

AIRFIELDS

Leading the Way 1.5 million square metres of airfield pavement, an achievement for VolkerFitzpatrick Ltd over 10 years

VolkerFitzpatrick, part of the Dutch-owned VolkerWessels group, recently reached a significant milestone – the awarding of 1.5 million m² of concrete airfield pavement in under a decade. Averaging out at 150,000m² per year, the figure places the company at the top of the airfield paving league.

But this figure shouldn't be a surprise to those in the concrete paving industry. VolkerFitzpatrick have the largest concrete paving fleet in UK and Ireland, and a concreting history that goes back some 60 years to the wartime airfields of East Anglia.

From Kinloss to Jersey and Lakenheath to Dublin, VolkerFitzpatrick has worked as main and sub-contractor on both military and civilian airfields across the whole of the British Isles. When their airfield achievement is added to their impressive CBM and Barrier capabilities', VolkerFitzpatrick are probably the most versatile concrete company in the UK and Ireland.

Talking about the airfield achievement, Joe Quirke, General Manager of VolkerFitzpatrick's Paving Division said "We have achieved this milestone because we have a board that understands and provides the required investment, and because we have very good teams of experienced people who understand concrete - and can move easily through the sectors".

"For example, we currently have teams on site at four airfield projects, two CBM projects and two Barrier and Channel projects. All of the plant is working and some 20 staff, 35 direct operatives and 60 sub-contract operatives are employed on these schemes. We will turnover almost £34M this year that is £4M on CBM/Barrier and £30M on airfields"

VolkerFitzpatrick's board has provided nearly £3M to invest in new plant and equipment over the past two years, and the VolkerFitzpatrick fleet now consists of

- 4No 110m³/hr Batching Plant
- 1No 150m³/hr CBM plant
- 2No 10m wide Slipform Pavers
- 2No 6m wide Slipform pavers
- 3No Leica 3d Systems
- 2No Barrier and Channel pavers
- 3No Tracked CBM pavers
- 1No 2600 placer/spreader
- 6No Maxon Agitators Trucks
- 1No Trimmer

As well as the batching and laying kit, the company's mobile batching plants are certified to produce concrete under the BSi kite mark, and have three fully equipped UKAS concrete testing laboratories which compliment the Kite mark scheme.

"We believe that we are the only main contractor who has this accreditation on the plants and it signifies our determination to provide the highest quality products" said Mr. Quirke.

"Furthermore, we are one of only four Britpave licenced installers in the UK which enables us to construct high quality Concrete Step Barrier on the roads network" he said.

But it is not just in the British Isles which VolkerFitzpatrick is seeking new business. A recent rebranding and a closer working relationship with sister companies in the VolkerWessels group has led to more collaboration between the UK and Europe. "We are now actively looking at some major projects in mainland Europe" said Mr Quirke. Being part of the big group has provided the opportunities to expand not only geographically but also into new sectors such as rail and waste

So, as the company looks ahead to the future, it hopes the next 1.5M m² will only take 5 years to achieve.

