

CUSTOMER

- ▶ AENA (Aeropuertos Españoles, IBEX 35)
- ▶ Prime contractor: Álava Ingenieros
- ▶ Amount: 12.805.182 €
- ▶ Implementation: 2015-2018



PROJECT AND SOLUTION

The aim of this project was to provide an explosive trace inspection and detection system capable of fully complying with the new airport security regulations issued by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).

To achieve this, AENA, the company that manages the network of airports in Spain, launched an international public tender for the supply, installation, set-up, training and maintenance of the most innovative equipment available on the market capable of complying with the European Unions' new airport security framework.

The solution put forward by Grupo Álava was the supply of 290 Itemizer 4DX chemical analyzers based on ion trap mobility spectrometer (ITMS) technology for 20 airports in the Spanish network.

These explosive trace detection systems are considered the best on the market, as they are capable of performing a reliable analysis in under 8 seconds. As a result, their use is of the utmost importance at various airport control points: inspection of passengers and hand luggage at boarding filters, monitoring airport staff working in restricted areas, inspecting cargo at receiving and shipping points in cargo terminals, and searching air passengers and cargo on airlines.

This device is able to detect, identify and analyze chemical traces of explosives on skin, clothing, transported items, luggage, vehicles and other surfaces, making it the ideal equipment to reliably protect passengers and workers, not only within the network of airports or cargo terminals; they are also ideal for use in other critical infrastructures or by security forces.

In addition, the Itemizer 4DX analyzer is designed to be easy to use and highly



portable, improving its functionality and removing the administrative, regulatory, storage and shipping requirements associated with radioactive detection equipment.

The main challenge of the project was needing to install and set-up the first 165 pieces of equipment in under 15 days to enable our client to comply with the EU regulation, which was coming into force imminently. Grupo Álava therefore deployed a large number of resources and our certified technicians worked in multiple airports simultaneously, managing to complete the work within the established timeframe.

Furthermore, the maintenance service required by the client involved 24-hour cover with very demanding response times of between 2 and 8 hours, depending on the airport. This requires a bespoke incident management system and customer service capable of receiving alerts and coordinating preventive and corrective actions, together with a team of expert technicians providing



on-site assistance to resolve incidences or replace damaged equipment with new items in perfect condition.

” Think Big

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