Solar Power Station Open for Business

On 4th November, Alice Springs Airport officially became the first Australian airport to have a large scale (over 100kW) photovoltaic system providing a direct source of renewable energy to its internal grid.

The first of its kind in the southern hemisphere, the Solar Power Station comprises 28 SolFocus arrays, each eight metres wide and seven metres high.

The Solar Power Station now supplies approximately 28% of the airport’s energy needs, reducing its carbon emissions by about 470 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, the equivalent of about 70 Alice Springs households per annum.

Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) systems are an emerging solar technology that offer greater opportunities for cost reductions in photovoltaic systems. They are more efficient as they track the sun during the day, whereas traditional solar power systems are most efficient only when the sun is shining directly onto the solar arrays.

The $2.3 million project became possible with a grant of $1.132 million from the Australian Government as part of the Alice Solar City Project. National solar energy specialist Ingeniero was the principal contractor for the Solar Power Station, which is about 700 metres north-west of the terminal at Alice Springs Airport.

WELCOME

Air Asia!

Darwin recently welcomed Indonesia AirAsia to the Darwin-Denpasar (Bali) sector with services commencing 24th December 2010.

Offering travellers same day connections to Phuket, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Surabaya, the service from AirAsia will depart daily from Darwin at 0445.

Darwin Airport Chief Executive Ian Kew welcomed the new services to Darwin’s largest market, Indonesia, as well as the same day connections to the Northern Territory’s largest un-served markets.

“Over 30,000 Territorians travelled to Indonesia last year, and close to 10,000 Territorians travelled to Thailand. To get to Thailand, Territorians have had to spend a night in Singapore or Bali to reach their destination. This new service means that not only will customers save money on overnight accommodation, but will also be able to connect on the same day to all of Indonesia AirAsia’s network,” Mr Kew said.

Travellers will also have the opportunity to break their journey in Bali should they choose.

For bookings visit www.airasia.com
Pricing Agreement Signals $100 million Capital Injection at Darwin Airport

In early October, Darwin International Airport reached a long-term pricing agreement with the Qantas Group and is currently finalising arrangements with other airline customers. The long-term pricing agreement includes over $100 million in aeronautical capital expenditure over the next ten years, including a $33.5 million Terminal expansion.

Terminal expansion discussions with airlines have continued to progress over the past few months and will continue into the new year. In broad terms, the Terminal expansion will take place in two stages.

Stage One will commence in the first half of 2011 and includes expansion of the check-in area, security screening area and domestic departure lounge. Minor expansion works will also be undertaken in the international departures area.

Stage Two will commence in the second half of 2011 and will include a major expansion of the international departures and arrivals area, an expanded retail offering and increased swing capacity between the domestic and international lounges.

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Ross takes the helm of our Property team who manage all commercial buildings on our airports and also drive new property development.

Ross has a Degree in Law with around ten years experience as a solicitor and has most recently worked in the field of property syndication and development, primarily in asset and development roles with Lend Lease Corporation, Sydney Olympic Park Authority and Lipman Properties Pty Limited. Some of his key projects included commercial office developments, shopping centres, industrial sub-divisions, high density staged residential unit development as well as residential sub-division.

Strong Growth at Northern Territory Airports

NT Airports reported strong passenger growth for both Darwin International Airport and Alice Springs Airport during the 2009/2010 financial year.

Domestic passenger numbers through Darwin International Airport were up 5.7% and Alice Springs Airport reported growth of 3.3% on the prior year.

The international market also grew solidly for Darwin International Airport, up 12.3% on the prior year.

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Touchdown. It’s hard to believe we are already about to bid farewell to 2010.

The last few months have seen several exciting announcements at NT Airports.

Firstly, Darwin welcomed AirAsia onto the Bali (Denpasar) sector. With their inaugural flight scheduled for 24th December, I’m sure Territorians will be taking advantage of their sharp ticket pricing around the Christmas period.

The Solar Power Station at Alice Springs Airport was officially launched on 4th November by Michael Ward, Director Solar Cities. The completion of this project by our team at Alice Springs Airport is a wonderful achievement and I would like to acknowledge the hard work not only by my staff, but also the contractors Ingenero and Alice Solar Cities.

In October, Darwin International Airport was finally able to announce news of a long-term aviation pricing agreement. This agreement paves the way for investment of more than $100 million into our airport facilities over the next ten years, including a $33.5 million Terminal expansion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for their hard work this year, and to wish you all a very happy and safe festive season.

IAN KEW
Chief Executive Officer

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Tiger Airways, Alice Springs services now flying into Tullamarine

Tiger Airways services on the Alice Springs to Melbourne sector will soon be switched from Avalon to Tullamarine Airport for arrival into Melbourne. Taking effect for services from 7th February 2011, the change will coincide with the welcome introduction of an evening departure out of Alice Springs. Amended schedules will be available online soon.

