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Vol. 365 Issue 9

Airports Offer Charge Stations For Pax Electronic Devices

Airports and vendors are provid-
ing free and pay stations for passen-
gers to recharge computers, cell
phones, PDAs and MP3 players.

The Chicago Dept. of Aviation,
in partnership with United, is test-
ing a free prototype Relax &
Recharge station at O'Hare's Gate
B6 in the United terminal, said
spokeswoman Wendy Abrams.
"There will be a maximum of two
stations at Midway and eight at
O'Hare by September 2006," she
said. "Twenty-five stations should
be installed by January 2007, with
four at Midway and 21 at O'Hare."
Each station will have five seats
and one spot that will be ADA-
compliant, said Abrams. "There
will be a duplex AC outlet that will
support recharging two devices
simultaneously," she said.

Delta has had free Relax &
Recharge stations at Atlanta Harts-
field-Jackson on Concourses T, A,
B, C and E for the past three years,
and expansion at future airports is
in the works, said spokesman
Anthony Black.

"Each station will accommo-
date four to eight customers at a
time. Delta created the stations
because we saw that our busi-
ness travelers needed a conven-
ient place to plug in their
computers and recharge their
phones," said Black. "In most
airports, the electrical outlet was
designed for the cleaning people,
so we saw customers with lap-
tops on garbage cans or sitting
on the floor, just trying to work.
The Relax & Recharge concept
gives them a space to get tasks
accomplished while waiting for
their flight."

Smarte Carte continues to
expand from baggage carts and

recently added the Charge Carte to
the mix at almost 40 airports, said
spokeswoman Tamara Phippen.
"We learned that similar technolo-
gy existed in Asia and thought it
would be a great new service for
air travelers," she said. "Our rapid
charger provides the customer
with 30 minutes of charge time for
\$3. A battery that is dead (this
assumes the battery is in good
condition) should get a 50%
charge in 30 minutes. "Charging
units can accommodate up to 13
devices at a time.

Testing Ipod Charging

"Currently, we have cords that
charge the most popular cell
phone models from Motorola,
Nokia, Samsung, LG, Kyocera,
Siemens, Sony-Ericsson and Nex-
tel, as well as BlackBerry and Treo
PDAs," she said. "We are also test-
ing Ipod charging...at Salt Lake
City and Seattle airports."

Passengers at East Midlands, Man-
chester and Leeds airports in the U.K.,
Venice Marco Polo Airport and Amster-
terdam Schiphol Airport can charge
cell phones, PDAs and MP3 players
at ChargeBox vending machines. The
ChargeBox holds six lockers contain-
ing four different jacks that allow cus-
tomers to power their devices for up
to 40 minutes for GDP1 (US\$1.85). "A
meeting is scheduled with BAA to
discuss the introduction of Charge-
Boxes in Heathrow and Gatwick air-
ports," said spokesman Dominik von
Bohlen.

The company is focusing on
launching more ChargeBoxes in
the U.K., said von Bohlen.
"Between now and September, we
plan to draw up a business strategy
for working abroad with fore-
ign partners, which will certainly
include the U.S.," he said. -BW

Stork unit Fokker Services is buy-
ing AIRINC from AeroMark
Group. AIRINC supplies compo-
nent repair and overhaul, and
projects reaching \$10 million in

sales this year. The buy helps
Fokker establish its first compo-
nent repair facility in North
America. AIRINC is based in
Fairhope, Ala.