

Airport invests in state-of-the-art fire vehicles



Birmingham Airport has invested more than £3m in five new state-of-the-art fire fighting vehicles. The five 'Striker' vehicles have been purchased from speciality US vehicle manufacturer, Oshkosh Corporation and will replace the existing fleet of vehicles.

Three of the five new vehicles have extended boom technology, called 'Snazzles', which can penetrate an aircraft fuselage, allowing direct and

close range access to an on-board fire. All movements of the Snazzle are controlled from inside the cab using various cameras and computers. Additionally, two major foam tenders join the fleet, each capable of holding up to 1,600 litres of foam and 12,000 litres of water, which can be delivered from a powerful pump at a rate of 7,000 litres per minute.

All of the appliances are equipped with hydrochem fire nozzles that can discharge water and dry powder simultaneously, while front-facing infrared cameras can identify hot and cold surfaces to aid in rescue and fire suppression. Forward and rear looking cameras are also featured on all the vehicles to provide information that can be used to investigate incidents if required at a later date and all have in-built vehicle recorders that will catalogue the driver's actions when responding to an emergency. The vehicles can accelerate 0-50 mph (80 kph) in under 35 seconds – which is faster than the previously fleet - and are equipped with the Oshkosh TAK-4 all-wheel independent suspension for off-road driving. They also have an improved turning radius and manoeuvrability, with rear-wheel steering and greater braking power from all round disk brakes.

The new vehicles will improve reliability and performance, enabling Birmingham's fire-fighting capabilities can meet the requirements of aircraft in the future. David Winstanley, Operations Director at the Airport, said, "The team is delighted with the new appliances and we're grateful to Oshkosh for supplying these fantastic appliances. They will help us as we grow and provide a world class fire and rescue service for our business and partners."

Oshkosh Corporation is a US speciality vehicle manufacturer based in the town of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. They are a world leader in providing bespoke vehicles which are used extensively at Airports throughout the US. Birmingham is the first UK airport to acquire fire vehicles from the Company.