Tennant Creek Mini-Makeover

With twice weekly services from Darwin now operating and Alice Springs services commencing 6th December, work is underway to give the Terminal building a facelift.

Works include the replacement of flooring and windows, a complete re-paint as well as new air-conditioning.

The refurbishment also includes several energy-reducing consumption initiatives including motion sensors for the air-conditioning and lighting.

Dyson Hand Blades

Installation of new Dyson Airblade Hand Dryers in all public amenities was recently completed at Darwin International Airport.

The Dyson Airblade Hand Dryer is the fastest hand dryer available, taking just 10 seconds to dry hands and captures and eliminates 99.9% of bacteria from the air.

The Dyson Airblade Hand Dryer requires 80% less energy to run than normal warm air dryers and eliminates the use for paper towels, thus reducing the effect on our environment.

Qantas Group announce new services

The Qantas Group have announced new services, including Qantas’ full service flights between Melbourne and Darwin and Jetstar’s plans to introduce multiple weekly Darwin-Manila services from 9th February 2011.

Qantas Airways direct Melbourne-Darwin flights are welcome news to the business community.

Jetstar also announced it would add a new spoke to its Darwin hub with Manila services to commence in the near future, while also providing additional services on the Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Bali sectors.

Vincent Aviation commence Alice-Tennant Services

Alice Springs Airport recently welcomed Vincent Aviation’s announcement of services on the Alice Springs-Tennant Creek sector commencing Monday 6th December 2010. It is the first time the sector has seen scheduled operations for a number of years.

The new service will operate twice per week on a Monday and Thursday. The arrival and departure times for Alice Springs are conveniently timed to offer immediate connections to key cities including Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin.

Vincent Aviation will utilise the Beechcraft 1900 aircraft on the service which can carry 19 passengers.

Darwin Airport now an Eaton Resident

Following some suburb boundary changes, Darwin International Airport now resides in the suburb of EATON.

The Airport Management Centre street address is now 1 Fenton Court, Eaton NT 0820.

Importantly, please note that mail must be addressed to:

Darwin International Airport
PO Box 40996
Casuarina NT 0811.

Sending items to the street address will, nine times out of ten, be returned to sender.
Approval for the Alice Springs Airport Master Plan was recently received from the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP.

A unique feature of the 2010 Alice Springs Airport Master Plan was the proposal to secure residential zoning approval on existing airport land. Alice Springs Airport is Australia’s largest at 3550 hectares and the Master Plan 2010 included a proposal to transfer a parcel of airport land to the Northern Territory Government for residential development in a joint venture arrangement. The proposal was strongly supported by the Northern Territory Government, the Alice Springs Town Council and local business community.

The Alice Springs community has a critical need for additional housing and the unique characteristics of the airport site warranted the in-principal support for this proposal from the Australian Government.

It is anticipated that construction will commence in the excised land within two to five years.

Webphone trial at Darwin Airport

Internet kiosk distributor pieNETWORKS has commenced the deployment of 50 of its Hotspot Webphones for Telstra. Telstra is trialling pieNETWORKS’ joint internet, phone and email kiosks in a four-month Australian market assessment.

The first two terminals being used in the trial have now been installed at Darwin International Airport, and a further 48 Hotspot Webphones will be deployed in more Australian airports in the coming weeks.

Australian Federal Police Building Launch Event

Construction of the new Australian Federal Police building was officially launched on 21st September at an event on the construction site.

It is the Australian Federal Police’s second long-term, purpose-built accommodation at airports around Australia and will provide an unprecedented capability for its operations at Darwin International Airport over the next 15 years.

The new building will be targeting a five-star Green Star environmental rating which signifies “Australian Excellence” in ecologically sustainable design and construction.

Construction of the building on airport land on the corner of Pedersen and Charles Eaton Drive, commenced in November 2010 with completion anticipated in the third quarter of 2011. Darwin International Airport is now home to several buildings for federal agencies including the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.
Darwin Airport donates Patient Transport Vehicle

NT Airports Corporate Giving Committee recently donated a vehicle to the NTRO, part of the Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre, for the purpose of transporting patients to and from the facility.

Named in memory of Dr Alan Walker (1931-2007), a Northern Territory paediatrician credited with improving Aboriginal infant mortality and child health outcomes, the Centre provides Northern Territorians with access to professional, high quality cancer treatment without the need to travel interstate.

The donation of the Mitsubishi 380 VRX model was assisted by Bruce Sampson, Managing Director of Darwin Mitsubishi. The vehicle will also be maintained, free of charge, for the duration of its service with the NTRO.

NT Infrastructure Report Card

NT Airports welcomed the grading of major aerodromes in the Northern Territory in the recently published Engineers Australia Infrastructure Report Card 2010. Produced every five years, the report examines the state of the Territory’s infrastructure to see what progress has been made and what still needs to occur.

