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### Effects Of FAA FOD Advisory May Show By Year-End

It may have taken 12-months for the impact of the of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's advisory circular on airport foreign object debris to show clearly, but industry hopes that by the year end procurement decisions will start to be made.

Phil McLachlan, managing director of Qinetiq Airport Technologies suggests the first orders for foreign object detection equipment may start to be placed with vendors around "the end of the calendar year."

Qinetiq's Tarsier was one of four systems that the FAA considered in producing its advisory and McLachlan views the FAA as "the early mover" in examining the introduction of runway foreign object debris (FOD) detection technology. Of the four manufacturers considered three of the systems used radar as the primary sensor, with the fourth using electro-optical detection.

The FAA circular was released at the end of September 2009. Similar work is also underway through the European Civil Aviation Conference's FOD task force. McLachlan expects that the outcome of this work will be released shortly.

The Qinetiq system utilizes millimeter wave radar – now coupled with an eye-safe laser and infrared camera – to detect and identify material on the runway. It is in use at Heathrow airport and several other sites.