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The Vaisala Service Contract for efficient maintenance

Keeping them going

Vaisala's distributor in the Czech Republic, Omnipol a.s., has concluded a Service Contract with the Air Force for their Vaisala equipment. The Service Contract includes an annual service round which has now been performed three times. Customer Service Engineers Kusti Kairikko and Peter Rowley from Surface Weather Division's Service unit carried out the service this year. One installation site of the Air Force's equipment which was visited during the round is the airport at Plzen-Line, where a

Wherever weather is measured, equipment can be found under very variable and hard conditions. Cold, hot, dry, wet and everything in between are all familiar operating environments for most sensors and systems. To guarantee accurate and uninterrupted data, regular servicing is needed. In some cases servicing must also be very well timed. Like in Plzen-Line airport, where the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service and Search and Rescue units are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Vaisala Aviation Weather Reporter AW11 is used to support helicopter operations.

The Vaisala Aviation Weather Reporter reports data for the

tower by data line and the traffic by VHF radio. After two years of using the AW11 everyone operating at the airport is pleased with the system. The logged files show that the AW11 has been used a lot. This is no wonder as, for example, the heavy rains during the past summer and autumn have brought not only a lot of work for helicopters but also low visibility and cloud base.

On the service day this year the visibility in Plzen-Line was less than two kilometers. Therefore the Air Traffic Controller suggested that we should not switch off the ceilometer during the service. With the AW11 this is possible and can be done safely. Naturally, the cleaning of the lenses and the window means a few false measurements, but METARs are still reported all the time.

Besides cleaning, the AW11 got new bearings and seals for both of its wind sensors and the temperature and humidity probes were checked by comparing the values to a reference unit. Furthermore, the configuration, alarms and battery were also checked. The helicopter that left to assist someone returned to the base at around the same time as the service was completed, which was indeed perfect timing. ●



Customer Service Engineer Peter Rowley of Vaisala changes wind sensor bearings and seals.

The Vaisala Aviation Weather Reporter AW11 and a W-3A Sokol Rescue helicopter have one thing in common. They are both always on duty.

