Welcome to the fall edition of the Oshkosh Airport Products News Tracker! With the delivery of the 1,000th Striker ARFF vehicle, it is truly a benchmark year for Oshkosh Airport Products. From the vantage point of this important milestone, we are able to look back to the first Striker and appreciate how well the Striker has performed for airports around the globe since its introduction. And looking forward – with the transition to the new Striker platform – the future looks very bright indeed.

Earlier this year, we introduced the Oshkosh XT Tow-Behind Broom, an all-new multi-tasking component. When matched with the H-Series™ chassis and XRS front-mount attachment, this single unit is a faster and simpler way to handle the most severe winter conditions. The XT is spotlighted in this issue.

We are also pleased to showcase in this issue the delivery of a fleet of Striker 6 x 6 vehicles to England's Birmingham Airport. A contingent from Oshkosh was delighted and honored to be on hand for an extraordinary welcoming ceremony held this past summer. Sporting blue and white paint and spectacular graphics, the trucks established residence at their new home!

We're also proud to highlight a major purchase from Taiwan that includes 28 Strikers for the Republic of China Air Force. This purchase really speaks to how Oshkosh ARFF vehicles have reliably performed for this customer for more than thirty years.

We hope you enjoy the fall season. We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming ARFF Working Group conference in Las Vegas, and we thank you for everything you do to keep airports open and to protect air travelers.

Jeff Resch
Vice President and General Manager
Oshkosh Airport Products
In 2003, the industry took notice as the revolutionary Oshkosh® Striker® Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle was introduced. Its design and advanced technology set a new standard for ARFF response. A decade later, in July 2013, Oshkosh Airport Products delivered and placed into service its 1,000th Oshkosh® Striker® ARFF vehicle at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nev. The 1,000th Striker, which is a 6 x 6, joins an all-Striker fleet – including the first Striker 8 x 8 ever manufactured – at McCarran.

“We were excited to learn that our new Striker 6 x 6 is the one thousandth manufactured by Oshkosh,” said Bill Hutfilz, who has served as ARFF Training Officer for the Clark County Fire Department at McCarran International Airport since 1993. “We’re now a 100% Striker fleet, and the Oshkosh team is great to work with. They are good listeners, very responsive, and they provide excellent service and support.”

“Placing one thousand Striker ARFF vehicles onto front line duty at airports around the globe is an incredible achievement,” said Jeff Resch, Vice President and General Manager for Oshkosh Airport Products. “It’s a testament to the entire Oshkosh team, including engineers and plant workers, key vendors, sales managers, and support teams. Without their dedication and tireless commitment to serving airport customers, this would not have been possible.”

The new Striker 6 x 6 at McCarran features a 680 hp engine, Oshkosh TAK-4® independent suspension and a 7-speed automatic transmission. Its firefighting systems include a 3,000-gallon water tank, a 420-gallon foam tank, and both a roof turret and low attack front bumper turret (each rated at 625/1250 gallons per minute). The vehicle also features 460 pounds of Halotron that is delivered through a 150-foot hose reel as well as a second hose reel in a lower compartment for water and foam discharge.

“Our oldest Striker, coincidentally the first 4500 model ever built, went into service in 2003 and it still runs every single day,” added Hutfilz. “Now, with an all Striker fleet, the benefits to our department in terms of commonality of equipment – including ergonomics and controls – are significant. Our firefighters can get into any of our Strikers and they are practically identical. For a training officer, that’s very important.”

Oshkosh Airport Products Group delivered its 1,000th Oshkosh® Striker® Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicle which was placed into service at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nev. where it will serve alongside the first Striker 4500 ever manufactured.
Oshkosh Airport Products Group announced that five Oshkosh Striker® Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicles have been placed into service at England’s Birmingham Airport. Pictured here are three Striker vehicles at the airport's fire training ground.

In Great Britain, ARFF trucks are called appliances. The budget is figured in British pounds or Euros. The ARFF colors of choice at Birmingham Airport are blue over white instead of lime yellow or red. And the arrival of five Oshkosh Striker ARFF vehicles at this major international airport is big news. The purchase represents the first Strikers ever to go on duty in England. The five state-of-the-art “appliances” equip the airport’s emergency responders with greater fire suppression and enhanced safety technologies.

The airport has invested more than £5 million in Striker vehicles to replace its current fleet. “We are delighted with the Striker vehicles, and are grateful to Oshkosh for supplying these fantastic appliances to help us provide world-class fire and rescue services for our business and partners,” said David Winstanley, Operations Director of Birmingham Airport. “In committing to this investment,” Winstanley explained, “we are securing the long-term efficiency of our fleet to improve reliability and performance, and to ensure our firefighting capabilities are commensurate with future aircraft size and configuration requirements.”

Oshkosh Airport Products is, of course, equally excited. “We are honored to be chosen by the team at Birmingham Airport for this purchase of five Strikers; as our – (Cont. last page)
Weather conditions in late spring across the snow belt were brutal. Parts of the Rockies, Dakotas, and Minnesota, in particular, endured multiple bouts of heavy snow in April. And, with 51 inches, the city of Duluth set the single month record snow total in its recorded history! Against this backdrop, Oshkosh unveiled its new Oshkosh XT Tow-Behind Broom at the Snow Symposium in Buffalo, New York.

