



## News Release

# **New Screening Technology Piloted at Kelowna International Airport**

**KELOWNA, BC—June 19, 2008**—The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) will launch a pilot project at Kelowna International Airport to test whole body imaging technology on a voluntary basis. Also called millimetre wave (mmWave), the new equipment will be integrated with existing screening capabilities at the Kelowna International Airport test site.

“The new millimetre wave technology at Kelowna will offer an additional layer of security. Our voluntary pilot project will enable us to see if the technology can accelerate the screening process by cutting down the number of physical searches,” said Kevin McGarr, CATSA’s interim Chief Executive Officer.

Prior to the pilot, CATSA consulted with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada which is satisfied with the pilot project as it meets all the conditions of the Office. The screening option using the mmWave is strictly voluntary and passenger anonymity is paramount. The screening officer is not able to link the image to a particular passenger. A trained and certified screening officer examines the images from a separate room. The officer cannot see the passenger before, during or after the screening process. The images are deleted as soon as the review is complete. Images are not stored, printed or transmitted. The millimetre wave unit is fully compliant with the health and safety standards of Canada. The energy projected by the unit is 1/10,000<sup>th</sup> of the energy coming from a cell phone.

Millimetre wave technology generates detailed images of the body without physical contact between the screening officer and the passenger. The technology works by projecting low-level radio frequency (RF) energy over and around the passenger's body producing a three-dimensional image of the passenger. The images reveal objects, including weapons and explosives, which may be concealed under clothing. The image is monitored by a screening officer in a separate room, with no view of the actual passenger.

Passengers departing from Kelowna and travelling within Canada will be offered the opportunity to volunteer for the pilot project from June 23, 2008, to January 30, 2009. Following the trial period, CATSA will examine the data and present its recommendations to Transport Canada.

“We are fortunate at Kelowna International Airport to have partnered with CATSA on a number of pilot projects,” explains Airport General Manager, Sam Samaddar. “Such



security trials include the first to use biometric technology, the Restricted Area Identity Card Program (RAIC) and implementation of anti-tailgating security. Kelowna International is very pleased to be the first location to host this pilot project.”

In the United States, the Transportation Security Administration is piloting the millimetre wave technology at Los Angeles International, JFK, Baltimore-Washington, Dallas-Fort-Worth, Reagan-National, and Phoenix Sky Harbor airports. Other airports in the world such as Moscow, Osaka and Schiphol (Amsterdam) are also using the technology. The pilot at Phoenix Sky Harbor demonstrated that passengers prefer this new method of screening.

For more information on millimetre wave technology, please consult the attached background material.

*CATSA, established on April 1, 2002, is a federal Crown corporation that operates on a not-for-profit basis. It is responsible for the provision of key air security services such as pre-board screening of passengers and their belongings; random screening of non-passengers and acquisition, deployment and maintenance of explosives detection equipment at airports. CATSA is also responsible for the development and implementation of a restricted area identity card incorporating biometric features.*

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