

WILSON JAMES WINS HEATHROW LOGISTICS INTEGRATOR CONTRACT

Heathrow Airport has appointed logistics and security specialist Wilson James as its Logistics Integrator. The five-year contract commenced in July, and Sean Kelly, Operations Director, outlined some of the key details and what this means for Wilson James.



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Wilson James' new contract as Heathrow Logistics Integrator includes the provision of construction logistics for the airport's £1.5 billion development programme, and operational support through the management and distribution of the airport's engineering materials.

The strategic planning and operation of the Colnbrook Logistics Centre (CLC), the logistics and screening centre for construction activities at Heathrow, is also covered under the contract. The CLC provides an offsite location to store and call off construction materials on behalf of contractors, carry out vehicle checks and coordinate traffic management and deliveries for the airport.

"At Wilson James we have extensive capability and skills in both the logistics and security industries. The combination of this along with our experience in the aviation sector allows us to

develop a number of solutions where a detailed crossover of these industries is required," Sean Kelly, Operations Director at Wilson James, commented.

The new contract augments Wilson James' existing presence at Heathrow, having been in the role of Construction Logistics Integrator since 2008. The main difference is that the contract has been widened to include some non-construction activities and non-construction logistics, such as engineering stores and terminal consumables. "What that means is there are some financial savings for Heathrow, as well as savings in terms of airside vehicle movement and clearly that in itself generates carbon savings," Kelly added. "And anything we can do to reduce the number of vehicles on the airport roads also has a safety benefit."

Wilson James is using its innovative Fulcrum IT system for construction delivery management purposes with

online booking capability. It also provides real-time and web-based data access and reporting, ensuring visibility of key information for all stakeholders exactly when they need it. Wilson James designed the system to seamlessly support its own processes and to be as flexible as the company's operational capabilities. "It provides us with a suite of information capabilities that we can draw from and, depending on the nature of a particular client's requirements, then put various elements together to give them exactly what's required," Kelly explained. "It's a highly flexible database with a very comprehensive reporting system, which interacts with operational activities in real-time through either a web portal or via a number of bespoke smart device apps. We've been trialling prototypes of various elements of the system for some two years now with several of our key clients. The results have



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been highly favourable, so we commenced full development a number of months ago and the initial roll out with the lead client, which is Heathrow, will be in November this year."

Of course, Heathrow is a very complex environment in which to work, and Wilson James has the dual task of, on the one hand facilitating construction in that complex environment, while on the other hand protecting the airport

operation from the impact of construction activities.

Above all, the key point is maintaining the integrity of the existing operation and keeping passengers safe. "All of our activities in effect revolve around controlling the supply chain to ensure that passengers are not impeded in getting to the airport, then on to their aircraft, and that while they are doing that they are 100% safe," Kelly concluded.

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Wilson James was last year named 'Best Business Partner' at the AOA Awards, beating off strong competition.

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