

Visibly better runway measurements

with the AGVIS FSI

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AGI (Aeronautical and General Instrumentation Ltd), has teamed up with Biral to provide smaller, CAT I and CAT II classified airfields with a cost-effective solution for measuring visibility according to ICAO regulations. This is a crucial measurement when an obstruction to vision such as fog or heavy rain is present since it will reduce the pilot's view of the runway. Accurate measurements of reduced visibility enable the airport to efficiently introduce low visibility safety measures such as increasing the brightness of the runway landing lights.

AGI, a UK company founded in 1915, offers innovative aeronautical solutions, including transmissometers, for military and civil aviation fields with many systems located on naval vessels and airfields world-wide.

This new Runway Visibility Range (RVR) airport solution is known as the AGVIS FSI Forward Scatter System which automatically measures the visibility at various points on the runway. The system comprises the tried and tested Biral HSS VPF-730 series forward scatter sensor, a separate light sensor to measure the background luminance and a computer for RVR calculations. These calculations use proven software that is accredited to national standards. The data is checked for errors and maintenance information and when validated is sent to air traffic control for display on their systems and printed out as a hard copy record.

The system is compact and can be retrofitted to any suitable airport. It is currently undergoing NATS CAP 670 approval trials at Birmingham International Airport (UK) alongside

the currently installed reference Transmissometer RVR system.

Several UK airports have already expressed an interest and an Italian airport has already ordered a system based on the current positive performance of the system. So the next time you are taking off from one of the regional airports take a look out the window and if you see a Biral / AGI system is already being used you can rest assured that the airport has the latest and most modern weather system available for your safety.

For more details on this application or the Biral HSS sensors please contact the Biral Met Team:

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Further information

AGI - www.agiltd.co.uk

ICAO is a UN Specialised Agency for safe, secure and sustainable development of civil aviation - www.icao.int

NATS - world leader in air traffic management - www.nats.co.uk

CAT I and CAT II classifications (quick summary) -
A CAT I airfield will usually have one set of instruments at the touch down area of the runway and aircraft are only able to land when RVR is 550 m or more. A CAT II airfield has at least two sets of instruments, depending on the runway length (for example one set at the touch down area and one mid way). Aircraft are only able to land when the RVR is 300 m or more.

