its existing core cargo system to expedite billing and improve cash flow. James Fernandez, CHAMP Vice President Sales and Marketing, said: "We are delighted Air China has chosen Cargospot to manage its revenue accounting, CHAMP has enjoyed a long term relationship with Air China so we are very pleased that they are joining more than 40 other organizations that currently use the Cargospot portfolio." #871.AIT6

Mercator has recently successfully gone live with its SkyChain product in Latin America. SkyChain is a specialized IT solution aimed at airline cargo companies and is designed to maximise customers' performance, and optimize their resources. A highly automated system, which removes many of the time-consuming paper processes in the business, SkyChain is compliant with the latest industry developments, including IATA's e-freight initiative. TACA now joins a growing family of users including Swiss World Cargo, Sri Lankan Airways and Emirates SkyCargo. TACA selected Mercator as a provider for their ability to meet the functional and technical requirements of its business model, help them align their business and systems strategy and differentiate TACA's product from the competition. Duncan Alexander, Mercator's Vice President, Sales and Market Development, said: "We were delighted to be asked to provide SkyChain's many benefits to TACA. In turn they brought with them knowledge and experience of their own local air freight market, enabling us to create a tailor made solution for them. One of SkyChain's many benefits is its ability to host multiple airlines within the same group – making it perfect for TACA." #871.AIT7

Air Traffic Management

The U.S. FAA is forming a panel to examine the reliability of a telecommunications network that broke down in November 2009. The 19 November episode, which resulted in delays of 819 flights and forced air traffic controllers to manually enter flight information into computers, was unacceptable, FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt said in a statement. He said the agency needs to understand what happened so that it can prevent further incidents. "This panel is going to take a hard look at every part of the [telecommunications] operation," Babbitt said. "We have an extremely reliable system, but we need to have the confidence that problems can be solved quickly and efficiently so our air traffic controllers and aircraft operators have the tools they need and travelers aren't inconvenienced." The incident began with the failure of a single circuit board in a router. A backup circuit board also failed. As a result, misinformation was sent to FAA computer centres near Atlanta and Salt Lake City, and it was four hours before the glitch was fixed.

Babbitt said the panel will deliver two reports early in 2010, one on the November outage and any changes that need to be made immediately, and another on the network in connection with emerging technology and future air traffic control-related systems. #871.AIT8

Sweden's Luftfartsverket (LFV) has selected Sensis Corporations VeeLo NextGen vehicle locator unit for Stockholm Arlanda International Airport. LFV will deploy VeeLo NextGen on vehicles operating on Arlandas runways and taxiways to enhance the air traffic controllers' situational awareness of surface operations and reduce the risk of runway incursions. The agreement includes the

purchase of up to 160 VeeLo NextGens, along with support, maintenance and training services over a two-year period.

VeeLo NextGen attains its location from a Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS)-enabled Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and broadcasts its location and identity using the Mode S Extended Squitter Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) message format. The VeeLo NextGens rugged, weather-resistant enclosure can be temporarily or permanently mounted on the exterior of an airport surface vehicle. Its low power consumption allows VeeLo NextGen to be operated from a vehicles accessory power outlet. Further, the vehicle locator can be field-configured using a PC serial interface and VeeLo NextGen software. The system has the unique ability to automatically shut off transmission when the vehicle exits a predetermined operating area, said Marc Viggiano, chief operating officer of Sensis Corporation. This enables air navigation service providers to better manage limited broadcast spectrum. Ten air navigation service providers have selected Sensis VeeLo NextGen for deployment at more than twelve airports across four continents. #871.AIT9

MRO

JetSelect Aviation has reached an agreement with Continuum Applied Technology® to integrate under license their CORRIDOR® Aviation Service Software. CORRIDOR is a modular application designed to fit the specific needs of JetSelect Aviation's Maintenance services. Gordon MacSwain, Director of Maintenance at JetSelect Aviation said "We are excited about the ability to integrate this robust software application into our daily processes. It will allow us to become much more efficient in all functions in conjunction with our maintenance services. This offers us the ability to manage every aspect from inventory management and maintenance records integration to the accounting functions of work orders and billing: and everything in between." Jack Demeis, Founder and President of Continuum, remarked: "We are pleased JetSelect has chosen CORRIDOR to help fulfill their goals of a more streamlined, efficient operation. We design CORRIDOR specifically for companies like JetSelect who consistently work to optimize performance and provide the highest levels of aviation service. We're confident CORRIDOR will impact their business and look forward to supporting them during implementation and throughout their continued success." #871.AIT10

Anubex, a leader in enterprise application modernization, has successfully completed a migration project for Air France Industries (AFI), the aircraft maintenance arm of Air France. The USD 750 000 project involved a migration from a mainframe-based system to a Windows platform with an Oracle database. The IT team of Air France Industries started the development of the software application in the early 1990s. The application has 400 users and is used by AFI exclusively in the maintenance of the AWACS aircraft belonging to the French Air Force. The development environment created a growing risk for AFI because of technological obsolescence. This concern obliged Air France Industries to look for a replacement technology for this mission critical application.

