READING MATTER

A NEW SMART READER IS SETTING THE STANDARD FOR BOARDING GATE TECHNOLOGY

■ The airport and airline industry has seen many changes during the past few years – the conversion from ATB to 2D barcodes, the introduction of mobile boarding with smartphones and tablets, and new technologies such as near-field communication (NFC), to name but a few. To keep up with this ever-changing environment, it is essential to have access to the latest and most efficient equipment and technology.

Product launch

In the spring of 2013, DESKO completed development of its all-new smart boarding gate reader – the BGR 504 pro. When it came to the product launch, DESKO couldn't think of a better venue than the industry's leading annual event – Passenger Terminal Expo (PTX). For many years, PTX has been one of DESKO's biggest and most important shows, and because all leading industry experts attend this event, it was interesting to find out what they would think of the BGR 504 pro. Throughout the show, DESKO demonstrated the reader to numerous visitors, many of whom provided positive feedback.

Prepare for the future

For many years, many of the main airports and airlines worldwide have successfully used DESKO's GRSK 504. Now, as well as further developing its flatbed and barcode technology, DESKO has also improved many of the well-known features of this reader, and is ready to set new standards for the industry.

One of the main improvements featured in the BGR 504 pro is the enlargement of the barcode scanning area to make the reader more user-friendly and to achieve good quality read results even faster. With the bigger scanning area and improved barcode scanning technology, DESKO's BGR 504 pro already reads barcodes at a distance of 5-10cm, making it an ideal device for smartphones and tablets. The new full-graphic multicoloured display, which can be customised with, for example, logos, and the adjustable volume control buzzer, give clear feedback to both agent and passenger, therefore ensuring a rapid boarding process. Optional battery power and wi-fi capability make it the perfect device for supervised self-boarding, or as an additional queue-busting standalone counter to help speed up the boarding process and avoid bottlenecks during peak periods.

With its new technology features, such as full NFC support, IP and 3G interface (a brand-new DESKO feature), the BGR 504 pro reader protects an airport's investment and prepares it for all future requirements.

Besides the new features, the BGR 504 pro reader is still available with a USB or serial interface and has the same footprint as the GRSK 504, which allows for plug-and-play upgrades of existing installations.

> The flatbed design gives you the opportunity to just tap-and-go with your boarding pass while it is being read

Flatbed technology

Since the development of the first barcode boarding gate reader more than 10 years ago, DESKO has shown that flatbed technology is extremely user-friendly and efficient.

Rather than using a so-called 'shower head' scanner, where the barcode has to be placed in exactly the right position to get good read results, the flatbed design gives you the opportunity to just tap-and-go with your boarding pass while it is being read. The flatbed design makes the device ideal for counter or self-boarding gate integration. And because there are no obstacles or components in the way that could interfere with the agent while scanning a barcode, flatbed technology is perfect for fast and trouble-free boarding, even with larger smartphones or tablets. That is why all leading self-boarding gate manufacturers, and even public authorities such as TSA, have switched to flatbed technology and are positive about the consistent user experience this technology offers.

Trials and rollouts

Following the successful product launch at Passenger Terminal Expo 2013, many airlines and airports are interested in installing and upgrading their equipment with the new BGR 504 pro boarding gate reader.

The BGR 504 pro is already fully CUTE-certified with big providers such as ARINC and SITA, and first trials of the technology are running with prestigious airlines and airports in Europe and the USA. ■

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