



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN  
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

L.C. Smith Terminal • Mezzanine  
Detroit, MI 48242  
ph 734 942 3550  
fax 734 942 3793  
www.metroairport.com

# News Release

Media contact:  
Brian Lassaline 734-247-7274

## Vehicles will signal precise location at Detroit Metropolitan Airport *--Project improves safety and efficiency*

**Detroit (November 25, 2014)**—Vehicles operating on the airfield at Detroit Metropolitan Airport will soon be sending a signal showing their exact location to both Air Traffic Control (ATC) and the airport’s Operational Control Center (OCC).

“Safety is the number one priority at our airports,” said Airport Authority CEO Thomas Naughton. “Allowing ATC and OCC to monitor certain vehicles on the AOA not only improves safety by improving situational awareness, but enhances efficiency when responding to possible incidents as well.”

The Airport Authority has selected Exelis ([NYSE:XLS](#)), a global leader in providing critical network solutions, to install Vehicle Movement Area Transponders ([VMAT](#)) in Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting, Airport Maintenance, and Airfield Operations vehicles operating in the Aircraft Operating Area (AOA). Click here for Exelis News Release: <http://www.exelisinc.com/News/PressReleases/Pages/Midwestern-hub-selects-Exelis-airport-surface-surveillance-solutions.aspx>.

[Symphony® MobileVue™](#) will provide ATC the ability to view vehicles equipped with VMAT instantly with the vehicle identification being displayed on a common screen shared with the OCC. Currently, vehicles check in via radio with Air Traffic Control for identification, and are not visible in the OCC.

“Having the vehicle identification displayed should enhance our dispatch’s identification of vehicle assets for airfield job assignments,” said the Director of Airfield Operations, Dianne Walker. “Another advantage is that if an incident occurs, Symphony MobileVue will give the Airport Authority OCC capability to view a display and contact the closest emergency vehicle for a faster, more efficient response time.”

Installation of VMAT in forty-eight vehicles that operate on the AOA is expected to be complete in the spring of 2015.

***Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2013 and is one of the world's leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan's largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from nearly 150 non-stop destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world's most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by Wayne County Airport Authority, which also operates nearby Willow Run Airport – an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations. Visit [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com) for more information.***