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Case Study: Cx of South Airport APM/ITF Complex at Orlando International Airport

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Course Description



When the new South Airport Automated People Mover / Intermodal Transportation Facility Complex (SAC) at Orlando International Airport was commissioned, the massive project produced invaluable lessons and best practices in coordination.

Commissioned systems include all major building envelope, mechanical (HVAC), plumbing, electrical and life safety systems. The session provides a real world example of how to approach the Cx of an approximately \$650 million project with multiple CMARs, subcontractors and stakeholders.



Learning Objectives



At the end of the this course, participants will be able to:

1. Importance of designated Cx coordinators for both CMAR firms; acting as liaisons with the CxA and BECxA, as well as coordinating with the multiple subcontractors on site. This ensures that construction systems, products, fixtures, and equipment are consistent across respective areas of responsibility.

2. Importance of regular Tag-Up, Readiness and Pull Planning meetings to monitor system progress and adjust critical schedule activities for testing preparation. This is essential to the integrity of preparation activities to deploy structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, communications, security, fire protection systems.

3. Use of cloud-based Cx web application to track and manage the large amount of commissioning data, both envelope and M/E/P/FP, associated with the project (issues, checklists, tests, drawings, specifications, delivery methods, etc.)

4. Employing Lessons Learned from this South Airport Complex project for the next project: South Terminal C – Phase 1 (1.5 million SF).



Overview

Project Description & Scope

Owner's Team and Expectations

Challenges

Documentation

Lessons Learned

Next ...







Project Description and Scope



Orlando International Airport (MCO)



- Formerly McCoy Air Force Base (closed 1975)
- Busiest airport in Florida 44.6 million passengers (2017)
- Nation's 14th largest airport (in traffic)
- Fourth largest airport by area (20.8 sq. miles)
- Operated and managed by Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA)

South Airport APM Complex and South Airport Intermodal Terminal (SAC)



- Approximately 335,000 SF, excluding Parking Deck
- Automated People Mover (APM) Facility 4 story with mezzanine, integrated with ITF (approximately 200,000 SF conditioned area)
- Passenger Drop-Off Lobby (PDL)
- Parking Garage Six level with 2,400 spaces
- Central Energy Plant (CEP) initially 1,400 tons, sized to accommodate expansion to 8,100 tons

Commissioning Scope



- Building Envelope (subconsultant CMC)
- HVAC Systems and Controls
- Plumbing Systems
- Fire Protection Systems including multiple Fire Pumps
- Electrical Systems including multiple generators and paralleling switchgear
- Electronic Safety and Security including fire detection and alarm, security / access control, and video surveillance



ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | MCO

Owner's Team and Expectations



Owner and Project Team

- GOAA, AECOM, GCI and their OARs
- A/E Team
- CMARs and Subcontractors
- CxA and BECxA
- Special Inspectors and Third Party Testing Agencies









Contracting Arrangement – CMARs / GMPs



- Two Construction Managers at Risk (CMARs) Hensel-Phelps and Turner Kiewit JV
- Multiple GMPs examples: GMP-5 Garage and Toll Booth, GMP-6 – APM, GMP-9 – CEP, GMP-11 – ITF, GMP-12 - PDL
- Multiple Subcontractors (by GMP)
- Defined lines of demarcation between GMPs
- Some systems divided between GMPs and CMARs; e.g. central chilled water loop and atrium smoke evacuation

Contracting Arrangement – Multiple GMPs







Owner's Requirements / Expectations



- Comply with GOAA's Sustainability Management Plan
- LEED v4 Campus Certification
- 16% improvement over baseline energy model (90.1-2010) & 20% water reduction using EPA Water Sense Tool
- First phase of a multi-phase master plan design needs to be flexible and accommodate growth
- Coordinate with outside transportation groups

Owner's Requirements / Expectations



- Environmental Quality is critical Space temperature and humidity, lighting and acoustics
- Continuity of airport operations, without interruptions, is critical
- Security and Life Safety systems to meet all State, local and Federal (FAA & DHS) requirements
- Ensure integration with North Terminal systems
- Interior design to emphasize the "Orlando Experience"



Challenges



Large Project Team - Multiple Parties

Multiple Bid Packages

- Multiple A/E firms requiring more challenging interdisciplinary coordination efforts
- Multiple installing contractors / subcontractors and vendors
- Multiple submittal reviews
- Multiple 3rd party inspections and testing agencies
- Multiple coordination meetings (eventually leading to Tag-up, Readiness and Pull Planning meetings)



