DIA Chooses Consultant to Design Integration of 100% Baggage Screening Technology into Existing Airport Baggage Systems

Denver Manager of Aviation Bruce Baumgartner announced that DIA has selected a consultant to design the integration of 100 percent checked baggage screening technology into Denver International Airport’s existing baggage-handling systems.

Baumgartner told the Denver City Council’s Airport Committee Tuesday that Logplan has been chosen after a Request for Qualifications process. Logplan has designed 100% baggage screening systems for numerous international airports throughout Europe and is familiar with both of DIA’s baggage systems. Logplan designed the conventional baggage system that allowed DIA to successfully open in 1995.

Under the new federal aviation security law, 100 percent of checked luggage must be screening involving explosion detection systems by Dec. 31, 2002. The newly formed Transportation Security Administration will select, buy and operate those systems at U.S. airports, including DIA. Preliminary estimates indicate that it will cost approximately $2 million to design the integration, $20 million in EDS equipment, and $30 million in installation costs. Baumgartner said that the TSA has agreed conceptually to his proposal that the airport be allowed to apply for federal grant funds to cover its share of the costs.

Manager of Aviation to Meet with Heimann System Officials Wednesday

Baumgartner also said he would meet Wednesday with officials of Heimann Systems, a German firm that manufactures explosion detection system equipment. Heimann will discuss the status of its effort to receive Federal Aviation Administration certification for its EDTS equipment, as well as its production capacity.

In December, Baumgartner traveled to Washington, D.C., to urge federal officials to test and certify equipment made by Heimann Systems because the equipment is faster, less costly and involves more advanced detection methods than the two systems that are currently certified by the FAA for use in U.S. airports.

FAA and Airlines will Brief DIA on Compliance with February 18th Deadline to Provide Security Screening for 100% of Checked Baggage

Baumgartner said DIA will be briefed Wednesday by the FAA and the airlines concerning programs to comply with the new security requirements that take effect Jan. 18. Beginning Friday, airlines are required to screen all checked baggage either by explosion detection system equipment, hand-search, explosive-sniffing dogs, or to conduct positive bag match. With positive bag match, no bag flies on a plane unless the person who checked the bag is also on the plane.

Improvements Made Following Debriefing on DIA Security Breach

Baumgartner also said several procedural changes have been implemented in the wake of a Dec. 30 security breach that forced the resterilization of Concourse A. The airport manager said a debriefing after the incident recommended that Argenbright security personnel be equipped with radios, and that the law enforcement officer at each screening checkpoint be designated as the point of control during a breach. Both recommendations have been implemented.

DIA Concessions Update

On another matter, DIA Concessions Manager Amy Shaw said only three of the 150 concessionaires at DIA have asked to terminate their lease agreements early because of the events of Sept. 11. Due to declining passenger traffic resulting from the terrorist attacks, Nuance Global Traders – operator of the duty-free shop on Concourse A, the W.H. Smith Gift Shop on Concourse C and Professional Travel Corp. in Jeppesen Terminal will be allowed to end their leases without penalty.

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Release #02-011