

Wednesday October 12, 2011

ADELAIDE AIRPORT WINS NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AWARD FOR RESURFACED RUNWAY

Adelaide Airport Ltd (AAL) has won a major national project management award for its work on resurfacing the airport's main runways and taxiways earlier this year.

AAL, together with Beca Consultants, was awarded the national prize for construction or engineering projects less than \$100 million at the Project Management Achievement Awards hosted by the Australian Institute of Project Management in Brisbane overnight.

Acting Managing Director, Mark Young, said the 6-month runway resurfacing project, completed in April this year, was very complex and required wide-ranging consultation with airlines, government and the local community.

"The project required more than 400,000 square metres of pavement to be resurfaced with close to 60,000 tonnes of asphalt – the equivalent of re-sealing a 40km stretch of highway," Mr Young said.

"All of the work had to be carried out during curfew hours between 11.00pm and 6.00am, and the runway needed to be fully operational at the end of each night so as not to disrupt the airport's day-to-day operations.

"In addition to consulting with the local community, AAL needed to take extra measures to minimise disruption to nearby residents. These included constructing a temporary asphalt batching plant to reduce heavy vehicle traffic in and out of the airport during the night operations, erecting a 3 metre high concrete wall as a sound barrier, and conducting noise modelling and monitoring."

"The project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule with no lost time as a result of safety or injury, and no noise complaints were received from nearby residents. There were also no delays to commercial flights over the entire project."

AAL also used the project as an opportunity to replace its taxiway lighting system with 600 new LED lights.

Mr Young said the project is believed to be the largest of its type undertaken in Australia.

"Usually airports choose to split such a large job into smaller projects, but we worked out a way to complete the work in one hit and minimise disruption to all stakeholders," he said. "Our project team worked very well together to come up with a successful and innovative approach in a challenging, highly regulated environment."