SAC Submittal Review Process



Staggered Progress of Construction



- GMPs awarded at different times, resulting in various levels of progress throughout site
- Delayed completion and activation of chilled water loop
- Multiple data loggers employed, tracking temperature and humidity in areas seeking to start finish work
- IEQ critical monitored by EOR, CxA and LEED administrator (use of filter logs)

Central Energy Plant



- Three 700 ton chillers utilizing N+1 redundancy
- Variable primary pumping system (Systecon package) with N+1 redundancy
- Variable speed tertiary chilled water pumps at ITF to distribute chilled water throughout complex
- At least 60% cooling capacity provided under emergency power
- CHW piping loop sized for ultimate plant build-out of 8,100 tons

Pipe Flushing and Treatment



- CHW loop constructed by four different mechanical contractors under different GMPs, (completed at different times)
- Each responsible for their flushing and treating their portion of the system
- Challenge to maintain required 5 ft./sec. flow velocity in large 30" underground mains for flushing (supplement pumps required)

Pipe Flushing and Treatment – Four Mechanical Contractors



Chiller Sequence of Operation



- Projected peak cooling load was 1400 tons, with minimal load between 150 and 200 tons
- At start-up, with minimal traffic, winter ambient conditions, actual load between 50 and 100 tons.
- Excessive cycling with potential for surge at low loads
- Enacted a "Winter" sequence of operation, with ability to switch back to normal sequence; supply CHW temperature allowed to vary between 40°F and 52°F

Outdoor / Ventilation Airflow



- Multiple built-up AHUs tied into common gravity OA plenum
- Duct configurations and ERV resulted in excessive pressure drops (negative), some greater than 5 inches
- Constant tripping of duct S.P. safety switches
- Design OA flows required adjustments to R.A. damper ranges, or adjustment to design OA flows
- Insufficient discharge S.P. resulted in supply airflow challenges

Numerous Third Party Inspections (often for Warranties)

- Composite Metal Wall Panels
- Expansion Joints
- Insulated Core Metal Wall Panels
- Membrane Roof
- Metal Roof



- Sealants
- Skylights
- Textured Acrylic Coatings
- Waterproofing
- Windows





Documentation



Cx / BECx Documentation



- Project utilized CxAlloy cloud-based web application to maintain all M/E/P/FP and Envelope Cx documentation
- Extensive use of "Files" section, including folders for:
 - AC Temperature / Humidity Logs
 - Contract drawings and specifications
 - Contractor tests (duct leakage, hydrostatic piping, etc.)
 - Cx Plan and Cx specifications
 - Equipment start-up reports
 - o LEED documentation
 - o Photos
 - Third party envelope inspections and tests

Cx / BECx Checklists

- 581 checklists mix of envelope and M/E/P systems
- Identified by GMP and building name



- Envelope checklists included: roof system components, thermal insulation, waterproofing, wall panels, glazed aluminum framing, expansion control, etc.
- M/E/P/FP checklists included: all HVAC equipment, generators, ATS, lighting controls, distribution panels, fire pumps, security and access control, etc.

Cx / BECx Field Observation Reports

- Close to 200 Field Observation Reports with additional meeting minutes and supporting data
- Exclusive of Tag-up, Readiness and Pull Planning meeting spreadsheets, etc. for tracking Contractor's progress with respect to Cx documentation



Cx / BECx Documentation - Tests

- 213 M/E/P/FP tests, excluding envelope testing performed by third parties
- Special Inspector oversaw Smoke Evacuation System testing
- Numerous envelope tests, including: water leakage (curtainwall, skylights, gutters), waterproofing tests, sealant adhesion tests, roofing IR testing, etc.



Cx / BECx Documentation

- 1161 Design Issues commissioned envelope and M/E/P/FP systems
- 908 Construction Issues from site observation reports and tests
- BECx generated separate punchlist, based upon some site observations and failed envelope tests





LEED v4 Documentation







Lessons Learned



Lessons Learned – Document Handling



- Project utilized PROLOG, BIM 360 Field and CxAlloy
- Need to discuss process for notifications of updated documents, how they will be handled and reviewed, and where documentation will be maintained.
- Massive amount of documentation, reports, etc. communication is critical

Lessons Learned – Cx Coordination with CMARs

 Include CMARs' Cx Coordinators in contract documents – Cx Plan and specifications



- Require separate Cx Coordinators for M/E/P/FP and for envelope commissioning coordination
- Cx Coordinators are liaison between CMARs, CxA, BECxA and all subcontractors
- They need to report on checklists' and issues' status on a weekly basis.

