



**Cofinancé par l'Union européenne**

Le mécanisme pour l'interconnexion en Europe

22 November 2016

---

## **Tightening safety on the runways of Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport**

---

With the support of the EUROCONTROL agency, Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport is now equipped with a new mechanism for limiting risks caused by incursions on its runways: the Runway Status Light system (RWSL). This system detects any unexpected presence on the runways and informs the pilots or vehicle drivers directly through a visual sign emitted by the runway lights ("Red means STOP"). This alert is preventive, autonomous and direct, which is essential at a time when every second counts. These signals complement the air navigation instructions to prevent unforeseen situations, but under no circumstances serve as automatic signals providing authorisation. The safety system is therefore reinforced on wider level.

Paris-Charles de Gaulle is the first European airport to use the RWSL system. It is following in the footsteps of fifteen or so other airports throughout the world, in the United States and in Japan. Its deployment entailed considerable investment:

- 5 million euros were spent by the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC), who also received European funding (SESAR and INEA's Mechanism for Interconnection in Europe) as part of the plan to improve the performance of CDG by 2020
- And nearly 4 million euros from Groupe ADP, notably spent on the research, development and adjustment phases of the airport.

It has been under operational assessment on part of Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport (two runways out of four) since 28 June 2016, and the French Civil Aviation Safety Division (DSAC) has just approved its operational use and extension. The RWSL system is expected to be deployed on all runways at the airport in spring 2017.

The management of runway safety is a complicated issue, and the French Air Navigation Services and Airspace Division (DSNA) works with Groupe ADP to continuously strengthen it.

---