The application contains about 5000 screens and manages close to 1GB of data. Technically, the application was migrated from a Wang Pace environment to a modernized infrastructure consisting of Windows Server, an Oracle database, and web-based user interfaces. The new software will be maintained in a mixture of COBOL and Java. All character-based screens are converted to Java Swing and now fully comply with the latest standards at Air France Industries for graphical user interfaces. The

enrichment of the character-based screens to native GUI components from Java was made possible by Anubex' own Waxwing conversion tools. #871.AIT11

Jonathan Yaron, Chief Executive of Enigma Inc., a leading software company for aftermarket service and parts, spoke on a panel discussion titled 'IT Considerations in a Modern MRO Facility' at the recent MRO Asia Conference in China. The conference brought together aviation industry leaders from across the Asia Pacific region to discuss issues relating to the development of IT and its application in aircraft maintenance and flight operations. The panel included Mohd Roslan Ismail, Senior General Manager, Engineering & Maintenance, Malaysia Airlines, Bernard Hensey, Chief Executive of Boeing Shanghai Aviation Services, and Takashi Sasaki, Staff Director, Engineering & Maintenance, IT Planning, Japan Airlines. The panel discussed how new applications have radically improved the integration of technical content - from the suppliers and from the engineering department - into ongoing MRO and ERP processes. Automated revision management, job card generation and digital signatures are just a few of today's IT offerings that can reduce maintenance time and support costs. However, inconsistent documentation standards, mixed fleets and regulatory concerns have prevented the industry from embracing many of these technologies. -- Enigma has helped airlines like Japan Airlines and KLM to decrease maintenance costs, increase equipment uptime and improve maintenance efficiency and consistency. #871.AIT12

Security & Surveillance

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has awarded Unisys a security systems consultant contract to design and manage implementation of an integrated security environment for the organization's three airports. Under the contract, which has a term of one base year and two one-year options exercisable at the City's discretion, Unisys will help LAWA design and develop systems to predict and effectively respond to potential security threats. Unisys will develop a multi-layered environment, integrating components that address physical, personnel and IT security threats to deliver comprehensive information to LAWA and law enforcement officials. LAWA plans to roll out the new systems at Los Angeles International Airport and Ontario International Airport.

The new environment will include systems for physical access control, identity management, video surveillance and mobile communications network systems. Unisys also will provide systems to monitor alarms, manage identity credentialing, provide voice radio communications and provide other public safety and security services. In addition, Unisys will analyze airport security requirements, develop specifications for vendor solicitations for additional security work at the airports, and provide ongoing program management and engineering support during the implementation phase. Under a separate three-year contract, Unisys will operate and maintain LAWA's current physical access control system. Ted Davies, president, Unisys Federal Systems said: "Unisys looks forward to applying our expertise in location, perimeter and surveillance security to help Los Angeles World Airports build and deploy a world-class security environment that provides the highest level of protection and serves as a model for other aviation facilities." #871.AIT13

Analogic Corporation has signed an agreement with Smiths Detection to develop advanced imaging subsystems for use in a next-generation explosives detection system to be manufactured and marketed by Smiths. The agreement provides for Smiths Detection to fund the

engineering development over a period of approximately two years. The system is being designed to address emerging threat detection standards designed to save lives through improved aviation security, including new standards mandating that European airports scan all checked baggage using advanced threat detection systems. As a leader in advanced high-precision image processing technologies, Analogic is uniquely positioned to meet these evolving threat detection standards. Jim Green, Analogic Chief Executive, said: "We are pleased to announce our new relationship with Smiths Detection, a recognized leader in the aviation security field. This agreement reflects our ability to provide next-generation technologies that address the evolving terrorist threats, enhancing security for air travelers worldwide." #871.AIT14

Bangladesh authorities are reported to be considering IRIS Corporation for a project to supply sophisticated passport-reading machines to overhaul the country's immigration system. Bangladesh government agencies had recommended the Malaysian company to introduce machine-readable passport (MRP) and machine-readable visa (MRV) systems. The Bangladesh Home Ministry is currently scrutinizing the evaluation committee report, and a summary will eventually be sent to the purchase committee for consideration. According to the report, eight companies, including IRIS, bid for the project after the government sent out a tender in July 2009. Several top Bangladesh officials on the evaluation committee including the Home Ministry, Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP), the police and senior army officers, had selected IRIS for the multi-million-dollar project. ICAO has directed Bangladesh to introduce the MRP system by 1 April 2010. The selected company will supply the hardware and software, including the MRPs for a three-year period. The DIP estimated that 2.2 million passports would be needed each year. #871.AIT15

