



**FEC Heliports** Equipment



**New FEC Heliports HEMS Station® Solar Plus Helipad Lighting System**  
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC), UK



**Application:**

HEMS Station® *Solar Plus* installed for the MAAC at their latest Secondary Landing Sites for deployment by Local Community Volunteers, to extend day and night operational hours

**Locations:**

Midlands/NW, UK (Hereford, Tamworth, Birmingham and Cheadle)

**Benefits:**

- Entirely Solar Powered
- Includes Portable Illuminated Wind Cone
- Tried & Trusted HEMS-Star® Lighting Solution
- Secure IP65 Rated Cabinet Housing up to 10 Lights
- Low Maintenance and Remote Support
- Improved Regional Coverage for Night Operations / Low-Visibility
- Ultimately Assists with Faster Response Times and Improved Critical Patient Care

*"The FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lights were not only chosen for their ability to provide a compliant, light weight, re-chargeable and easy to use portable lighting solution for the roll out of our night secondary landing sites, but they have also required pretty much zero maintenance (monthly checks only) and extremely low running cost benefits too. I can recommend the FEC Portable Lights to any service facing similar emergency incidents"*

Becky Steele  
MAAC Air Operations/MERIT/RTD Manager  
Chair AAA Operations Sub Committee



Since 1991, **Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC)** has responded to more than 47,000 missions **averaging 2,000 per year**, making it one of the longest established and busiest air ambulance organisations in the UK. In November 2015, MAAC commenced night flying operations. However, it soon became apparent that operating purely between their licensed night aerodrome locations, such as Cosford, Strensham, Tatenhill, and the trauma centres with night landing facilities to include University Hospital North Midlands (UHNM) and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW); restricted overall response time to emergency situations.

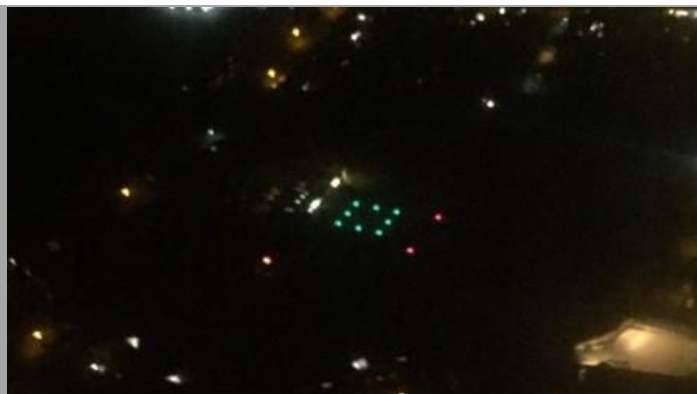
The introduction of the night operational secondary landing sites solution has increased MAAC's regional network coverage and is now getting them closer to the scene; markedly improving critical care and extending operational hours. A key part of this solution was the provision of **FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lighting Systems**, **acquired entirely via funds raised by the HELP Appeal; as they will do so for other Air Ambulance charities**. The sites are supported by Community Volunteers who maintain and deploy the portable lights. They can then be quickly illuminated on demand (manually or remotely via cockpit or lighting controller), providing clear, safe landing sites in key locations that were deemed as challenging to get to by road. The night secondary landing sites have been operational since February 2016, and now include **Ludlow, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Shobdon and Tilstock**.

Following the success of the above, MAAC now have rolling annual plans in place to expand their network further. To facilitate this and off the back of the secure storage unit devised by Pilot; Richard Steele, FEC have collaborated with MAAC to provide a degree of "future proofing" for the next generation of secondary site lighting. The result was the development of the new HEMS Station® *Solar Plus*. This is a fixed, secure cabinet based docking system for storing and charging up to 10 HEMS Star® lights, that with an HLC (HEMS Station® Lighting Controller) has full remote-control VHF, UHF, Wireless and GSM technology built in. It can either be mains powered or autonomous, via solar power and/or wind gen and with the addition of a portable solar series wind cone in the package, plus a local meteorological data (inc. cloud base and viz) option in the pipeline; the complete HEMS-Station® *Solar Plus* package provides all functions required for a market leading, remote controlled, relocatable heliport.

So far, the first HEMS Station® *Solar Plus* has been installed at the MAAC's **Hereford** secondary landing site and will be fully operational from the 17<sup>th</sup> November, with **Birmingham, Tamworth and Cheadle** to follow soon after. The 4 new sites come complete with FEC's latest HEMS Star® v7's, which operate using Telit comms technology, providing 3G & 4G capability. They are also fitted with advanced LED lights and improved Lithium-Ion batteries, allowing for brighter lights over longer periods between charges.

*The **FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lights** are unmistakably visible in almost all weather conditions, light ambience and environmental backdrops that they are deployed against.*

*The picture opposite showing green perimeter lights and 2 off red obstruction lights was taken by the MAAC crew over 2 Miles away from the night operational secondary landing site. However, they have been tested and can be identified from distances of up to 10 Miles (16km).*



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