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IFALPA applauds decision by Brazilian Ministry of Defence to implement RESAs at Sao Paulo Congonhas Airport

CHERTSEY 14 September: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations (IFALPA) applauds the moves by the Brazilian Ministry of Defence to improve passenger safety at Sao Paulo Congonhas Airport with the installation of Runway End Safety Areas (RESA) that comply with the recommendations set out in ICAO Annex 14.

One of the most common incidents in airline operations, which result in damage to aircraft, are runway excursions (and especially overruns). IFALPA argues that the risk of these incidents escalating into accidents that cause injury and death can be mitigated by establishing properly designed RESAs at the end of all runways where air transport operations take place. While of course, at the same time, all possible measures to reduce the frequency of this type of event should be adopted.

Where airport location and the surrounding topography make the siting of a RESA impossible or impractical then an Engineered Materials Arresting System (EMAS) that provides an equivalent level of safety should be installed.

IFALPA believes that if the present ICAO recommended 60m strip and 240m of RESA (the '60m-240m' rule) were to be made a required element of airport design, the safety of passengers, crews, airport workers and airport passers—by would be dramatically improved. Therefore, the Federation urges ICAO to upgrade its Recommendation to a Standard forthwith and, further, urges airports not wait for a change in the ICAO Annex, but to move ahead with the establishment of 60m-240m rule RESA or where that is not possible, begin construction of EMAS alternatives as soon as possible.

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

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