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Equipment

Solar-powered EMBs make their debut

Ben Vogel, London - IHS Jane's Airport Review

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New solar-powered electronic message board from JCAII, pictured at the ACI-NA event in Montreal, 27 September 2016. Source: IHS/Ben Vogel

New 100% solar-powered electronic message boards (EMBs) from Jeff Campbell Associates International Inc (JCAII) have been deployed in the UK by launch customer Heathrow, with more installations to follow in Canada.

"It's been a development of ours for many years," said JCAII president Jeff Campbell. "We've undergone a full cycle of tests, and we're now deploying. We're connecting technologies to put the pilot on the same page as everyone else on the airfield."

The patented EMB technology can be managed from an iPad or smartphone. Power requirements are minimal (24 V DC), and no civil engineering work is required for installation as the board is simply towed to its deployment location on a trailer.

Full-rate production is under way at JCAII manufacturing facility in Ontario, Canada. The first two production EMBs are in use at Heathrow. The third, which was on display outside the ACI-NA exhibition in September 2016, will be delivered to Montréal-Mirabel International Airport.

IHS Jane's understands that Toronto has expressed interest in buying one unit, while Vancouver was looking for 12 in 2017 but may accelerate the procurement.

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