



FEC Heliports Equipment



MIDLANDS
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY®



HELP Appeal
Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads



County
Air Ambulance
Trust

CASE STUDY

FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lighting Systems *Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, UK*



OVERVIEW

Application: Portable Helipad Lighting Systems used at 5+ designated secondary landing sites, for day and night operations

Locations: Midlands, UK (Covering Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, the West Midlands and Worcestershire)

Benefits:

- Supports Extended Operating Hours
- Improved Regional Coverage in Low-Visibility/Night Ops
- Reliable Lighting Solution
- Low Maintenance
- Faster Response Times to Nearest Trauma Unit
- Ultimately, Supports Extended Patient Care

FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lighting Systems provides invaluable lighting and RLC's for MAAC's night operations.

"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



AT WORK

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 (UHM) and University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW); restricted overall response time to emergency situations.

A solution was required to increase MAAC's regional network coverage and get them closer to the scene of the incident. The answer was to identify night operational secondary landing sites across the region, which could be quickly illuminated on demand, providing clear, safe landing sites in key locations that were deemed as challenging to get to by road. 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 for other Air Ambulance charities. These enabled local, retained Firefighters and Community Volunteers to maintain and deploy the portable lights at the secondary landing sites. The lights are set out in a pre-determined pattern, then they (or the MAAC cockpit) can be easily switched on and operated at the required setting; either manually or by using the **Remote Lighting Controller (RLC)**.

The night secondary landing sites have been operational since February 2016, and now include **Ludlow, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Shobdon and Tilstock**, with more sites in the pipeline. They can be utilised throughout the year, and will continue to vastly improve response times for critical care in the MAAC region.

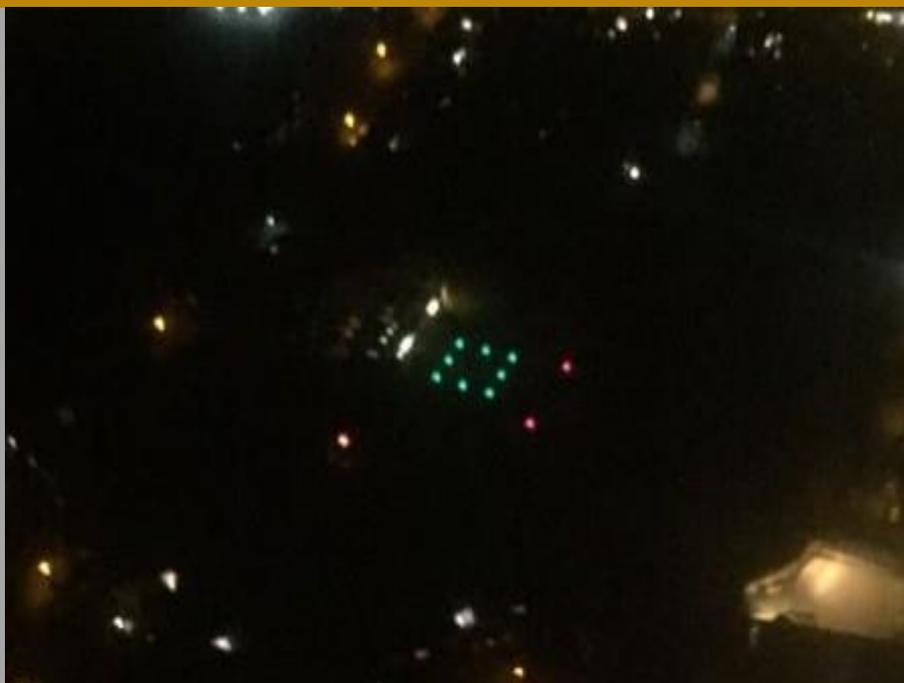
"Midlands Air Ambulance Charity is a third sector organisation responsible for funding and operating three strategically located air ambulances serving six counties in the Midlands; Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, the West Midlands and Worcestershire. The charity's mission is to assist in relieving sickness by the operation of a helicopter emergency medical service. It operates a service that could be, and has been, relied upon by people who never thought they'd be in the unfortunate situation of needing an air ambulance. Not only has the charity helped save lives, but also had a positive impact on the families and friends of those airlifted.

The charity needs to raise in excess of £7 million each year to remain operational and since 1991 it has responded to more than 47,000 missions. What's not widely known is the charity receives no Government or National Lottery funding, relying solely on generous donations from the public and local businesses."

Jason Levy
Fundraising and Marketing Director
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity



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).



The **FEC Heliports Portable Helipad Lights** require only 3.5 hours to go from exhausted to fully charged, using AC, DC solar or wind power. At the MAAC base in RAF Cosford, as with all Emergency Services, the lights need to be ready for use constantly.

MAAC Pilot; Richard Steele designed, configured and built the secure storage unit pictured, providing a safe, de-humidified charging facility, which receives its power from solar panels on the hanger roof. A timer device, together with back up 12v DC battery, ensures that the lights are ready to deploy 24/7.

HEMS-Star® rechargeable battery powered LED helipad lighting system designed for rapid deployment to provide safe and effective marking at designated or ad-hoc helicopter landing areas.

Extends Operating Hours

Application - Effective marking of helicopter landing areas that can be identified at night from distances up to 10 Miles (16km)

Portable - Lightweight (10.6 Kg)

Versatile - Red, blue, green, white visible LED's and infra-red to support pilots wearing Night Vision Goggles (NVG's)

Multi-Function - Programmable to flash warning, location beacon or Morse Code with automatic sunset switching

Pilot Control – Via FEC Remote Lighting Controller operational at a line of sight ranges in excess of 10km

Stability – Tested at the Sikorsky flight development centre in Florida as stable under the rotor wash of a Chinook (CH- 47)

HEMS-Star® is rechargeable in its case via mains at 100-240V AC, vehicles at 13.5-28VDC, solar or wind power.

Run Time

Flashing - Up to 108 hours. Steady - Up to 18 hours

Recharging Time

Fully exhausted to fully charged in 3.5 hours.



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