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## CAAS Awards Tender for World's First Intelligent Vision-Based System to Detect Foreign Objects on Runway

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) has awarded a tender for the installation of a new intelligent system to detect foreign objects on runways at Singapore Changi Airport. The contract for the iFerret™ runway surveillance and foreign object detection system has been awarded to Stratech Systems Limited. The contract was inked today by CAAS' Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Lim Kim Choon, and Stratech's Executive Chairman, Dr David Chew.

iFerret™ is the world's first intelligent vision-based system to detect foreign objects on runways. The system uses vision technology to detect and identify foreign objects on the runways and pinpoint their exact location, on a 24-hour basis. It can then raise immediate alerts, enabling operators to have full visual of the object to examine the object detected. Foreign object related damage, or FOD, poses a danger to aircraft landings and take-offs. The development of the system was possible with funding support from the Prime Minister's Office The Enterprise Challenge. During the development stage, a prototype was tested at Changi Airport for a year.

Under the contract, valued at over \$12 million, Stratech will customise the system to suit CAAS' specific requirements. The system will also have built-in layers of backup.

"The successful test-bedding of this new system would pave the way for safer runway operations not only at Changi Airport but also world-wide," said Mr Lim. He added, "We look forward to the implementation of the system to enhance safety and efficiency at Changi Airport."

Said Dr Chew, "With iFerret™, air traffic and ground operations staff can visually assess foreign objects identified on a remote screen display, without making a physical visit. To have iFerret™ deployed at our very own Changi Airport - one of the world's best airports - is testament to its performance and reliability."

The installation of this system is expected to be completed in early 2009.