Airport check-in workstations need reliable and compact tools to accommodate small and crowded areas to help agents process passengers efficiently, and the Gemalto MRZ and MSR Swipe Reader CR100M is designed to meet these needs. Their enthusiastic reception in two U.S. airports illustrates how these document readers are ideally suited for the transportation industry.

McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nev., is an early adopter of the CR100M document reader. McCarran, a common-use airport facility, will equip check-in desks at its new Terminal 3 with the readers, providing airline employees with an efficient tool to capture traveler data. The readers are also employed at another common-use facility, Terminal 1 of John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, NY.

These document readers give users the ability to read codeline data from passports, IDs and other Machine Readable Travel Documents, as well as three-track magnetic cards. The efficient design of the readers allows them to be easily adapted to many workstation set-ups, with easy mounting options for computer monitors and keyboards. Because the readers are stand-alone devices they offer more flexibility in their use and are also more cost-effective than some alternative technologies. For example, the integrated keyboards used in many airports bundle technologies together and are therefore more costly to purchase and service.

While the CR100M reader will be installed in a brand new terminal at McCarran, JFK is upgrading from the RTE6700 Document Readers to the CR100M readers. The facility initially planned to repurchase new RTE6700 readers, as its original models were due for replacement. However, once planners at JFK learned that the new model was being introduced, the facility chose to upgrade. Offering the same reliable performance as the RTE 6700 reader, the new CR100M offers an even smaller footprint and is also lower in cost.

“Check-in desks are often small and can easily get crowded, so we welcome the chance to reduce the footprint of our readers even further,” said Felix Fan, Manager of Information Technology, John F. Kennedy International Airport Terminal One. “Our experience to date with readers from Thales has been very smooth. We are excited to refresh this technology, and pleased that we were able to do it cost effectively. These readers will help us move traffic even more efficiently at our check-in desks and provide better overall customer service.”

Annual passenger volumes for JFK and McCarran have topped 46 million and 41 million, respectively, in recent years, highlighting the need for technologies that facilitate quick processing and fit in fast paced workstations.

“The reader’s fast speed and small footprint are outstanding,” said Samuel Ingalls, Assistant Director of Aviation, Information Systems at McCarran. “With limited space at each workstation, it was important for us to have readers that were small in size. Additionally, highspeed data capture is an absolute necessity. The CR100M document reader meets both these needs.”

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