

News Release



AvTurf® Safety System Second Patent Issues Innovators in Airport Surface Technology

CHICAGO - Sep. 21, 2004

Second Patent Issued

The United States Patent Office awarded a second patent for Airfield Synthetic Grass 6,794,007 to **AvTurf®** LLC of Chicago. The patent, covering a safety system for airports and airfields, was issued on September 21, 2004, making it the only product of its kind in the aviation industry, announced Patrick Carr, founder and president of **AvTurf®**.

The **AvTurf®** system is the only synthetic grass surface designed by aviation professionals to improve safety, reduce bird strikes and reduce delays associated with runway operations. The testing of the **AvTurf®** system began in 2000 followed by the first-ever installation in Chicago in the fall of 2000. The system successfully passed several tests, including exposure to jet blast, the weight of commercial aircraft and fire testing. Additionally, emergency service vehicles in excess of 80,000 pounds traversed the **AvTurf®** system without any damage to the vehicles or turf. Wildlife biologist observations show that birds failed to congregate on the surface, as they are accustomed to doing on natural turf.

The **AvTurf®** team initiated the first ever testing program with the FAA and authored a Draft Advisory Circular that was submitted for review. The testing and research continues with the FAA Center of Excellence for Airport Technology at the University of Illinois to make new strides in Airport Surface Technology. "Our team has personally experienced the many issues that face airfield environments today," said Carr.

Manufactured and designed for non-paved areas between runways and taxiways, the **AvTurf®** system was developed and tested specifically for airports and their environment. It has a life expectancy of 15-20 years and serves as a tool for the nation's airports seeking more efficient runways.