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Solar Lights Prove Useful at Airports Worldwide

Airfield Lights Use Solar Energy to Save Electricity and Keep Airports Safe During Construction

Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles—August 10, 2007—Bonaire's Flamingo Airport has installed over 130 solar lights to replace runway, taxiway, hazard and other electric lights on its airfield. Electricity is a significant cost for airports, and especially on the Island of Bonaire where electricity is about four times as expensive as in the United States. Using free solar energy instead of electric lights on this sunny Caribbean Island will allow the airport to save at least \$25,000 in electricity each year. Solar lights will be installed in place of the airport's electric apron edge, taxiway and intersection lights. The Flamingo Airport sees 580,000 annual visitors and has 40 scheduled flights daily.



Bonaire is not the first airport to use solar lights, however. More airports are beginning to consider solar lights for either permanent or temporary use. FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-50A specifies that solar lights may be used at commercial airports on a temporary basis, and airfield grade solar may be used at general aviation airports on a permanent basis. Curtis Field in Brady, Texas installed 96 blue solar taxiway lights in the spring of 2006 and they are eager to add more solar lighting. One of the reasons that small airports are drawn to solar lights is that they eliminate the need to dig up the airfield to install conduit and electrical wiring. Solar lights have the same

bolt-patterns as electric lights and can be installed in existing in-ground positions, or they can be mounted on frangible bases that are bolted or staked to the ground.

At large commercial airports, solar lights are not considered so much for permanent use but are highly useful for temporary marking during construction. They can be positioned wherever they are needed, and moved as often as necessary. As long as they receive sunlight exposure during the day, they automatically light up as evening turns to night.

Off the Wall Products is a Salt Lake City-based company, with offices also in Washington, D.C. that designs and manufactures anti-ramming barriers and heavy-duty plastic barriers and barricades for roadway, airport, military, commercial construction and crowd control. Since 1993, the company has designed innovative safety products, such as easy-to-deploy water-filled barriers, barricades and other high-tech products, which reduce accidents, ensure motorist and worker safety, protect our armed forces, and ensure well-managed public events.

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