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PRESS RELEASE

SPECIALISED RUBBER REMOVAL AT ORIA RUNWAY

As part of its ongoing commitment to maintaining the integrity, safety and security of all its facilities to standards mandated by its National & International Regulators, the Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA) employed Waterblasting Technologies, Inc., of the USA, in early September to carry out rubber removal on the runway at Owen Roberts International Airport, using highly specialized equipment.

Over time rubber marks from the tyres of aircraft gradually thicken on the touchdown zones of a runway reducing the surface friction in those areas. If left unchecked, this could eventually pose a hazard to aircraft on landing and takeoff. Annual friction testing on the runway, conducted by an independent overseas contractor, indicated a small section at the western end of the runway being at the level recommended for rubber removal from the surface.

According to Mr. Carl McCoy, the CIAA's Senior Manager of Engineering and Projects, "This is only the second time that this type of runway rubber removal process has been carried out in the Caribbean region by Waterblasting Technologies, Inc. who is considered a world leader in paint marking removal, rubber removal, surface preparation and pavement cleaning". Waterblasting Technologies shipped the equipment from Stuart, Florida, to Grand Cayman and sent a specialist operator to carry out the project in conjunction our maintenance crew. The equipment, which was shipped on a flat-bed trailer, utilizes a special tractor with high pressure water jets, of 40,000 PSI, to blast the rubber off the runway and into a vacuum debris recovery system."



“The work was carried out between flights during off peak times, 4:00pm to 12:00 am, when aircraft traffic movements are less frequent therefore requiring no closure of the runway. The CIAA will again engage the services of its independent contractor to conduct friction testing in October 2008, thereby ensuring a continued high level of compliance with international standards that are also focused at maintaining the safety of the travelling public,” he stated.

End

Photo Captions:

1. This highly specialized runway rubber removal equipment and a technician was brought in from the USA to work with the C.I. Airports Authority’s maintenance crew to ensure internationally accepted standards are maintained at Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA).
2. A 2,000’ x 50’ section of the west end of the runway at Owen Roberts International Airport (ORIA) was targeted for a special rubber removal project carried out in September by employees from the C.I. Airports Authority and Waterblasting Technologies, Inc. of the USA.

If you have any queries, kindly contact:

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