Cisco has announced the completion of the purchase of London and San Francisco-based ScanSafe Inc. This software-as-a-service Web security solutions provider caters to organizations that range from global enterprises to small businesses. With this acquisition, Cisco is building on its successful gain of the on-premise content security provider IronPort, company officials said. This latest transaction brought together the Cisco IronPort high-performance Web Security Appliance and ScanSafe's SaaS Web security service in order to create superior on-premise, hosted and hybrid-hosted Web security solutions. With this combination of Cisco and ScanSafe, customer companies can expect to enjoy better protection from threats, while flexible delivery options will enhance Cisco's ability to protect the borderless network. Organizations are increasingly depending on Web 2.0 and mobility technologies to collaborate and conduct business, creating increasing demand for solutions such those offered by Cisco and ScanSafe. The offerings from ScanSafe will be fully integrated with Cisco AnyConnect VPN Client to deliver a secure mobility solution to current and prospective clients. At the same time, ScanSafe's global network of carrier-grade data centers and multi-tenant architecture are expected to further enhance Cisco's ability to provide new cloud-security services for customers throughout the world. #871.AIT16

Innovatrics has enabled the government of Ghana to effectively control entry and exit through the country via a biometric passport. This new biometric passport enables the country to meet the ICAO deadline for member states to provide their nationals with such a document to avoid being denied entry into member countries of ICAO. The selection of Innovatrics as the supplier for the technology needed to read, analyze, store, and assess the biometric agents installed in the passport was based on Innovatrics' position as an industry-leading biometric provider. Their solutions have proven, time

and again, the most efficient and effective at providing biometric analysis at the point of scan. "Before settling on Innovatrics, we sampled a number of world class AFIS systems," said Charles Boakye, Project manager, Ghana Passport Issuance Project. "We selected ExpressID AFIS because it provides the fastest search speed with incredibly high accuracy and compatibility with many fingerprint scanners. They already had MS.Net .dlls which are extremely straightforward to understand and use."

Innovatrics engineered the solution using Futronic scanners and their industry-leading ExpressID AFIS, ANSI & ISO PC SDK. The end solution enables the Ghana government to store and match 15 million templates (1.5 million people with 10 fingerprints per person). Innovatrics provided the hardware (signature pads with scanners), engineering, software, and on-site consulting services. #871.AIT17

Technology & Development

Inmedius®, Inc. has released its S1000D Process Editor, an advanced visualization S1000D™ authoring solution enabling clients to quickly and easily produce complex Process Data Modules. Designed by Inmedius' S1000D experts, the Process Editor combines a powerful interface with user-friendly WYSIWYG technology to insure conformance with Specification requirements. Unique to the authoring software is the automatic manipulation of the original complex XML data structures. The result is well-formed, S1000D-compliant files that even non-XML users are able to efficiently create and edit.

"While most S1000D Data Modules have narrative structures, the Process Data Module defines very complicated functionality that is difficult to model in a document-based editor," explained Sean Rushing, Director of S1000D Product and Services, Inmedius, Inc. "Since Process Data Modules contain the most complex logic, necessitating both user interaction and logical branching to generate, they are virtually impossible to construct by hand. Inmedius designed the S1000D Process Editor with the advanced visualization capabilities required to create and manage these intricate documents."

The Process Editor is one of three Inmedius S1000D authoring solutions, all of which provide a seamless user experience. Like browser-based S1000DauthorPro™ XE and the classic S1000DauthorPro, the Process Editor can be integrated with Inmedius S1000Dmanager™. A comprehensive project setup and management support system, Manager is one of seven modules in the fully integrated Inmedius S1000D Publishing Suite™. #871.AIT18

Company News

Mxi Technologies, a leader in aviation maintenance management software, has announced a 9% increase over 2008 revenues, allowing the company to maintain its compounded three-year growth rate of more than 40%. The results reflected steady and stable growth across all solution verticals – commercial, OEM, and defence. In addition to new opportunities, organizational revenues were strengthened by renewed commitments and new projects from existing customers. A sound customer base and a balanced revenue stream helped Mxi meet the challenges posed by the demanding market conditions of the past 18 months. "What we have been able to accomplish over the past year stands as a testament to the sophistication of our people and our product," says Les Hine, Chief Executive of Mxi Technologies. "This will remain a key strength moving forward as we continue to build on past success by emphasizing a sound leadership strategy focused on providing value to our customers and further earning our market-leading position." #871.AIT19



22 December 2009
No. 871

AIT

Names

Avantext, a global leader in producing interactive digital publication and software tools for the aviation industry, has named James L. Everling as Director of Information Technology. Leveraging more than 20 years of IT leadership experience, Everling will help put the final touches on Avantext's highly anticipated and soon-to-launch AD solution as well as push forward new company initiatives. Avantext produces two core products for the aviation maintenance industry: the Airworthiness Directive Regulatory Compliance Tool and the Technical Publications. #871.AIT20