News Release

Robust surface water drainage system for aircraft maintenance area

Located to the south of BAA's London Heathrow airport is the British Airways aircraft maintenance area. Currently undergoing a major extension, it is due for completion during 2008 although parts are already operative. Bordering directly on runways and taxiways, the demands made on the site are huge with all types and sizes of aircraft being maintained and serviced. These will eventually include the A380 Airbus in 2009; the introduction into service of this massive aircraft being one of the main reasons for the development.

With aircraft tow trucks alone weighing 80 tonnes, manoeuvring aircraft impose an enormous burden on the newly installed surface drainage system. Not only must the area be efficiently drained, the system must withstand the twisting forces exerted by turning aircraft and numerous service trucks.

Back in 1999, Hauraton FASERFIX® fibre reinforced concrete channels were supplied on behalf of BAA to London Gatwick and integrated into the British Airways hangars. One year later saw FASERFIX® Super KS 100 channels being supplied to London City airport. The engineer consultants in charge of these projects were very satisfied with Hauraton's quality and support.

In 2003, the issue of the installation and handling of drainage systems became a central theme at BAA. The main focus of the discussions was the weight of the products and the large amount of machinery required to install them. Andy Beirne, Technical Sales Manager at Hauraton, contacted different departments at BAA on several occasions and presented the advantages of RECYFIX® channels; engineered to be very strong yet light weight, most sizes provide easy handling and conformity to maximum one man lifting load (25kg) Health and Safety Regulations. At various meetings, drainage channels from this product line were presented, and BAA decided as a general principle to work with Hauraton.

In 2006, Andy Beirne gave a presentation of RECYFIX® HICAP at one of these meetings. The feedback was very positive; BAA engineers recognised the product benefits immediately.

Taking into account strict ecological requirements laid down by the airport regulators, suppliers to BAA must present product innovations which bring cost savings in installation and maintenance.

Through the construction company Adenstar, Andy Beirne supplied BAA with current and past building site reports on the successful use of HICAP in the UK. At the final meeting, it were the advantages of RECYFIX HICAP (weight, recycled material, stable ductile iron slot) that ultimately decided these channels should be installed.

Tim Connolly, Hauraton's Director of Sales and Marketing was delighted when their high capacity RECYFIX®HICAP channels were specified at Heathrow. Made from the company's specially formulated recycled Polyethylene-Polypropylene (PE-PP), they allowed hydraulic engineers and contractor's wide flexibility during the design and installation stages by reducing the number of channel runs normally required to drain such a large area. The reduction meant less materials being used and fewer underground excavations, all resulting in an easy and fast installation procedure. Comply with Industrial Class F900 applications (Test force 900kN) all the HICAP channel sections used, including their ductile iron slot inlets, weighed less than 25kg.

During the first construction stage, now completed, nearly 500 metres RECYFIX HICAP channelling was installed. In the second construction stage further RECYFIX HICAP channels will be supplied.

Installation of Hauraton®RECYFIX HICAP at London Heathrow

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RECYFIX® HICAP – one man lift

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