

Description

The IED Flight Announcement System, FAS, is an optional module to the base 500, 505, or 510 Announcement Control System (ACS) that provides the capability for clear, professionally recorded announcements with minimum user input. FAS announcements provide passengers with flight status information such as delays or gate changes, and flight boarding messages. FAS announcements can play a key role in efficiently boarding the aircraft for a flight, for example, calling out the next boarding group or set of rows to board either automatically or via a simple "next departure" type button action on the 528 Digital Communication Station. This leaves gate personnel free to handle tickets and other passenger needs.

FAS announcements can be initiated from the same 528 Digital Communication Station used in the public address system, from a PRIZM client workstation, from a schedule or from some other automatic stimuli such as changes in flight status. The FAS system integrates tightly with the IED PRIZM MUFIDS system, so changes made from a station are immediately reflected on a flight departure display or gate display. Similarly, actions made on a PRIZM client can initiate FAS announcements.

FAS Announcements may be made in English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, with other languages added as needed. Any FAS announcement may be made in multiple languages. For international flights, announcement languages are automatically selected based on the destination city for the departing flight. When necessary, one additional language may be added to a flight from a 528 Digital Communications Station.

What's more, if the airport has the IED 500VIS Visual Information System, the exact text of the announcement is displayed synchronously with the audio on all of the displays in the area of the announcement, and in the languages used with the announcement. So even if customers are outside the gate waiting area or the area is noisy, they can still see an announcement. By adding the IED 500VIS Visual Information System to the FAS, a system can be produced which meets the design requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Features

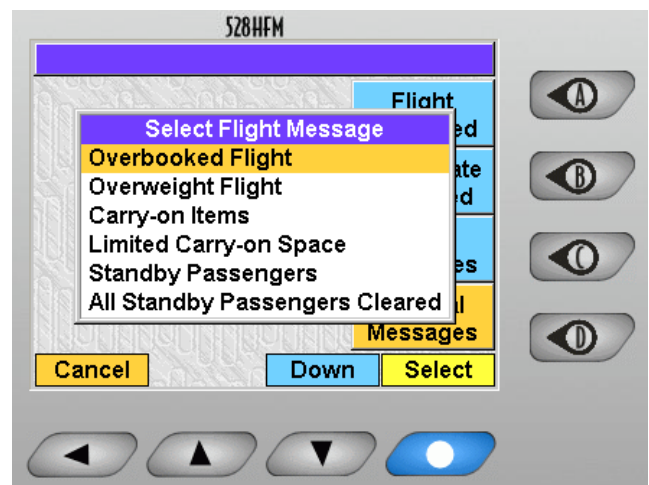
With the IED FAS system, a number of different types of messages may be generated, based on flight information, including:

- Pre-Boarding
- Early-Boarding

- General Boarding
- By Seating Area Boarding
- Boarding by Groups
- Final Call
- Arrival
- Baggage Claim Carrousel
- Delayed Baggage
- Delayed Flight
- Canceled flight
- Gate Change

With flight data available from the PRIZM database, the user need not provide any flight information other than the changes, such as the new gate assignment. The system automatically pulls the flight information necessary to form the FAS announcement from the PRIZM database, including such things as:

- Airline name (and parent affiliation)
- Code share flights
- Arrival/Departure city or cities
- Connecting city or cities
- Gate assignment
- Arrival/Departure time
- Aircraft configuration (rows for what class)
- Assigned baggage carousel



Sample 528 Screen for Initiating Miscellaneous FAS Messages

The IED Flight Announcement System is designed for ease of making flight announcements, especially from a gate by airline agents. Flights assigned to a gate are automatically loaded into the agent's mic station(s) at the gate so that any FAS message initiation action on the mic station is automatically referenced to the next arrival or departure flight for that gate. In situations where multiple flights are assigned to a gate (for example, a gate kiosk handling multiple commuter flights), the gate agent is prompted on the mic station for the assigned flight to initiate the FAS announcement. This feature is available when using the 528 series digital microphone station.

