



Figure 1: On left, Variable Message Sign displays "Stop". On right, Variable Message Sign off.

Variable Message Sign installed at Tokyo International Airport

Background

Tokyo International Airport (RJTT, Haneda Airport) is the first Japanese airport to introduce the Variable Message Sign (VMS). The system consists of LCD panel boards on one or both sides of the runway which light up to indicate how the pilot should proceed. The VMS is compatible with any automated runway occupancy system.

Runway positioning

VMS are positioned on the RWSL, REL to select frequently used taxiways, and THL for intersection takeoff. The VMS is placed beyond the hold short line, on one or both sides of the runway, depending on the space allotted.

VMS system

The VMS has two display options:

- 1) The word "STOP" in white lettering on a red background; or
- 2) All lights off (black background)

Operating Procedures

In the case of a discrepancy between the VMS and ATC instructions, a pilot should proceed as follows:

-  VMS indicates "STOP" but ATC says "GO": **Do NOT Go, Reconfirm with ATC** (communication)
-  VMS is black: **obtain ATC clearance to cross**