Lessons Learned – Division of Work between GMPs and Contractors



- Chilled water loop constructed by multiple contractors; each responsible for testing, flushing and treating their portion of the system.
- Primary building expansion joint (and its adjacent components) – responsibility divided between CMARs and their subcontractors; lack of coordination and quality control
- Keep critical systems under a single CMAR, maintain system subcontractors across GMPs

Lessons Learned – Tag-Up, Readiness and Pull Planning



- Be realistic with schedules and times required to complete tasks.
- Ensure all stakeholders (subcontractors, vendors, etc.) attend meetings on a regular basis
- Let subcontractors / vendors identify their key requirements and make sure they are addressed.
- Plan for contingencies

Lessons Learned - Coordination between Mechanical / Electrical and Controls



- HVAC and Electrical design handled by separate consultants
- Number of controllers did not reflect correct / separate power source
- Where power service to controller routed through adjacent disconnect switch, disconnecting equipment would also cut power and communications to BAS
- In some cases BAS not provided with separate input from FA. Could not distinguish failure



Lessons Learned - Mock-up Wall



- Specification section 01 43 39 Visual Mock-up Requirements required CMARs to submit shop drawings, but without details
- After delays, Architect issued drawing with 80' x 24' mock-up wall covering all exterior conditions
- CMARs requested \$250,000 contract amendment and after rejection, smaller mock-up constructed late
- Need more detailed criteria for mock-up wall including specifications defining testing for same

Lessons Learned – Chiller Sizing



- Three 700 ton chillers to accommodate projected cooling load of 1400 tons with N+1 redundancy
- However, at start-up, minimal occupancy and winter ambient conditions resulted in initial load between 50 and 100 tons
- Recommendation had been made to consider a smaller 'pony' chiller; however, it was not accepted

Lessons Learned – OA Control



- Multiple built-up AHUs tied into common gravity OA plenum and excessive pressure drops compromised ability to achieve design OA flows
- Examine Dedicated Outdoor air Systems (DOAS), pressurized plenum (supply fan), and/or multiple (segregated) plenums during design
- Ensure pressure drop calculations accommodate field adjustments and duct construction is specified for proper pressure range

Lessons Learned – Checklist Management and QA / QC

 Checklist management was difficult requiring edits and time consuming tracking



- Various tools were employed, tracking percentage complete by disciplines / subcontractors per checklist
- Appeared a number were "pencil whipped" near completion
- Looking at improved logs and better assignment / signature responsibilities for QA / QC

Lessons Learned – IP addresses / BAS Integration



- Even with multiple Controls' Integration and Interoperability meetings, there were delays in completing BAS communication w/ North Terminal
- In addition, there were delays in identifying IP address requirements for several systems, including the Power Xpert system
- These issues: configuring and enabling data communication and identifying and assigning IP addresses for systems to be monitored by the BAS is becoming a common issue we address in our Controls' meetings



- Checklists collect some of the data required for the Owner's CMMS system, Maximo
- However, extraction of this data was not a requirement of the contract, not considered when building the checklists.
- While data could be downloaded into spreadsheets, it was a more cumbersome process
- This can be solved by re-configuring the data on the checklists, and will be done going forward



Next



Next South Terminal C – Phase 1



- Approximately \$2.1 billion, (second largest infrastructure project in central Florida)
- Landside Terminal 5-Level, approx. 630,000 SF
- Airside Terminal 3-Level, Concourse building, approx.
 700,000 SF serving initial 16 gates, with CEP
- Ground Transportation Facility approx. 240,000 SF
- Parking Garage Expansion additional 2,400 spaces

Next South Terminal C – Phase 1



https://www.orlandoairports.net/gettingaround-mco/south-terminal-complex/

South Terminal C – Phase 2



- Airport Capacity with APM / ITF (currently open) is 45 MAP, which is approximately the current demand!
- Design for STC Phase 2 already authorized, adds another 16 gates
- Trigger for Phase 2 was to be 50 MAP, with delivery (completion) 2025 2026 Airport capacity 60 MAP
- However, current demand is 45 MAP, and projected capacity when STC Phase 1 opens is 50 MAP

... and beyond



Questions







This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Course



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