



Federal Aviation Administration

Runway Status Lights System (RWSL)

Program Description

A top priority of the Federal Aviation Administration is to enhance airport safety while maintaining airport capacity. Reducing runway incursions is a major component of this effort.

Runway incursions develop quickly and without warning during routine traffic situations on the airport surface, leaving little time for corrective action. The RWSL program is designed to provide direct indication to pilots and vehicle operators that it is unsafe to enter a runway or begin a takeoff.

Runway Status Lights indicate runway status only; they do not indicate clearance.

The RWSL system is customized to accommodate individual airport operations without impacting traffic flow.

System Description

The RWSL system provides warning lights on runways and taxiways, illuminating when it is unsafe to enter, cross, or begin takeoff on a runway.

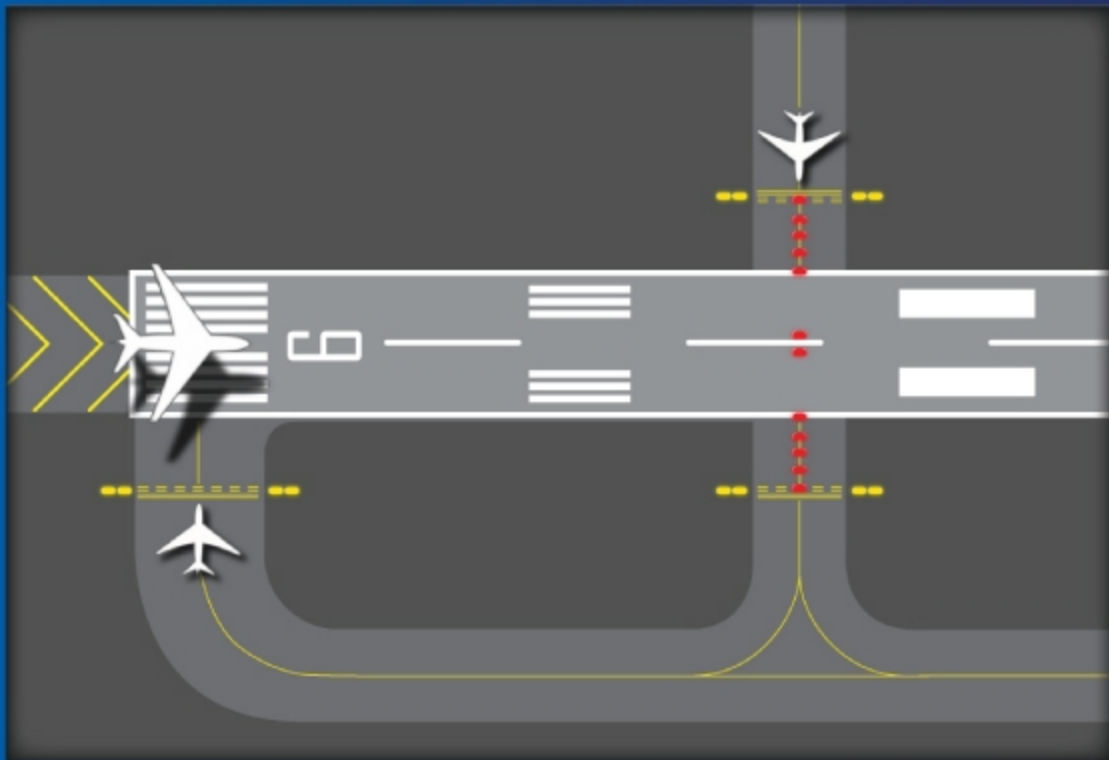
The system is automated based on inputs from surface and terminal surveillance systems.

Airport surveillance sensor inputs are processed through light control logic that commands in-pavement lights to illuminate red when there is traffic on or approaching the runway.

- **Runway Entrance Lights (REL)** provide a warning signal to aircraft crossing or entering a runway from intersecting taxiways.
- **Takeoff Hold Lights (THL)** provide a warning signal to aircraft in position for takeoff.



RWSL OPERATIONAL CONCEPT



Schedule

The RWSL system is scheduled to go operational in 2011 at Orlando International Airport.

The system is planned to be operational at all 23 airports by the end of 2015.



RWSL Airports

Baltimore-Washington International Airport
 Boston Logan International Airport
 Charlotte Douglas International Airport
 Chicago O'Hare International Airport
 Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport
 Denver International Airport
 Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport
 Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Airport
 George Bush Intercontinental Airport
 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
 John F. Kennedy International Airport
 LaGuardia Airport
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