



**mitie**

**PTSG and MITIE keep the Heathrow team's feet on the ground**



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PTSG's fall arrest teams have provided testing and inspection services with MITIE at Heathrow Airport for the last three years. The work has seen skilled operatives from the company's Access and Safety division carrying out work at the airport's control tower, terminals, access tunnels and roads and baggage halls.

Most recently, the group's fall arrest team was employed to design and install an unusual and innovative mansafe system to keep the airport's people safe, whilst simultaneously removing the need to interrupt day-to-day operations for relatively simple general site maintenance and upkeep.

In the past, in order to keep its grounds maintenance teams as safe as possible, Heathrow Airport had to temporarily close roads and send staff out between 12am and 4am in order to carry out tasks such as gardening and general maintenance.

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Grounds maintenance should be a relatively straightforward job, but at Heathrow, teams were having to take extreme precautions to ensure their safety, which made their work much more difficult.

PTSG and MITIE were tasked with finding a solution to this problem in order to improve efficiency at the airport without increasing risk to workers on site. The Access and Safety division usually operates at great heights, and was able to transfer its expertise in height safety to develop a safety system that could be utilised just as effectively on a ground-level embankment.

It is highly unusual for mansafe systems to be installed at ground level. However, the pressures that come with working on such a busy 'live' site meant that a solution that went above and beyond the obvious options was required.

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PTSG designed and installed a unique mansafe system to a roundabout on the airport's access road at Terminal 5, which involved extremely careful planning and design.

As fixing a system to the ground differs greatly from fixing equipment to a roof, PTSG's teams were required to carry out an unfamiliar installation process, all within the short access window during the early hours of the morning.

This involved excavating large holes in the ground and installing cages with posts that were filled with concrete to create a permanent, weighted mansafe system that will enable safe and easy access for many years to come.

## PTSG's wide-ranging expertise in access and safety is precisely what has allowed its teams to think laterally on this contract

Creating a system that allows the premises management team to carry out their work during the day, even when there is significant traffic on the roads has made them much more efficient, and has also contributed to higher employee satisfaction with much more sociable working hours.

PTSG's wide-ranging expertise in access and safety is precisely what has allowed its teams to think laterally on this contract and develop an innovative solution to a long-term problem.

The long-term value of this work extends far beyond simply meeting the airport's request for an access solution, and has helped to make the airport a much safer and happier place to work.

