

Check-in for Products

A regular round-up of industry products, innovation, news and developments

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Finnair selects loaders

Finnair have ordered several Windhoff Vammas loaders for Northport, the airline's ground support operations subsidiary. Based on the initial success of the loaders,



which were tested extensively in Finland and Sweden in both summer and an exceptionally cold winter, Finnair has now decided to order seven more.

'The order is very significant as there are only very few cases in

Europe annually when a customer orders seven units,' says Kaj Sjögren, Marketing Director of Patria Vammas Oy, which constitutes Patria's Airport Equipment Business Unit.

The deal increases the number of units Finnair has purchased from Patria Vammas to a total of 12 units in the past two years. The relationship between the two companies dates back further, however, as Patria Vammas has been supplying the Helsinki airport with snow removal equipment for many years.

'Our past record helped us very much, as Finnair has come to value the Vammas way of working and keeping promises,' Mr Sjögren notes. 'In addition, we understand issues specific to the Nordic countries. The loaders deliver timely, reliable, and user-friendly unloading and loading – in all weather conditions.'

www.patria.fi

Pavement software from PAVERS

PAVERS is a high technology software package for the design and evaluation of flexible and rigid airport pavement. It has the capability to make even the most complex project simpler, surer, more cost-effective and faster.

The tool, an acronym for 'PAVement Evaluation and Reporting Strength' enables the user to model and (re)design a pavement structure based on deflection surveys, determine the residual life, assess the true load-carrying capacity (in terms of ICAO's ACN/PCN system) and engineer rehabilitation measures. The unique rigid model allows the use of the same rigorous method for dealing with aircraft wander as for asphalt pavements. The tool calculates the cumulative damage induced by the whole traffic spectrum, comprising

any combination of aircraft types and load configurations. Whilst ICAO does not recommend specific software for PCN assignment, use of a system such as PAVERS brings many benefits. CROW Knowledge Centre selected PAVERS as a Preferred Tool for use in their Guideline on PCN assessment. The tool has been used in a recent PCN project at Schiphol.

The sharing of knowledge is essential for improvement of the tool and membership of the User Group is automatic upon purchase of the system. The user input into future developments and the ability to incorporate new features with strong and functional designs enables a pavement engineer to exploit all the comprehensive advancements in technology with maximum of ease to use.

www.pavers.nl

Denmark, Ireland and Sweden sign co-operative agreement with Thales

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), the LFV Group (Sweden) and Naviair (Denmark) have signed a contract with Thales, the French air traffic equipment provider, to mark the initiation of a purchasing agreement known as COOPANS. Each of these air navigation service providers (ANSPs) has previously procured, under separate contracts, the Thales Eurocat ATM System and the objective of this agreement is to facilitate the joint procurement of upgrades to their existing common Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.

Joint procurement under the COOPANS agreement will facilitate upgrades to each ATM system to meet new operational needs, ensure supportability and reduce life cycle costs. The risks associated with the introduction of completely new ATM systems are also reduced through this new incremental approach.

The COOPANS agreement will cater for any essential requirements necessitated by the Single European Sky initiative. It also demonstrates the intent of IAA, Naviair and the LFV Group to collaborate in a way that will bring real benefits to airlines whilst embracing the spirit of the Single European Sky move towards common systems. In addition, the agreement is based on an open door concept whereby other ANSPs will be able to join at a later date.

www.thalesgroup.com