SOUTH EAST KOWLOON DEVELOPMENT AT KAI TAK AIRPORT – DECONTAMINATION AND SITE PREPARATION

Retiring after over 50 years in service, the 280-hectare Kai Tak Airport will be developed into a vibrant city district. There will be residential areas, recreational facilities and waterfront attractions in harmony with the harbour.

Whilst the plan for its redevelopment is currently under review, it does not mean that the present life at Kai Tak is quiet. Advance works such as decontamination of the apron area, building demolition and site preparation have been underway since October 1998.

An area of over 10 hectares in the apron with about $300,000m^3$ of soil has been found mostly contaminated with jet fuel and requires cleaning up before development. The treatment method is largely a combination of the in-situ technology of Soil Vapour extraction and Air Sparging. Using a large-scale pipe network of total pipe length 20km and 3000 well points, air is drawn through contaminated soil and groundwater to bring out the volatized jet fuel to a catalytic oxidizer. The air circulation also activates the bacteria in the soil to biodegrade the remaining contaminants. Other localized contamination spots are being excavated and the soil has been piled up for treatment.

As part of the airport decommissioning project, more than 33 numbers of buildings within the former airport site have been demolished. The decontamination and site preparation works contract was awarded in September 1998 at a sum of about $173 million and is due to complete in late 2001.

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