



Pushback zone heating systems



Advanced
ice & snow systems



Airport underfloor
heating systems



Fully automated
control



The Goal

The pushback zones at an airport are where the pushback tugs operate. These tugs manoeuvre the planes backwards and away from the stands before the planes can move under their own power.

Areas such as the runways and taxi areas are normally cleared by fleets of snowploughs but it is very difficult to use these large vehicles in close proximity of the stands, and during heavy falling snow a pushback tug could be overwhelmed and unable to move.

Heating these pushback zones ensures that there is no risk of snow or ice build up in these areas and allows the tugs to safely manoeuvre the planes regardless of snowfall.

Heat Mat's Solution

Heat Mat offer snow melting systems suitable for all sizes of project, from international airports such as Gatwick and Heathrow through to heating individual helipads at local airports. Within Finland and Scandinavia the cables are most commonly placed within a concrete pad before the final surface is applied but Heat Mat also offer hot-asphalt cables that can have 180°C asphalt poured directly on top of them where this simplifies installation.

The cables are manufactured to order in our Danish factory and the supply leads can be lengthened to allow a direct cable run back to the power supply, with no periodically checked connections required. For very large areas heating mats may be preferred and these can be supplied on either a fibreglass or metallic mesh.

The wattage output of the cables is designed to supply the desired heat output per square metre taking into account the overall area being heated, the likely minimum temperatures encountered and the expected maximum snowfall.

Fully automated control systems are supplied that can be manually overridden locally if needed. Combined moisture and temperature sensors sit within the pushback area and these allow the controllers to monitor the zone and to automatically power up the heating when required. Due to the high cost impact of any delays for planes on stands, fully automated snow melting is normally the preferred choice at airports.

Using moisture sensors in addition to temperature sensors ensures that the system only powers up when there is a genuine risk of snow or ice, and it quickly turns off the system once this is cleared for maximum energy efficiency.

The Result

Once these heating systems are installed pushback zones remain snow and ice free even in the most severe weather. The pushback tugs can operate without the risk of skidding and when the planes come onto stand they can clearly see the markings in the aeroplane parking bay.



Helipad heating systems also available

About Heat Mat

With more than 12,000m² of ice and snow melting systems installed and 22 years' experience of the UK frost protection market, you can rely on Heat Mat to understand your requirements and to specify the system to satisfy your needs. This is why we are the Professionals' Choice, the number one supplier of ice and snow melting products to the UK's professional installation market.

Contact us

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Heat Mat

Ice & Snow Systems

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