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St Helena Airport

Ongoing works for Rupert's Wharf

Casting CORE-LOC^(R) units at the precasting yard in Rupert's Access Office



Preparatory works for the construction of the permanent wharf in Rupert's are moving ahead. A precasting yard has been constructed in upper Rupert's Valley (above the new Bulk Fuel Installation) and is set to produce precast units (CORE-LOC^(R) and Quay Wall Blocks) for use in the wharf construction. To pour or construct a concrete structure in, or under, water is difficult and challenging. Precast units are therefore manufactured on land, transported to the permanent wharf position and placed in the water, fitting together like Lego blocks, to finally form the permanent wharf. Precasting of the first concrete CORE-LOC^(R) units is progressing well and once completed will be placed on the outside face of the breakwater to provide protection to the structure once construction of the main wharf begins - precast concrete units avoid the need for very large rocks to provide the necessary armouring to protect the breakwater. The units will be placed on core and underlayer rock, and are a cost effective way of providing the necessary protection. The precast CORE-LOCs^(R) are a single layer interlocking armour unit developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Each unit uses 3 cubic metres of concrete and about 1,600 units will have to be precast. The permanent wharf is scheduled to be completed in September 2015.

Dry Gut Fill Reaches 270m Milestone

Dry Gut



Earlier this month the Dry Gut fill reached 270m in height. The filling of Dry Gut is required to extend the platform available for construction of the runway and the runway end safety areas.

Completion of the Dry Gut fill is scheduled for September 2014.

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Blasting on the Haul Road



Blasting on the Haul Road in upper Rupert's Valley took place on Tuesday 11 March 2014 just after 5pm. The main purpose of the blast was to assist the heavy plant to excavate the harder section of the track to improve the widths and the gradients to form an Access Road for ultimate public use in the future. 8,513kg of high energy fuel (explosives) was used in the blast - it lasted 5.78 seconds and produced 17,881m³ (approx 34,000 tonnes) of material.

Basil Read and Connect Saint Helena Ltd would like to extend thanks to residents and workers in Rupert's who evacuated the area during this time, to all St Helena residents for their understanding during the time there was an Island-wide power outage, and to everyone involved in the blasting who ensured the operation was completed as smoothly and safely as possible.

Visit from Honeywell Aerospace

In late 2013 St Helena Government signed a contract with Honeywell Aerospace for their SmartPath Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS). This precision landing system reduces weather-related delays, lowers air traffic noise, improves flight efficiency and increases airport capacity - and is scheduled to be installed at the Airport during the second quarter of 2015.

Visiting the Island from 11-19 March 2014 was Honeywell's Technical Manager for the SmartPath Applications Group, Brian Koosmann. Brian's responsibility is to install SmartPath systems worldwide, working with the Airports and Regulators to achieve operational status.

His visit to St Helena was to collect data for determining where to locate the SmartPath equipment - four GPS antennas, one VHF antenna and a shelter for the data processing cabinet. While on Island Brian collected GPS data to determine the expected performance of the system.

Brian commented on his visit:

"For the SmartPath installation project the visit has been very informative. Based on the information learned and collected, we will work with Halcrow and Basil Read to determine the best location for the SmartPath equipment. Once the equipment locations have been identified, then the detailed construction drawings will be created and reviewed by everyone on the team. The next steps will be the work to install the antenna masts, shelter and cabling.

"Personally the visit has been spectacular. I have never seen a new Airport being constructed, so this is a unique experience, I am impressed with the focus on safety and the protection of endemic plants and wildlife."

In 2015 a number of engineers from Honeywell will be on-Island to connect the equipment and get it operational in preparation for flight inspection.

Data collection at the Airport site - Contained within the black case is a GPS receiver and antenna.



St Helena Airport - Human Resources Update

There are currently 580 people working on the Airport project, of which 335 Saints are directly employed by Basil Read. A further 35 Saints are sub-contractors.

With the awarding of the Rupert's Wharf project, a total of 85 Thai shutter hands, steel fixers, concrete hands and general workers were sourced from Thailand. The recruiting of Thai workers is primarily due to a shortage of skilled labour on the Island, and the fact that many of the Basil Read employees in South Africa are being utilised on other projects.

The recruiting of the Thai employees and ensuring compliance with Thailand's statutory regulations for Thai workers abroad was done through Inqaba HR Services, the same company who sourced the Thai workers who constructed the tanks at the Bulk Fuel Installation. The majority of the Thai workers currently on the Island are very experienced, having worked for major construction companies across Africa.

Basil Read has reported that progress on the construction of the Airport is progressing exceptionally well and on programme - a testament of the hard work and excellent efforts of all persons working on the project.

