



# Kent County Department of Aeronautics

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GERALD R. FORD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## News Release

August 28, 2008

Contact: Bruce Schedlbauer,  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Gerald R. Ford International Airport  
616-233-6053

## **Upgraded Communications System To Be Installed at Ford International**

At their August 27, 2008, meeting, the Kent County Aeronautics Board voted to proceed with the purchase and installation of an upgraded radio communications system at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. The successful low-bidder was Crouch Communications of Saranac, Michigan.

The new radio system will:

- Ease frequency congestion being experienced with the current system
- Improve signal coverage area
- Improve interoperability with area public safety departments by allowing access to additional mutual-aid frequencies
- Comply with FCC-mandated conversion to narrow-band system from existing wide-band system (well in advance of 2013 compliance deadline)

Primary users of the new radio system will include airport maintenance, parking operations, airfield operations, airport law enforcement, and airport fire department. Installation of the new system is expected to be completed by year end.

*Gerald R. Ford International is the second busiest airport in Michigan, and ranks among the top 15% of busiest airports in the U.S. The airport currently serves approximately 2 million passengers annually.*

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