Logan Township, New Jersey U.S.A., (14 January 2010) Engineered Arresting Systems Corporation (ESCO-Zodiac Aerospace) has been awarded a contract by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, Ministry of Transportation and Communication for an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS) for Taipei Songshan Airport (ICAO: RCSS, IATA: TSA). ESCO’s EMAS, known as EMASMAX®, will be installed in the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) of Runway 10 and is scheduled for completion in late-summer 2010.

Songshan Airport, located in the center of Taipei City, was formerly used only for flights within Taiwan. But since the resumption of direct charter flights between the airport and Mainland China in 2008, the number of flights and aircraft size has increased dramatically. Further increases are expected as direct charter flights between the airport and Japan begin in the Fall of 2010.

According to Civil Aeronautics Administration officials, the EMASMAX installation is one of many safety improvements planned at the airport. “With the increase in the size and number of aircraft operating at the airport, we wanted to improve our level of safety in the event of an overrun.” Being surrounded by the city, it would be very difficult and expensive to increase the length of the safety areas. The FAA-approved EMASMAX system will allow the airport to improve safety without expansion or having to reduce the runway length.

ESCO’s EMASMAX is an arrestor bed composed of blocks of lightweight, crushable concrete designed to stop airplanes that overshoot runways. Songshan Airport will join the rapidly growing list of airports that have installed ESCO’s EMAS, including Juizhai-Huanglong Airport in Szechuan Province (PRC), Barajas International Airport in Madrid Spain, and 30 airports in the United States, a total of 48 runways worldwide. The system has successfully arrested 6 aircraft ranging from a SAAB-340 to a Boeing 747, with no injuries and minimal or no damage to each aircraft.

ESCO is a member of Zodiac Aerospace’s Emergency Arresting Systems Division (EASD) and is widely recognized as the world leader in energy absorption, particularly in the area of military and commercial aircraft arresting systems.

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