This edition features an interview with Stephen Goodwin. Stephen is the Chair of the Airports of the Future Project (AoTF) Industry Advisory Committee, and General Manager for a key partner of the project, Brisbane Airport Corporation. (BAC)

What benefits has BAC seen from involvement with the AoTF?

The most specific and tangible benefits BAC have seen so far have been in the way we understand our “Outbound Passenger Process”, and in the design of our screening points. The combination of these, with a “Human Centred” approach of design incorporated, has helped us improve our passenger processing rates by around 25% and reduced our costs accordingly.

Once the Airport Information Model (AIM) is developed, our planning teams will derive additional benefit from these studies.

The Performance Modelling currently underway (interim results just published) could have the potential to assist Border Protection Agencies and the Airport Operator.

By providing real time data which can be used collectively, we could achieve the use of an active management plan that mitigates a broad range of problems across an ever changing and dynamic system, BEFORE they happen.

What broader benefit do you see in BAC’s involvement with the project currently and in the future?

At this stage it is still too early to specify broader benefits, other than practicing collaboration, which is absolutely real in the context of this research, and thinking longer term.

For airports this idea can be quite foreign. Operations tend to be “day-to-day”, or “schedule-to-schedule”.

This has helped us think more holistically and longer term about our plans and actions and changes to the environment over time.

What is it like Chairing the Industry Advisory Committee for the AoTF?

I have enjoyed the challenge of taking on this responsibility, although at times it’s difficult convincing members in the value they can get from the project through more active involvement and application of what is being discovered.

This type of thinking is not necessarily natural for us, as typically a return on investment is wanted immediately, and research often delivers the return later but at a greater rate.
What role do you see for the AoTF in the future of the aviation industry in Australia, and in the fast growing Asian sector?

The learning from this project will be transportable throughout the Aviation Industry in Australia and in the fast growing Asian sector.

The trick for us will be how we value this and how we make this marketable and commercially useable.

QUT and its current partners have invested much in this project and the knowledge base is strong. But knowledge alone won’t “cut it” in the industry.

The project must ensure that the research has clear value to its partners and can be easily understood, if it is to ensure further investment in the future. This will be the challenge going forward.

Stephen Goodwin is currently the General Manager of Operations for Brisbane Airport Corporation. He has broad responsibility for the ensuring the ongoing Operation of the Airport including its Terminals, Airfield and surrounding areas. His team is also responsible for Aviation Safety, Security, Environment, and Airport Approvals. Stephen’s previous experience has been over 12 years in the Chemical industry working for both ICI, Dulux and Comalco (now Rio Tinto).

Want more info?
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