

## **READY FOR TAKE OFF**

Weighing thousands of kilograms, the four flight simulators at Alteon Training near Gatwick, require a 1½ metre thick concrete base for support. Avoiding the final floor finish de-laminating due to the high moisture level inherent in such a substantial concrete base, Ryebrook Resins recommended their water-dispersed, Ryecoat WD epoxy coating. The 150mm thick concrete slab in the majority of the 750m<sup>2</sup> hall is laid with a light grey finish whilst each simulator bay is created as a striking red hexagon, clearly marking the safe boundary. “It is essential that we present a highly professional image to every airline using the simulators,” comments General Manager, Patrick Curtin. “The Ryebrook floor delivers good loading resistance and is also sufficiently hard-wearing against everyday abrasions so that, with appropriate cleaning, we can keep it looking smart.”



To prepare the floor, Ryebrook first shot-blasted the concrete slab and diamond ground the edges. To stop rust forming, the 100m<sup>2</sup> of inspection hatches that allow access to the hydraulics for each simulator had to be prepared with two coats of water-based primer. Having marked out the four hexagons, red Ryecoat WD was laid to the simulator bays before going on to coat the rest of the floor in light grey. Once cured, a second coat of both colours was laid, this time creating a sharp demarcation of the hexagons.

Allowing for movement occurring when the simulators are operating, the bays are formed from two autonomous sections of concrete slab. Achieving a

seamless finish, Ryebrook used colour matched Ryexpand, an epoxy resin flexible jointing compound, to effectively remove the risk of cracking.

Alteon Training UK Ltd has its headquarters in Luton with other simulators located in Manchester and Palma, Majorca. The new Gatwick centre is purpose-built and represents a significant development for the company. Mowlem's, the main contractor on the project, had worked with Ryebrook previously who, given their location in Crawley, were invited to quote to lay the resin floor in the simulator hall, plant room and workshop areas. Ryebrook has also undertaken refurbishment work at the Luton headquarters and other remedial work to existing floor surfaces.

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