

THE REHABILITATION AND WIDENING OF HEATHROW'S RUNWAY 09R-27L

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ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the major rehabilitation including strengthening and widening of Heathrow's southern Runway 09R-27L, carried out during limited nightly possession periods during 2002/2003. The design, planning and implementation of the works, was carried out on behalf of BAA plc by "The Pavement Team", a long term strategic partnering agreement between BAA and AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd. The review examines from first hand experience the full history of the project from inception through to handover and includes commentary on such topics as development of design, operational constraints, planning, construction methodology, material design, testing, safety critical processes, runway friction, runway handover/hand-back procedures and maintenance of aerodrome ground lighting during the construction. The review concludes that with careful planning and close liaison with Airport Operations and airlines, major runway rehabilitation works on heavily used runways such as Heathrow's Runway 09R-27L, which handles approximately 250,000 movements per year, can be successfully carried out at night in limited possession periods.