“The new Oshkosh XT Tow-Behind Broom is a direct response to the extensive input we received from airport operations managers and snow removal professionals who seek to move snow as quickly and efficiently as possible from airport runways,” said Jeff Resch, Oshkosh Airport Products Vice President and General Manager. “The design of the Oshkosh XT allows for more precise broom positioning and enhanced performance.”

The Oshkosh XT Tow-Behind Broom is available in widths of 18, 20, and 22 feet, and is designed for high-speed snow removal with superior performance and control. The broom pattern is managed from either inside the cab (utilizing an interactive display with joystick and switches integrated into the arm rest) or at the broom engine enclosure. The active weight transfer system helps ensure an optimal broom pattern, while the innovative, Oshkosh OEM-exclusive SIB cassette brush system boasts easier operation with less vibration, and minimized bristle-changing time and labor costs.

When matched with the H-Series chassis and XRS front-mount attachment, this single unit is a faster, simpler way to handle the most severe winter conditions. The Oshkosh XRS front-mount attachment is engineered to simultaneously plow, collect, and blow snow. The proven 2-stage blower-head design features a dedicated 575 hp engine (optional 700 hp) and dual, wing-mounted ribbon augers that clear snow widths of up to 20 feet in a single pass.

“The benefits of this integrated multi-tasking vehicle with our H-Series chassis and innovative XRS front-mount attachment, are truly significant for airports both large and small,” added Resch. “With fewer pieces of equipment on the runway – simultaneously performing a wider range of tasks – the end result is a more streamlined, effective and efficient operation.”

In one of the largest Striker 6 x 6 purchases to date, 28 new generation Striker Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicles are headed to the Republic of China Air Force (ROCAF), an organization that is no stranger to Oshkosh. In the 1980s and 1990s, a total of 51 T6 and T-1500 ARFF vehicles were sold to ROCAF. Many of these vehicles are still in operation today.

“We are honored and very excited to have the new Striker selected as the ARFF vehicle of choice by the Republic of China Air Force,” said Jeff Resch, Vice President and General Manager for Oshkosh Airport Products.

“For decades, Oshkosh ARFF vehicles have proven themselves for performance, durability and unmatched reliability, and this major purchase is a reflection of the reasons for the Striker brand’s continued success and growth.”

The contract includes 15 Striker 6 x 6 and 13 Striker 4 x 4 models, with deliveries running through 2016. Sales and support for the contract is provided by Champion Auto, the Oshkosh dealer for the country.
first U.K. airport contract, this represents an important threshold,” said Jeff Resch, Vice President and General Manager for Oshkosh Airport Products. “The Birmingham team has an excellent vision for the airport’s future success, and we’re delighted to equip its fire and rescue department with Striker ARFF vehicles to provide unmatched emergency response capabilities.”

The Striker features advanced safety systems and delivers innovative fire suppression technology, unmatched chassis performance, and unsurpassed reliability and durability. The 6 x 6 axle configuration (with Oshkosh TAK-4® all wheel independent suspension and Oshkosh rear steering system) offers a smooth ride and excellent off-road capabilities. The 700HP, Tier 4i/Euro 5 emissions-compliant, turbocharged engine is mated to a 7-speed electronic automatic transmission for smooth power delivery and a top speed greater than 70 mph (113 km/h). The engine power pack components are readily accessed through walk-in doors on either side of the engine compartment for easier servicing.

Three of the five Birmingham Striker vehicles are equipped with Snozzle® high-reach extendable turrets. The Snozzle can penetrate an aircraft fuselage in the event of an aircraft incident, allowing direct and close range access to an on-board fire. In addition, among other features, the vehicles are equipped with hydrochem nozzles that can discharge water and dry powder simultaneously, vehicle data recorders that catalogue the driver’s actions when responding to an emergency, and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) cameras.

Birmingham Airport is located near the city of Birmingham, in the West Midlands region of England. In 2012, Birmingham Airport served close to 9 million passengers, making it the seventh busiest UK airport. The airport offers both domestic as well as international destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Pakistan, North America and the Caribbean.

When Sara Freese, director of operations for The Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids, took delivery of a new P-Series snow removal truck, she really got more than she bargained for. “We went to bid for new snow removal equipment and the contract was awarded to Oshkosh,” said Freese. “The person who came over from the dealership to deliver and train us, Joe from Trans Iowa, went through the truck and its equipment with us.” Freese explained how that’s when things got a bit more interesting: “There was a spark between us, he and I started a relationship, and five years later we got married!”

At the wedding (held at a local art studio), it seemed fitting to have a cake to match the spirit of the relationship. So the bride and groom placed a P-Series die-cast model on top of the cake. “We figured that since we met in front of a P-Series, it made all kinds of sense to have one on our cake,” said Freese. “It was more special to us than having a regular bride and groom on top of the cake. After all, it was a P-Series that brought us together.”