

International Certifications for Hawker 900XP

Hawker Beechcraft secured several international certifications — including European Aviation Safety Agency approval - for its Hawker 900XP. Hawker Beechcraft began delivering 900XPs to European customers in December 2007. The aircraft, a follow-on to the Hawker 800 series, also received certification in Australia, Aruba, the Czech Republic, Macau, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. The Federal Aviation Administration awarded type certification in August 2007. Powered by Honeywell TFE731-50R engines, the Hawker 900XP can fly nearly 2,800 nautical miles.



Brazil's federal government and the state of São Paulo are working together to upgrade Viracopos International, one of three major airports now serving São Paulo. By expanding and upgrading its current infrastructure and facilities, Viracopos would be able to handle up to 90 million annual passengers in 30 years, Sergio Gaudenzi, CEO of Brazil's airport regulator Infraero, said at a recent news conference. Agreements between the governments cover the expropriation of 11.9 square kilometers of adjoining land to build a second runway. Gaudenzi noted Viracopos right now could handle up to two million passengers, but has been used mainly as a cargo terminal to decongest Congonhas and Guarulhos. The deadly crash of a TAM airliner at Congonhas in July 2007, however, changed that policy in favor of decongesting Congonhas and concentrating on Viracopos, where there is room for four runways. Investments to build a second runway are estimated at \$206 million, and its first phase should be completed by 2011, with a new terminal building operational by 2015. High-speed train services will connect Viracopos and São Paulo, about 100 kilometers away, and eventually will include Guarulhos.

Airports operator BAA has added biometric technology to control access to its international lounge in London Heathrow Airport's Terminal 1. In the past, domestic and international passengers had been segregated for border control purposes, said a spokesman. "The introduction of biometrics technology means that all passengers can enjoy the same facilities," he said. Passengers are asked to provide biometric data in the form of a fingerprint before they proceed through security, said the spokesman. "They also have their photograph taken with a digital camera. At the gate, this data is reconciled to confirm the passengers' identity and ensures that U.K. border control regulations are met," he said. "The personal data are encrypted immediately and are destroyed within 24 hours of use in accordance with the U.K. Data Protection Act."

Universal Weather and Aviation announced at the Singapore Airshow that it has opened a new scheduling center in Manila, Philippines, providing scheduling services for operators based throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The new Universal Scheduling Center offers trip scheduling and logistical information on airports, customs, hotel accommodations, permits, fuel pricing and more. "We are fully operational and serving clients," said Jim Reed, operations manager, Universal Weather and Aviation Scheduling Center. "The Scheduling Center is located in Manila because of its central proximity to many important destinations in the Asia-Pacific region. We are in a prime location wherein we can best support operators to local and neighboring countries throughout the region." Reed added, "This is the first scheduling center of its type in the region and was developed after a need in this market was identified. Flight departments in the Asia-Pacific region now have a single scheduling option with the experience and trusted resources needed to allow them to operate in a timely and cost-efficient manner." Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Scheduling Center and its 11 employees provide access to all Universal global resources, including flight planning and weather, fuel from Uvair, and ground support.

The city of Chicago has issued a Request for Qualifications from companies wanting to help it privatize Midway Airport. The city's effort is part of an FAA pilot program that allows five airports in the United States to be leased to private operators. Midway announced its intention to take the large-hub airport slot back in September 2006, with plans to complete the privatization by the end of 2007. But Midway's airlines expressed concern about how the plan would affect their operations. The FAA required that at least 65 percent of the airlines operating at Midway approve the transaction, as well as airlines with at least 65 percent of the Midway traffic. Southwest gave its approval in November 2007, and Delta, AirTran, ATA and Frontier also blessed the deal. The concession agreement is expected to last at least 50 years. The TSA will handle passenger and baggage screening, supervision and oversight of the airport's security program, and ensure compliance with all federal security regulations. The Chicago Police Department will continue to provide law enforcement, and the Chicago Fire Department will continue to be responsible for fire, medical and other airport emergencies.

