

# Model AIRPORTS

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CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES TAKE  
OFF AT ORLANDO-AREA AIRPORTS.



Within 24 hours of the Clear Registered Traveler Program's rollout at Orlando International Airport (OIA) in June 2005, more than 1,000 travelers had already signed up. C.W. Jennings, executive director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) at the time, said, "We expect the success of the program in Orlando to make it a model for other airports across the country."





How right he was. OIA was the nation's first airport to feature the innovative security program. Since its launch in Orlando, it has proved so successful that it has expanded to cities such as Cincinnati, Indianapolis, New York and San Francisco.

Clear is a service that uses biometric technology — iris and fingerprint imaging — to pre-screen business travelers, enabling them to bypass regular airport security lines. It reduces the time spent in lines and allows airport security to focus on non-screened passengers.

The Clear Registered Travel Program is run by Verified Identity Pass, Inc., a privately owned company, but authorized and regulated by the federal government's Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

According to Verified Identity Pass spokesperson Cindy Rosenthal, "Clear is the only government-approved national screening program operating at this time."

Travelers fill out an application and submit images of their iris and fingerprints at an airport's Clear enrollment station to complete their security profile. The applications are then submitted to the TSA. If approved, members receive a Clear identification card to use in the airport's Clear lane.

Since January, new scanners at OIA have even enabled Clear members to pass through security without the inconvenience of removing their shoes, a technology that company founder Steve Brill hopes will soon be used at other airports.

## MORE THAN SECURITY

Security isn't the only high-tech interest at OIA, however. The airport was a substantial beneficiary when the Ford Motor Company gave a fleet of hydrogen-fueled E-450 shuttle buses to Orlando in May, making it the first U.S. city to take delivery of these clean-burning vehicles. GOAA and the Orlando Convention Center district are using the buses to shuttle passengers between the massive meeting facility and the airport.

To commemorate the event, Florida Governor Charlie Crist joined state officials in christening Florida's only hydrogen station, which is located on Boggy Creek Road near the airport. It provides fuel for the buses, which are powered by supercharged, modified 6.8-liter V-10 engines that run exclusively on hydrogen fuel, resulting in ultra-clean emissions. Hydrogen is a renewable fuel and does not deplete oil resources.

"We are pleased to partner with the State of Florida, Progress Energy and Chevron Hydrogen to place these buses into service so that Central Florida residents are able to experience this unique form of clean transportation," says Sue Cischke, a Ford senior vice president.

Progress Energy donated the land for the hydrogen fueling station while Chevron operates it.

"We are continuously seeking newer, cleaner ways to produce energy, and we are proud to provide the site for the cornerstone of Florida's Hydrogen Hub," says Jeff Lyash, president and CEO of Progress Energy Florida.

The shuttle buses are part of the state's broader plan to increase the use of alternative fuels. Last year, Ford delivered five hybrid, hydrogen Focus Fuel Cell vehicles as part of a separate effort with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Progress Energy to gain feedback on hydrogen fuel cell technology.


OIA has earned a pioneering reputation in the industry for testing and incorporating new technologies. But it isn't the only Central Florida airport spearheading such initiatives. Southeast BioDiesel, a producer of pure biodiesel (called B100), has finalized a deal to

build a plant in Orlando Sanford International Airport's Commerce Park.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, biodiesel is a domestically produced, renewable fuel that dramatically cuts exhaust emissions. Made chiefly from soybeans and restaurant waste oil, it is simple to use, biodegradable and nontoxic. Like hydrogen, it helps lessen our dependence on foreign sources.

But it is clear that the United States has a long way to go before catching up to Europe and Asia, where the alternative fuel is much more prevalent. Only about 75 million gallons of biodiesel were sold in this country in 2006, compared to about 60 billion gallons of petroleum diesel produced annually, according to the National Biodiesel Board, a trade organization.

Southeast BioDiesel chose to build its plant at Orlando Sanford International Airport because of its proximity to two major roads, Interstate 4 and State Route 417, and because people at the company were "impressed with the leadership of the Airport Authority," company spokesperson Tom Gion says.

These two airports and their breakthrough technologies are leading the way in more areas than just delivering passengers. 

## OIA FAST FACTS

- First to use Clear Registered Travel Program
- One of the fastest growing airports in the world
- 34 million+ passengers per year
- 93,000+ seats scheduled per day
- Non-stop service to 82 U.S. destinations
- Service to 16 international destinations
- 850+ flight operations daily
- Served by 57 carriers
- \$1.2 billion expansion planned
- World-class air cargo facility and services