The report issued Darwin International and Alice Springs Airports a grade of A-, noting that infrastructure for existing passenger and freight demand is adequate, however queried funding for future developments. NT Airports plans to invest $100 million in private capital expenditure over the next five years on airport infrastructure to facilitate growth and improve comfort for passengers. NT Airports does not require and will not be seeking any Government funding for these projects.

A full copy of the report is available at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/ircnt

CAR PARK REDEVELOPMENT
Darwin Airport

Western Long-Term and Car Rental

The Western Car Park expansion involves the relocation of an airside boundary fence and realignment of a 1500mm RCP drain. Works on the airside extension are progressing well and the redevelopment of the existing parking area will be commencing shortly. The road layout for the western end of the Terminal will also be modified, with a new entrance being constructed for the long-term parking area to improve traffic flow and vehicle and pedestrian safety. The new car park is due to open in March 2011.

Eastern Permit Car Park/Bus Zone

The redevelopment of the Eastern Car Park and construction of a new bus zone is nearly complete. The existing Western Permit Parking Area will be relocated to the new Eastern Permit Car Park in early December. The Bus Zone waiting area and walkway weather shelters are due to be installed by March 2011, providing a dedicated bus drop-off and pick-up area with easy walkway access to the Terminal.

General Aviation Car Park

Construction of the new 303 parking bay facility is on schedule, with the car park due to open in December. The new parking area is located close to the Slade Court General Aviation precinct and is adjacent to the location of the recently announced purpose-built Australian Federal Police Office Building.
Planting for the Future

Darwin International Airport recently teamed up with part of Darwin High School’s Year 10 Carbon Futures Class to sponsor the construction of a native garden at the school.

The group nominated the construction of the native garden within school grounds as their major project for 2010.

With a focus on using trees and shrubs that attracted local native fauna, the planting day was attended by two Larrakia Minbeni Rangers who performed a traditional “welcome to country” and assisted the students with planting.

The garden will be named by the Larrakia people early in 2011 after which official signage will be installed.

Smoking bans take effect
2nd January 2011

In line with changes in Northern Territory Government regulations, areas where smokers can “light up” at Darwin International Airport and Alice Springs Airport will change. The smoking balconies in the domestic and international departure lounges at Darwin International Airport will be closed from 2nd January, with designated smoking areas outside the Terminal clearly sign-posted.

At Alice Springs Airport, smoking at the front of the Terminal will be banned, again with smoking areas designated.

Safe Work Australia Week

Darwin International Airport and Alice Springs Airports were again enthusiastic participants in Safe Work Week Australia with several coordinated activities involving airport staff and contractors.

The week included spill response training, hearing awareness, defibrillator and health sessions including everything from keeping active to snake bite awareness.

The Qantas teams in both Darwin and Alice Springs also conducted activities throughout the week including disseminating safety information, organising healthy breakfasts for staff and expert sessions discussing topics such as manual handling and sun protection.

During Safe Work Australia Week, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) coordinated an International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) “Reachout” course in Darwin which was very well attended by many airport operators safety representatives.

Low-risk asylum seekers housed at airport

October 2010 saw the opening of the newest development by Darwin International Airport Hotels Pty Ltd, The Airport Lodge. This 208-room facility was originally designed to cater for oil and gas sectors employees and contractors. Research among this sector had shown a real need for good quality accommodation to service this unique fly-in, fly-out workforce.

The Airport Lodge was granted a short-term lease at the site, as the land is earmarked for future aviation development purposes.

The Airport Lodge’s type of construction will allow for easy dismantling at the end of its lease term and subsequent relocation to another site.

Management of the The Airport Lodge negotiated an agreement with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to house low-risk asylum seekers as they undergo processing.

The asylum seekers are predominantly young people and families and the quality of accommodation at The Airport Lodge made it an ideal location to house these groups.
New Websites Go Live

The NT Airports group of websites were recently given a complete overhaul.

Some new features of the sites include car parking calculators, direct links to follow on Twitter and interactive route maps. Sites for the group are:

www.ntairports.com.au
www.darwinairport.com.au
www.alicespringsairport.com.au
www.tennantcreekairport.com.au

Urban Challenge

The NT Airports Urban Adventure Challenge is an annual event that completes the Darwin International Airport Safe Work Australia Week activities.

Part of NT Airport’s ‘Gateway to Health’ program for both staff and stakeholders, its aim is twofold: to encourage participants to be active and to live a healthy lifestyle; and build relations between staff and key stakeholders.

The idea of the challenge is to introduce participants to community clubs and recreation areas/pursuits that can be used to lead an active and healthy lifestyle as well as to have some fun with friends and colleagues.

This year 12 teams joined in on the fun commencing at Lake Leanyer, orienteering through Holmes Jungle and hitting golf balls at the Flight Path Centre.

Congratulations to the team at SKM for winning the 2010 event.