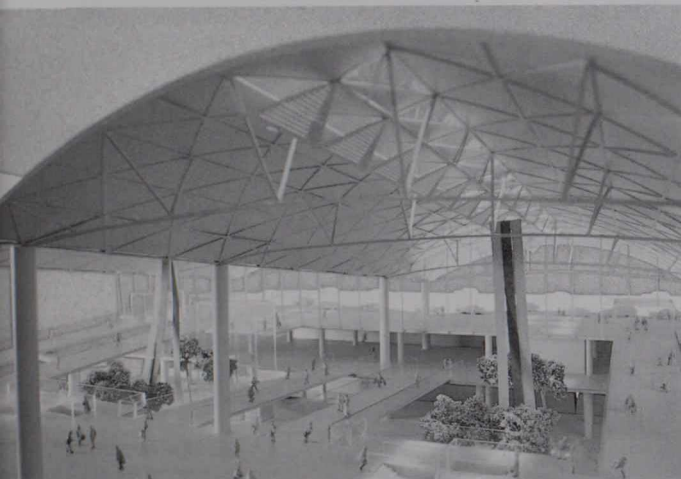


Terminal concessions, airside franchises and real estate developments will be undertaken by private sector companies operating under Airport Authority franchises, licences or possibly in some areas, in joint ventures.

The airport will open with a single runway, with a second runway to be completed by 2000. Both runways will be able to operate simultaneously 24 hours a day.

▼ A model showing the atrium of the passenger terminal building.



"Like any project of this scale, the airport is being built in an international context. Contracts for our design consultancies, construction contracts and the supply of materials are awarded on the basis of production and delivery capability, quality and value for money.

"The airport brings widespread opportunities. Our design and construction program alone contains over 60 individual commissions. The opportunities are advertised worldwide and are open to all companies who meet our prequalification criteria," said Allen.

The contract to create the airport platform was awarded at the end of November, and involves one of the largest earth-moving operations in the world.

The islands of Chek Lap Kok (302 hectares) and Lam Chau (eight hectares) will contribute to the formation of a five kilometre long air-

port island that extends westwards into the sea. The remaining 938 hectares will be reclaimed from the sea.

Work will be carried out round-the-clock every day of the year to ensure the airport island is created in 41 months.

A total of about 367 million cubic metres of material will be moved to create the reclamation — equivalent to an average 300,000 cubic metres of material moved each day. The total is roughly 560 times the volume of Central Plaza.

Within 18 months, sufficient land will have been created to allow the building of the initial phases of the passenger terminal complex. Work on the first runway will begin two years into the site preparation contract.

During the peak construction period, which will probably occur in 1995 or 1996, about 18,000 people will be working on the island.

"Hong Kong's replacement airport will be a benchmark against which future international airports will be measured," said Allen. ♦



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