



# Productivity Takes Off At Fifth Runway



*"This job is over 400 acres...lots of slopes, fill areas, there'd be stakes everywhere and we'd be constantly tearing them out. With 3D-GPS we don't need stakes."*

Kevin Eubanks  
Engineer  
5R Construction - CW Mathews  
Atlanta, GA



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An early adopter of 3D machine control, CW Mathews has put it to the test on the Atlanta-Hartsfield Airport fifth runway project. "If we were having to do this job with stakes, I can't imagine how much longer it would take," said Kevin Eubanks, engineer in charge of machine control operations for CW Mathews, a 5R Construction partner. "The 3D system is extremely efficient, you can just keep going continuously because you don't have to worry about stakes."

Mathews has seven 3D-GPS+ systems operating on the 400 acre, 9,000 foot long runway project. Three systems are on CAT 16H graders, three on CAT D9R dozers and one on a CAT D8R. Eubanks said he has trained over 15 operators on the Topcon system. "Usually an operator can catch on pretty good with one day's training. For years they've been pulling levers and watching stakes. Now they have to get used to watching that screen. I tell them to treat it like a big fancy video game...play the game!"

The challenges of the job site are unique. Eubanks said they have many extreme slopes, some in excess of 70 feet high. "Even at the bottom of the slopes, we're still picking up [satellites]. There's been many times when the US satellites are getting low and you can look at the screen and see you're getting the GLONASS ones," Eubanks said.

Mathews purchased their first system from Roper Laser Company in early 2002. "Roper's support has been a key ingredient to our success and a big reason why we keep adding more systems," Eubanks said.

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