Christchurch International Airport

GALLAGHER™

FAST FACTS

Industry: Transport & Logistics

Business type: Airport

Site size: more than 800ha

Number of doors: 380 doors

Currently Cardholder Database: 6,000

Number of employees: 300

Key industry challenges:
- Complying with Civil Aviation safety and security requirements
- Operating domestic and international flights from a single terminal
- Restricting unauthorised personnel and vehicle access to airside areas

Gallagher technology used:
- Command Centre
- T-Series Readers
- Mifare card technology
- Gallagher electric perimeter fencing

Christchurch International Airport is situated on the east coast of New Zealand and receives around six million passengers and 70,000 commercial flights per year. The airport is the main gateway for New Zealand's South Island and is a busy hub for passenger and freight movement. In a legislation-driven airport environment, the airport is regulated by a number of Civil Aviation mandates and rules, which include the requirement to control and monitor all access to restricted landside and airside areas. In selecting Gallagher for the airport's security solution, the airport company, Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL), found a vastly flexible system capable of withstanding extreme conditions when put to the test in a real-life emergency.

Originally opened in 1959, the airport terminal has undergone a number of expansions and upgrades over time. With passenger numbers continuing to grow, a new $237 million terminal was designed and construction began in 2009. As part of the new terminal design, CIAL took the opportunity to review its security systems and look for new and innovative solutions that afforded greater system flexibility. The airport's previous security system was both analogue and digital and presented limitations on what a non-technical staff member could do within the system.

"To make changes, for example add a door to the access control system, we had to get specialists in" said Ford Robertston, the airport's Manager of Quality and Security. "Ultimately, our wish list included a system our own staff could configure, hardware that overcame the reliability issues we faced with cards not reading, as well as an open platform with a high degree of flexibility and reporting capabilities."

Operating technology that had essentially reached its limitation, particularly in supporting the analogue system, also drove CIAL to look at new solutions.

"We followed a robust evaluation process and found the Gallagher product provided the best value for money and the best support structure for the airport, " said Tim Morris, Manager of Operations and Asset Services.

Gallagher solutions now protect all primary areas of operation at the airport, including the terminal, airfield, support buildings and infrastructure. The security solution combines perimeter security, access control, integrations with third-party systems such as CCTV and a unique customisation to create a multi-use airbridge system.

PERIMETER SECURITY

On the exterior, Gallagher's perimeter security system provides monitored electric fencing for a small section of Christchurch Airport's 16km fence line – which protects more than 300 hectares of land. The site's perimeter security incorporates five vehicle auto-gates which allow authorised vehicles access to the airfield. When drivers badge their access card at an auto gate, a photo of the cardholder appears on the operator's screen, along with competency information. If the driver's Civil Aviation ID, airside driving permit or another competency is due to expire, the operator is notified on screen and can advise the driver. The main auto-gate is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If someone requests access at an unmanned auto-gate, their photo and competencies are channelled to the operator at the main auto-gate, reducing after hours staff and running costs.

ACCESS CONTROL

Christchurch Airport is a multi-tenant site where several core organisations operate. A number of these organisations - including the national carrier, Air New Zealand - operate independent Gallagher security-management platforms. Cardholder information can be enrolled between these platforms, enabling employees from each organisation to access multiple areas of the airport using a single access card. The multi-tenant functionality creates a flexible system that reduces the costs associated with issuing and managing multiple cards.

AIRBRIDGE CUSTOMISATION

As a domestic and international airport, CIAL, Gallagher and security partner ECL Group, together developed a customisation that would enable CIAL staff to manage airbridge configuration via the security-management platform. This customisation provided the ability to move seamlessly between domestic and international airport operations. Using 14 fully-automated and motorised airbridges and access controlled doors, airport staff use workstations to configure the system and easily transition the airport from domestic to international operations - ensuring passengers are directed to secure zones including customs and immigration when appropriate. All doors are operated with an access card and once an area of the airport has been "sealed" for security (for example, an international departure lounge), access to these areas is automatically denied and they become accessible only via a security clearance entryway.

The Gallagher system was effectively put to the test during the 2010 and 2011 Christchurch earthquakes which caused widespread damage across the city.

During the second major earthquake, the airport lost network power and the site was functioning on generator supply. The Gallagher security solution continued operating faultlessly, with controllers running on automatic battery back-up until mains communication was restored.

"The system continued doing what it was supposed to under some pretty challenging circumstances" said Ford Robertson. "It was a clear indicator to us of the fully-tested, uncompromised quality and standard of the Gallagher product".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gallagher wishes to acknowledge our security partner, ECL Group, whose ongoing support and involvement in the implementation of Gallagher products contributes to our successful relationship with Christchurch International Airport Limited.

FURTHER RESOURCES

For more information on Gallagher's transport and logistics solution, and further site profiles on airport and port customers, visit: security.gallagher.co

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS REFERENCES

TYPE	NAME	LOCATION	COUNTRY
Airport	Guangzhou Airport	Guangzhou	China
Port	Port of Tauranga	Tauranga	New Zealand
Port	Port Nelson	Nelson	New Zealand

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