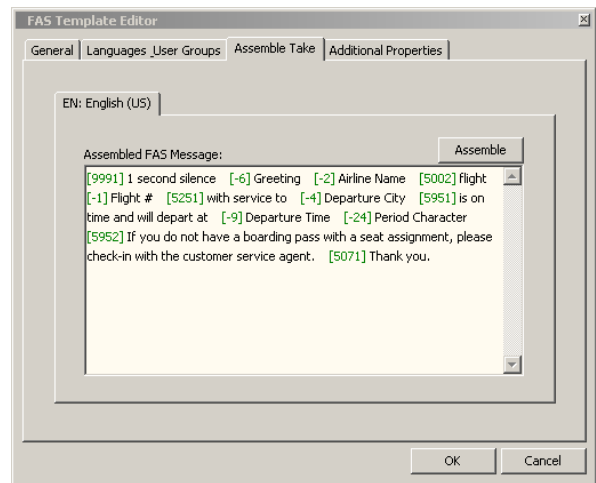
Boarding sequences of FAS announcements for classes of aircraft can be established in the IED FAS system. This allows the gate agent to play the next message in the sequence with simple *next message* actions on the mic station (e.g., a soft key on the IED 528 mic station). In addition, sections of the sequence can be played automatically based on a schedule. For example, the Boarding by Rows announcements could go out a defined number of minutes apart, based on the type of aircraft and typical boarding time lines.

When FAS is available, the ACS mic station security is extended to cover airlines. This allows only an employee of an airline or one of its affiliates to initiate FAS announcement for that airline's flights. In addition, the ACS system with FAS installed maintains a log of who initiates what FAS messages and from what location.

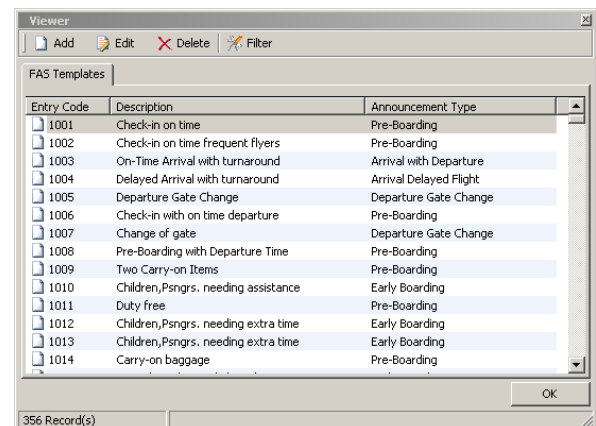
When the 500VIS system is available, the FAS announcements are also displayed on devices in the areas where audio announcements are played. These text messages incorporate variable scroll rates to maintain exact sync with the audio that is playing in accordance with ADA requirements.

System Requirements

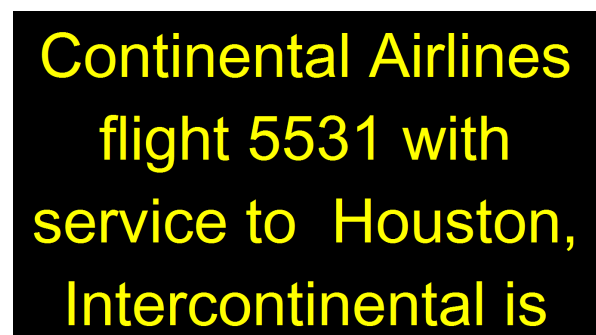
The IED Flight Announcement System requires the IED Announcement Control System and the PRIZM MUFIDS server. In addition, optional modules of the PRIZM server may be required for such things as flight data links. The 500VIS system is optional, though highly recommended. For gate agents, the IED528 digital mic station should be used, although most features are available on the older IED508 mic stations.



FAS Template Editor



FAS Templates



FAS Visual Announcement