

RUNWAY SAFETY ELEVATES WITH GROOVING



Introduction:

The recent resurfacing of Heathrow Airport's Southern Runway marks a significant advancement in aviation safety and operational efficiency. This intricate project, part of a £100 million investment to maintain one of the world's busiest airports, included a critical safety enhancement: the grooving of the runway surface. Jointline's expertise was instrumental in executing this aspect, which is pivotal in improving the runway's drainage and traction.

The Challenge:

Heathrow Airport, handling over 1,300 daily aircraft movements, required meticulous planning and execution to resurface its 3,659m long and 50m wide Southern Runway. The challenge was not only to complete the resurfacing, which occurs once every decade, but to do so without

disrupting the airport's heavy daily traffic. The project demanded work be confined to night hours, with a narrow window from 23:00 to 05:30, ensuring that the runway was operational by 06:00 each morning.

The Solution:

Jointline, collaborating with various contractors, played a key role in the grooving of the runway. This process involved cutting precise grooves across the runway surface to enhance water drainage and provide increased friction for landing aircraft, crucial for safety in wet conditions. Jointline's advanced grooving equipment and skilled technicians ensured high-quality, efficient work within the strict nightly timeframes, complementing the overall resurfacing efforts led by the main contractor.

The Results:

The completion of the runway grooving project significantly bolstered the safety features of Heathrow's Southern Runway. Despite the logistical challenges, the work was completed on schedule, with no disruption to the airport's operations. This success is attributed to the seamless collaboration among all contractors, with Jointline's contribution critical in enhancing the runway's performance. The grooved runway now offers improved resistance to skidding, markedly increasing safety for the millions of passengers Heathrow serves annually. This project not only reinforces Heathrow's commitment to safety but also demonstrates the high standards of engineering excellence upheld by Jointline and its partners.