

William P. Hobby Airport Obtains Skytrax 5-Star Airport Accreditation

At a Glance:

- William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) is one of the top 40 busiest airports in the US, running 24 hours a day with over 10 million passengers per year. The operations and custodial teams needed new, innovative ways to improve efficiency to better serve their travelers.
- In 2021, HOU's management invested in 2 disinfecting robots to take the burden of manual disinfecting off of their custodial team, to keep their employees safe, and to reduce disease spread among travelers.
- Daily disinfecting with Breezy One robots helped HOU become the first 5-Star Airport in North America.

Introduction

[William P. Hobby Airport](#) (HOU) has obtained Star Airport Accreditation by international air transport rating agency [Skytrax](#). None of this would be possible without the dedicated custodial teams, especially being on the front lines of the global COVID-19 pandemic, disinfecting airport facilities and exceeding prescribed CDC guidelines for cleanliness ([Houston Airports Newsroom](#), 2022). HOU Airport is not only meeting but setting a global standard of facilities by incorporating new, innovative, technology like Breezy One™ by Build With Robots, Inc. (BWR).

Challenges

One of the most recent major challenges HOU Airport has faced is how to continue to keep employees and passengers safe during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Airports not only operate 24/7, but there are millions of passengers occupying the terminal space daily.

- 39th busiest airport in the nation ([ACI-NA](#) rankings, 2018)
- 14.46 million passengers in 2019 (more than 11 million passengers in 2021)
- 910,947 square feet of terminal space

Manual disinfection is a time-consuming process and HOU has thousands of square feet to cover daily. Automation is the perfect alternative for a more efficient disinfecting solution.



Solution

Putting the safety of their staff and passengers first, HOU looked towards automation to assist the already busy custodial staff. [Breezy One](#) is an autonomous mobile robot that utilizes sensors and algorithms to create a custom map of a facility. With the whole airport mapped, Traci Rutoski, Manager of Custodial Services, and the rest of the custodial team can easily disinfect public areas and private office spaces. Using integrated cold fogging technology in combination with a Green Clean Certified disinfectant, Breezy One can disinfect large and hard to reach areas consistently with less chemical usage.

Breezy One is designed to be integrated into a custodial team's existing workflow making their jobs safer and easier. The robot can be programmed to disinfect other areas while the custodial team can focus on different tasks, therefore increasing efficiency. It is an investment from custodial services to their team as well as the other airlines to show they are really making an effort to keep people safe.

"Recently, William P. Hobby Airport became the only 5-star airport in North America, and 1 out of 16 globally. That wouldn't have happened without the innovative disinfecting equipment that the robotic Breezy One provides this airport."

-Dawn Hoffman, Terminal Manager at HOU

"The Build With Robots team are providing us with the best tools to keep our passengers, employees, and stakeholders safe. We appreciate this valuable partnership."

-Traci Rutoski, Manager of Custodial Services at HOU

