

## Switch on mobiles before boarding...

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TWO firms have teamed up to develop technology that could cut delays at airports by letting travellers use their mobile phones instead of manual boarding cards.

Real Time Engineering and Mobiqa claim their RT-mobi-ticket system will revolutionise the check-in process by dispensing with the need for paper documents. The system will allow airlines to send a boarding pass in the form of a bar-coded symbol direct to a passenger's mobile phone. They will then be able to board their flight by swiping the phone on a special scanner.

Although electronic tickets are widespread, airline passengers with these still have to find a machine that prints out a boarding card. Airlines are keen to move to paperless systems to cut costs.

Iain McReady, chief executive of Edinburgh-based Mobiqa, said that because billions of airline tickets are sold annually the market for the system could be huge.

Glasgow-based Real Time, which developed the scanner technology for the RT-mobi-tickets system, was created by former employees of the old Yarrow empire in 1988. It was acquired by France's Sword Group last November, for around £12.5m, making overnight millionaires of Real Time chief executive Gerry Docherty, pictured, finance

director Iain Sinclair, technical director Jim Henderson, and Andrew Willder, who left the company in 2004.