

Integrated BHS at Boryspil International Airport marks a step change for airport operations in the CIS

Article

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The airports within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) may predominantly be within the small to medium size range when compared with other countries. However, with the growth in passenger numbers and air travel, things are changing. The level of sophistication for baggage handling systems (BHS) is also on the up as demonstrated by Boryspil's requirement for a new solution. Dave Reynolds, Sales Director, Logan Teleflex reports.

The recent contract awarded by the Ukraine state authorities to the BHS company Logan Teleflex and its local agent and partner Gate Technologies is for an integrated state of the art departures check-in system with 100 per cent hold baggage screening. The new system is part of the extension to the existing Terminal B and represents another step forward in the continuous development of the busy Boryspil International Airport which is the main international airport within the Ukraine.

The new Boryspil departure system will comprise Logan Teleflex's advanced high security baggage handling technology with X-ray screening machines supplied by Gate Technologies. The integrated system has been designed to provide a throughput of 2400 bags per hour and was delivered at the end of 2009.

The BHS is based around a straight central line with check-in desks left and right that ultimately feed to the make-up carousels. The system comprises best-in-class equipment from Logan Teleflex and Gate Technologies. The technology provided includes 30 two-stage, in-gauge check-in desks; two baggage transportation system; two Level 1 / 2 100 per cent hold baggage screening systems; a Level 3 screening line; two horizontal baggage make-up carousels and an out-of-gauge screening system with a dedicated check-in and weigh scale. The system complies with international security standards and regulations.

This major project entails Logan Teleflex and Gate to dismantle and move the existing departure lines without disrupting the normal day-to-day running of the departure terminal. The project team will ensure that temporary check-in facilities will provide efficient support for the airlines and their customers while the new system is built.

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Twelve years of successful business in the CIS

The Boryspil project not only highlights a requirement for a sophisticated solution it also shows how different it is doing business with the CIS compared with other countries and regions, many of which could learn lessons from the Russian approach to engineering projects.

In the CIS, terminal building and expansion programmes involve a huge amount of civil engineering work. Russian airport operators, therefore, fast track these projects so that all aspects begin more or less at the same time. This requires a lot of coordination in engineering and building. This necessitates detailed engineering requirements much earlier in the project. Logan and Gate

Technologies, for example, would need to show baggage conveyor arrangements, power requirements, etc, right down to the positioning of control equipment. Armed with this information all the other parties involved in the project are then aware of what we need in order to perform the work. This detail would then need to be followed right through the build.

This is indeed an unusual situation when viewed alongside other projects around the world, where the level of detail is not so crucial early on the project. Importantly, we have had to adapt our systems to enable us to release enhanced levels of information to our project partners and the airport operators and authorities. Our engagement in several important projects within the CIS with our local partner illustrate clearly that we can indeed structure and produce detailed engineering plans to provide the answers earlier in the project. This in turn shows our substantial experience of being able to work within the fast tracking requirements for Russian airport operators and authorities.

Russia is, therefore, a significant marketplace for Logan and we have been present here with our partner Gate Technologies since 1996 and our first BHS project at Boryspil was in 2002. Moreover, our portfolio shows that we are undertaking more and more projects and that the scale of these is increasing. The addition of this new inline system at Boryspil, for example, is the first of three projects that the airport is undertaking, with a low-cost terminal coming soon as well as a major new terminal being built later. We are looking forward to tendering for these too.

Russian airports mirror European sophistication

Some have commented that Russian airports generally do not require the level of sophistication seen in European airports. However, this is not quite the truth as we see that they are indeed using the same technology used elsewhere but on a smaller scale. For example, you would not necessarily envisage a tilt-tray sorter application within the small to medium sized airports simply as there is no requirement. The growth in passengers at Boryspil does, however, require this technology and the size of the airport and its capability for handling larger numbers of passengers and flights is making it attractive to major airlines for hub traffic.

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Sheremetyevo International Airport is also a significant player in this market too. We are also aware that the Russian people outside of the catchment of these two main airports are discovering air travel and although it is not on the scale of China or even India, there are signs that there is an increasing demand.

Developments of the scale of Boryspil and Sheremetyevo will no doubt send a clear message to other airports that they will need to gear up to be in with a chance to provide the throughput required by the major players in the airline and air travel industry.

Local partnerships are key

Logan Teleflex recognises that its 13-year partnership with Gate Technologies is extremely important to working effectively with the CIS. Gate helps us deal with the cultural, commercial and language challenges and to be able to perform work on a Delivery Duty Paid basis required by the Russian authorities, you must be registered locally. Our partnership with Gate is therefore crucial to ensuring everything runs smoothly.

The Gate organisation is quite unique in the world of local partners as the team has a deep understanding of BHS solutions, X-ray screening, check-in desks and immigration booths. The team also understands our offerings and can help customers to define precisely what they should be looking for when seeking a BHS solution. Gate's business, therefore, aligns with ours and is truly complementary to our skills and products. Our combined knowledge, skills and experience ensures that we can move forward efficiently and at a more appropriate and advanced level.

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