

# AIRFIELDS

VolkerFitzpatrick's paving division is undertaking the construction of an airport infrastructure at Lakenheath in Suffolk. The project will provide a new purpose built hardstanding with an access taxiway onto existing Taxiway Victor.

The new PQ apron is approximately 40,000m<sup>2</sup>. Other works associated with the new apron will be new AGL, markings and the associated drainage. Programme duration is 35 weeks, completion is expected in April 2011.

## Heathrow a 'dead end'

Heathrow has been described as a "dead end" and should be allowed to fall behind as a secondary point-to-point airport according to Daniel Moylan, deputy chairman of the Mayor of London's transport body. He recommends that, in order to safeguard London's position as a global trading centre, a new hub airport with four runways must be built in the South East.

With Heathrow near to full capacity and potential expansion being restricted by its urban location there is no opportunity to develop it into a four-runway hub. The growth of China and Asian markets to which London has limited services has highlighted the lack of capacity. Moylan will publish a further report in April examining possible locations for a new airport, including a site in the Thames Estuary northeast of the Isle of Sheppey.

The recommendations have been welcomed by Boris Johnson, the London Mayor, but not by the government which has ruled out any new airport in the South East. However, time could be running out for this stance as British Airways, following its merger with the Spanish carrier Iberia, has plans to centre a network on Madrid which has four runways and ample capacity. Whiles business groups such as London First believe that new runways for London are essential if the capital is to remain globally competitive.



***"Concrete paving will play a significant role in the expansion of regional airports"***