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# IFALPA congratulates Chicago Midway Airport on decision to install EMAS

IFALPA Congratulates Midway Airport Decision to install EMAS

CHERTSEY 07 April: IFALPA applauds the proposal by Chicago Midway Airport to install an Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS) which will dramatically reduce the risks associated with a runway overrun.

Studies and experience have shown that in the average overrun incident the aircraft leaves the paved surface at a speed less than 50 knots and, generally, the aircraft will come to a halt within 300m of the paved surface. For this reason, a RESA 300m long by twice the width of the relevant runway which provides a smooth firm surface is generally regarded as providing an adequate level of safety. The problem at Midway is that the airport is closely surrounded by a built up area. As a result it is not possible to establish the ICAO recommended runway end safety area (RESA), a problem it shares with thousands of runways worldwide that are likewise limited by terrain or topography. However, the installation of an EMAS will result in an equivalent level of protection to that provided by a 300m RESA.

Commenting on the announcement IFALPA President Capt. Dennis Dolan said “Runway overruns are among the most common of accident types with an average of four air transport category aircraft overrunning every month. At IFALPA we have been arguing that the establishment of RESAs, or an EMAS equivalent, is a vital component in countering the risk from an overrun and we are delighted to hear that at Midway the airport authorities are taking this step to protect passengers, pilots and the airport’s neighbours.

## *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots’ Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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