

REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - 16TH AUGUST 2004

REPORT ON: ACQUISITION OF AN ELECTRIC GROUND POWER UNIT FOR DUNDEE AIRPORT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO.: 549-2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To request approval for the acquisition of an electric ground power unit for Dundee Airport.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Committee should approve the acquisition of an Axa 600 transformer rectifier unit for the supply of ground power to aircraft at Dundee Airport, at a cost of £8,000.
- 2.2. That the Committee should approve the acquisition directly from Axa Power ApS, of Odense in Denmark, without competitive tender due to the specialist nature of the product.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The total cost of £8,000 can be accommodated within the Minor Works allocation of the Dundee Airport Capital Borrowing consent for 2004-05. A return to the routine use of mains electric ground power would produce savings in energy and maintenance costs.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Beneficial in terms of reduced noise and pollution.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None.

6. REPORT

- 6.1. Dundee Airport has cabling systems built into its apron for the connection of aircraft to mains electric ground power, thus largely avoiding the noise, fumes, maintenance costs and high acquisition costs associated with traditional diesel ground power units.
- 6.2. However complex technical issues related to modern electrical protection systems have prevented officers, until now, from finding a usable replacement for the original mains electric ground power units. A number of technical trials of modern equipment have resulted in failure, and the original units have gone beyond the point of economical repair and been withdrawn.
- 6.3. Because of this problem the airport has been left dependent on a single diesel generating set. It is therefore important that a solution to the mains electric ground power issue is obtained quickly. In response to the search for a unit that could meet our requirements, Axa Power, of Odense in Denmark, offered Dundee Airport two months free trial of its own design of mains-electric ground power unit. That virtually-new unit is now in service at the airport and is thus far performing satisfactorily. Axa Power has offered to sell this free-trial unit to the City Council for £8,000, representing a saving of approximately £1600 in relation to the cost of purchase and delivery for a completely new unit of the same type. A further saving of £350 would accrue from not having to pay the freight costs for the return of the trial unit to Denmark at the end of its

loan period. This is a very attractive offer, not least because of the unit's proven ability to perform, and the immediacy of the solution.

- 6.4. Because of the need to obtain back-up for ground power supplies as a matter of urgency, and because of the difficulties experienced in finding a technically sound solution, the Committee's agreement is requested to the acquisition of the Axa 600 unit from the manufacturer without competitive tender, - but subject to it completing its trial period satisfactorily through to the end of August 2004.

7. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1. The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted over the terms of this report.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None.

DOUGLAS A A GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 9TH AUGUST 2004