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Press Release

Paris-Orly Airport begins using its "filter marsh" An innovative process for the treatment of stormwater run-off

Aéroports de Paris begins using the Paris-Orly filter marsh. Designed by ADPI (the engineering subsidiary of Aéroports de Paris), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aéroports de Paris Group, in collaboration with Antéagroup engineering consultants and developed by Lyonnaise des Eaux, this marsh is an innovative stormwater filtration system. The only system of its kind to be installed at an airport, the creation of a tank and a marsh planted with reeds means that winter products contained in airport stormwater can be treated.

At Paris-Orly, 3 to 5 million cubic metres of run-off water are collected and treated each year by the airport's Stormwater Treatment System (STS). Essential to the smooth running of the airport during the winter months, the winter products are used to de-ice aircraft and remove ice from runways and aircraft taxiways. Creating a marsh will enable Aéroports de Paris to supplement the physical and chemical treatment carried out by the STS by means of a natural de-pollution process designed specifically for winter products.



A two-step bio-purification process

Stormwater is first collected by the STS and sent to a new 13,000 cubic metre buffer tank during the winter period for initial treatment: winter products start to be broken down when exposed to the biomass (bacteria and nutritive elements) and to aeration. This treatment lasts for between 24 and 48 hours, depending on the pollution load.

Next, the water is transferred to the adjacent 6,500 sqm filter marsh. The marsh consists of filtering materials: reeds planted in sand and aggregate. The sand performs the purification, while the plants serve to oxygenate the mineral filter. Absorbed immediately by the sand, the water does not stagnate in the "marsh". For this 2nd stage, one day of treatment is generally sufficient

Using sensors, measurements are continually taken at the marsh outlet. If the quality of the water is good, it can be returned to the natural environment after passing through the STS; otherwise it goes through a second treatment cycle in the filter marsh.

Aéroports de Paris has invested 4 million euros in this flexible and innovative equipment, supplemented by a 20% subsidy from the Water Agency. As with all current operating procedures for the Stormwater Treatment System, the marsh will be managed by technicians from Lyonnaise des Eaux.

"Improving the management of the company's environmental impact has always been something that is close to the heart of those at Aéroports de Paris. This filter marsh enables Paris-Orly Airport to process stormwater run-off in-situ, independently and in a manner that is respectful of the environment. We realised this innovation working alongside experts from the Technical Centre at the French Civil Aviation Authority and with the Seine-Normandy Water Agency, which provided us with financial support," explained Franck Mereyde, Managing Director of Paris-Orly Airport.

The marsh, which consists of 12 basins, each measuring 500 sqm, is currently undergoing a period of fine-tuning that will last for one year. The 34,000 reeds that make up the marsh will have to be trimmed every two years and their stems replaced every 8 to 10 years.

About Aéroports de Paris

Aéroports de Paris builds, develops and manages airports, including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget. In 2013, Aéroports de Paris handled more than 90 million passengers and 2.2 million tonnes of freight and mail at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly, and 43 million passengers in airports abroad.

Boasting an exceptional geographic location and a major catchment area, the Group is pursuing its strategy of adapting and modernising its terminal facilities and upgrading quality of services; the Group also intends to develop its retail and real estate businesses. In 2013, Group revenue stood at €2,754 million and net income at €305 million.

For more information: www.aeroportsdeparis.fr

About Lyonnaise des Eaux

Lyonnaise des Eaux, a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, has 12,000 employees, supplies drinking water to 12 million residents and provides wastewater treatment for more the 9.4 million people in France. Protecting the quantity and quality of water resources is at the heart of its concerns. To guarantee the future of water on a collective basis, Lyonnais des Eaux launched the "Contract for Water Health" in November 2011: this is a modern partnership with local authorities that offers innovative proposals where governance, innovation and business models are concerned. The effectiveness of its commitments is monitored by Vigeo, an independent, non-financial rating agency.

For more information: www.lyonnaise-des-eaux

About l'Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie

The Seine-Normandy Water Agency is a public body, part of the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development. Quality of aquatic environments and safeguarding health are the major priorities of its management and aid programme. The aim is to manage water resources and water environment in a balanced and sustainable way, according to the economic actors. It sets good ecological status objectives for groundwater surface and coastal water bodies

For more information: www.eau-seine-normandie.fr

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