

# GSE Safety Systems: the latest technology

*Airside* talks to two manufacturers of innovative GSE systems about their products and how they are making airport ramps safer

Lippstadt, Germany-based ASO Safety Solutions produces pressure-sensitive sensors as well as wireless signal transmission systems, safety relays and proximity sensors such as light curtains. It has developed a unique anti-collision system as a retrofit solution for all types of GSE. Its solution ensures a damage-free approach of the vehicle to the aircraft, says the company's head of sales Europe, Dirk Danzebrink.

Consisting of a proximity sensor and tactile sensor as well as different types of control units, it is a modular component system made in Germany.

The LISENS proximity sensor detects the aircraft fuselage and shows the operator of the GSE the exact distance to that aircraft. It also gives an alarm if necessary, so that the operator can react accordingly.

If a collision cannot be avoided, the actively switching SENTIR bumper –

mounted on the front of the vehicle – ensures that neither the aircraft nor the vehicle are damaged, and also announces the collision via peripheral components such as lights and beepers.

ASO offers the world's largest portfolio of active switching and highly resistant safety edges, Danzebrink says. SENTIR edges can be installed between crushing and shearing points.

Acting as an interface for all ASO components is its ELMON control unit that enables quick and easy installation of the company's products.

Specially developed for the GSE market, ASO's safety foot is a pressure-sensitive sensor that is placed below the aircraft door in order to detect and report the lowering of the aircraft.

The company's in-house research and development department enables it to meet customer-specific requirements

and to produce customised solutions, Danzebrink observes, also pointing out that ASO develops all products in accordance with applicable international standards. With regard to the GSE market, this means that it has designed its collision avoidance system according to the latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) Airport Handling Manual (AHM) recommendations.

In fact, he says, "At our headquarters in Germany, our products go through a strict release process, which is characterised by normative and – even more importantly – application-relevant tests.

"With respect to our GSE products, that means they are tested on a variety of vehicles such as belt loaders, cargo loaders or catering trucks and under different environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, wind forces, etc). This is how we ensure that our sensors can be used for any type of vehicle and anywhere in the world."

ASO headquarters in Lippstadt, Germany



**Wide-ranging customer base**

ASO's customer base includes all those in the aviation industry who are interested in the safe handling of aircraft, including service and maintenance companies, GSE manufacturers, airports and airlines.

Supporting customers at this difficult time has been an important part of many GSE system suppliers' operations over most of 2020, but less so for ASO.

"Fortunately, our [client] companies currently aren't affected by Covid-19 infections and we see only a little impact on our operations. Our production, development and administration departments remain active, although as an internationally operating company we certainly face the challenges posed by travelling restrictions, delays in the supply chain and quarantine measures.

"ASO will continue to visit the well-known industry events or participate as an exhibitor once they begin to take place again. We will also participate in important conferences to continuously



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monitor market requirements and take current standards into account.

“The GSE market remains an interesting industry for ASO and hopefully it will recover quickly from the Covid-19 impact,” Danzebrink remarks.

Besides its headquarters in Germany, ASO also has subsidiaries in New Jersey in the US and Nanjing in China, supported by a worldwide network of distributors.