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Runway snow clearance: Aéroports de Paris relies on new technologies

Between the night of november 23 and morning of november 24, as early as 0.30 a.m., about forty Aéroports de Paris employees will be testing new high-performance snow clearing machines as well as a new state-of-the-art real time information system.

With its five Boschung RWY new vehicles, Paris-Charles de Gaulle **reduces by half runway snow clearing time as well as the number of snow clearing machines necessary**. A dual runway (a take off runway and a landing runway) can hence be cleared in 45 minutes instead of 90.



For the first time at an airport, Paris-Charles de Gaulle is testing the **AWIS (Airport Weather Information System)** global information system. This innovation allows, thanks to sensors placed on the runways and the machines, to obtain real time information about ground and weather conditions as well as the means implemented.

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Aéroports de Paris builds, develops and manages airports including Paris-Orly, Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Le Bourget. Aéroports de Paris is the 2nd European airport group in terms of airport turnover and the 1st European airport group in terms of cargo and mail. Aéroports de Paris accommodates nearly 460 airlines, mainly the major actors of air transport.

Benefiting from an exceptional geographical location and a major trading area, the group's strategy is to modernize its terminal facilities and to upgrade its quality of service. It also intends to develop its retail and real estate business. In 2006, Aéroports de Paris Group had a turnover of 2,076.8 million euros, and a net result of 152.1 million euros. Aéroports de Paris handled 82.5 million passengers in 2006.



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Information supplied by the AWIS global information system:

- **Runway condition:** active sensors placed on the runway detect the presence of rain, snow, ice or de-icing liquid.
- **Localization of vehicles:** GPS placed in the vehicles to locate them on the site.
- **Monitoring of machines work progress:** thanks to a system placed on the vehicles, the snow control center is able to know what the vehicle is doing: if the snowblower is active, if the de-icing liquid is being spread or if the snow clearing blade is down, etc.
- **Information traceability:** the snow control center can follow on a screen the real time progress of airport snow clearance.

A total of eight situational exercises, including four by night, are planned until the end of December 2007 at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport.

The aim of these exercises is to involve the majority of all parties concerned by snow clearing duties and to train staff to use different tools and machines.

The night exercises are essential for seamless airport operations. In order for the runways to be operational at dawn, the snow clearance teams of Aéroports de Paris often have to work at night time. The preparation enables them to gear up for safe, swift and coordinated snow removal operations.

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