



PARASYN helps Airservices Australia boost passenger safety on the Whitsunday Islands.

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Automated crash alarm and emergency action system installed at Hamilton Island's busy airport.

At the end of October PARASYN completed a major upgrade of the automated alarm and safety systems at the Whitsunday Island's main airport. The new system boosts safety for over 350,000 passengers who pass through Hamilton Island's busy air terminal every year.

□ Nestled as they are between the Queensland coast and The Great Barrier Reef, its not surprising that the lush tropical paradise that is the Whitsunday Islands are a magnet for tourists from all over the world. Ideally situated at their heart is Hamilton Island which hosts the Islands' principal airport and acts as the gateway to the rest of the Whitsundays.

Hamilton Island airport was built in 1984 to cater for the ever growing number of visitors and it now acts as a hub connecting scheduled services from Australia's principal airports to the numerous helicopters, light aircraft and floatplanes that ferry tourists to and from the more remote islands that make up the 74 islands in the Whitsunday Group. As a result the airport manages around 30,000 aircraft movements every year, a remarkably large number for such a relatively small island airstrip. As at any busy airport passenger safety is of the highest priority and therefore the speed and efficiency of emergency response is critically important. It's particularly pertinent here where tragedy struck in late September 2002 when a light aircraft on route to nearby Lindeman Island crashed shortly after take off, killing 5 people and temporarily closing the airport to passenger traffic.

In August 2006 Airservices Australia, the government-owned corporation responsible for air-traffic control and ground safety across Australia's commercial airports, engaged PARASYN to upgrade the automated crash alarm and emergency action systems in Hamilton Island's control tower and airport fire station. Kingfisher Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) were installed at both locations to replace obsolete hardwired equipment, and these were integrated with a new GE QuickPanel 'touch screen' Human Machine Interface (HMI) installed in the Fire Station Control Centre. The new system controls the activation of audible alarms and annunciated warnings through the fire station public address system. In the event of an emergency firefighters need to be out of the station and onto the runway without delay to meet regulatory requirements. To assist in this, the system automatically activates building control systems typically installed at aviation fire stations such as opening the fire station doors, turning on lights, and activating booster pumps and exhaust fans, all of which can save vital seconds.

The system was designed especially for Hamilton Island but has the capacity of being rolled out to other Australian airports. The system can be easily configured and upgraded to accommodate differing regional requirements and can be integrated into a centralized SCADA-based system for data logging and reporting if required.