

ConnectFlash

Aebi Schmidt UK



Despite the challenges of the pandemic, day-to-day business continues in many places. In this *flash newsletter*, we would like to share a few selected stories with you. The pandemic may be an obstacle, but not one that we cannot overcome – as we were able to experience together with our customers in the past weeks and months. If you would like to know more about the background or products, please do not hesitate to call us. We look forward to hearing from you.

«For once an easy decision»: London City Airport takes delivery of Airport Sweeper 660 to keep FOD under control

London City Airport has taken delivery of a Schmidt AS 660 Airport Sweeper primarily to keep FOD (Foreign Objects Debris) under control across the airfield during development work, as the airport expands its infrastructure whilst getting back to flying after lockdown.

London City operates a single 1,500-metre long runway and is currently undergoing a five-year, half a billion-pound transformation that started in 2018, which includes eight new aircraft stands and a parallel taxi-way constructed over the King George V Docks in East London in what has been one of the largest in-land marine construction projects in Europe.



Schmidt AS 660 at London City Airport

The airport had previously outsourced all its sweeping requirements to an external third-party supplier but wanted to take it back inhouse to give greater control and increase sweeping frequency. London City went out to tender and opted for the AS 660. The AS 660 fits right into the Airport's FOD regime which will see it

sweeping the development site and surrounding areas, both airside and land-side, every day as and when required. It is designed to fit any standard two-axle sweeper chassis and brings an array of special features, faster working times and lower operating costs.

The AS 660 is Aebi Schmidt's airport specification truck-mounted sweeper and stablemate of the popular Street King 660, but differs in that it has a high-performance rear suction unit and flow-optimised suction shaft which covers the whole sweeping width and is ideal for picking up debris and liquids, such as glycol anti-freeze which is always in wide use in winter. The rear section unit also integrates seamlessly with the vehicle's ES control panel which, through a highly visual 7" touch screen. Its use is intuitive and flexible and it enables reduced training time.

To train London City operators in the use of the AS 660, the Airport has booked a 'train the trainer' session with the Aebi Schmidt training team. To ensure that social distancing is maintained as a consequence of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, they were able to de-mount the ES control panel and use it remotely in a classroom situation.



London City Airport

Brighton and Hove City Council counts on more flexible and manoeuvrable sweeper fleet

Brighton and Hove City Council has added three new Schmidt Multigo 150 compact sweepers to its sweeper fleet. Very positive operator feedback, performance, easy to operate, a low vehicle weight, and an increase in operating time have been key arguments for the investment.



Schmidt Multigo 150 on demo drive

The three highly manoeuvrable and versatile Multigos are being used in two shifts, early and late, to keep the city centre and Brighton's famous promenade clean and tidy. One of the Multigos has been fitted with a snow brush attachment to tackle the large volume of pebbles that strong winds throw up on the Brighton seafront, especially during the winter months, while another has a weed ripper attachment for clearing weeds from pavements and thoroughfares around the city without the use of dangerous chemicals.

Operator feedback has been very positive and, according to Ian Greene, the Council's Head of Fleet Management, there is fierce competition amongst the drivers to

claim one of the Multigos for their shift. «We have been over the moon with the new machines. We were replacing four unreliable sweepers on our fleet of 16 sweepers of varying sizes, and wanted our new sweepers to be substantial, reliable and robust. Our guys like the Multigo and they have been very impressed with the performance so far. They are easy to tip so they don't need to bring them back to the depot so often and, with their wide wheels and independent suspension, they offer a very comfortable ride,» said Ian Greene.



Schmidt Multigo: One Machine for all seasons

Another benefit is the fact that, at just 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight, the Multigo can be driven with a standard Category B driving licence for passenger cars. At the same time, the articulated Multigo is perfect for working around street furniture, such as benches, litter bins and other obstructions. Its compact size means it can sweep pavements and other narrow areas with ease. «We have found the Multigo to be very flexible and manoeuvrable, and another plus is that it only takes around 15 minutes to wash down at the end of a shift which means we have increased operating time,» said Ian.



To ensure observing all pandemic driven requirements, Aebi Schmidt turns to high-tech two-way radio for demos and training

For every crisis, there is often an innovative solution. Aebi Schmidt UK has turned to the latest communications technology to demonstrate its vehicles and equipment and to ensure that it observes the guidelines of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Being in the cab with the driver to demonstrate a vehicle may have been perfectly acceptable before the pandemic – but not any longer if the 'one metre plus' rule is to be observed. And in addition to observing the deep cleaning requirements, the safety protocol demands that before the vehicle is handed over to the customer, all contact points such as steering wheel, door handles, sweeping

controls and keys are cleaned with disinfectant wipes.



Training - before the pandemic

As for every crisis, there is often an innovative solution. Aebi Schmidt has tuned to the high-quality, hands-free and two-way radio communication technology to ensure its customers – and demonstrator drivers – stay safe. Each demonstrator driver and operator trainer has been equipped with hands-free audio communication equipment plus headset to enable them to carry out machine demonstrations and conduct training in a controlled manner while abiding by current Government guidance and social distancing. The equipment has a talk time of up to 15 hours and can be charged in around 90 minutes. The effective range is in the order of 500m in an urban environment and up to 5 km in open country so that staying in contact should never be an issue.

The equipment has been specifically selected because of its ability to filter out background noise. It can be cleaned with disinfectant wipes without the risk of damage. The driver or trainer is not required to handle the communication equipment as the channel is always open so that two-way dialogue can take place, while the trainer always wears a headset. «Our demonstrator driver can then either follow the vehicle on foot or in another vehicle,» said Technical Sales Manager, David Harvey. «The radio equipment will enable contact between the operator and our driver/trainer at all times so that training pointers can be relayed and questions answered.»



South Lanarkshire Council fully electric eSwingo is a UK first

The first fully electric sweeper in the UK, Schmidt eSwingo, is now helping the fight against litter on South Lanarkshire's streets. It operates entirely on electric power without generating any carbon emissions.

Swingo Sweepers are a regular sight on streets across South Lanarkshire, sweeping up and collecting rubbish from all areas, as the Council currently operates a fleet of 20 of the popular Schmidt Swingo compact sweepers. The new eSwingo does exactly the same job as the existing vehicles, but is the first fully electric model to be used in South Lanarkshire and the whole of the UK.

Funding for the eSwingo came from Transport Scotland's Switched on Fleets programme. Chair of South Lanarkshire Council's Community and Enterprise Resources Committee, Councillor John Anderson, said: «I am delighted that we are leading the way in using the first fully electric eSwingo in the UK. I look forward to seeing it out and about on the streets across South Lanarkshire. As a council we recognise the need to reduce the amount of emissions across our entire fleet and this is another step on the journey to doing that. We are aware of the Scottish Government's targets to help fight climate change and we will continue to look at new and innovative ways to help us contribute to that.»



Schmidt eSwingo on test drive

Scottish area sales manager Diane Curran said the new eSwingo will help keeping operating costs down as well as meeting environmental targets. «The zero emission, fully electric eSwingo is not just one of the cleanest and quietest compact sweepers available, it's also one of the most cost-efficient. With whole life costs even lower compared to our diesel models, the eSwingo not only helps the environment but also boosts the bottom line. One machine can save up to 158kg of CO₂ per day, while in tests the eSwingo has proved capable of travelling over 118 miles on a single charge and still have power left in the battery,» she said.

Aebi Schmidt UK managing director, Richard Bryant, added: «We have a long-standing relationship with South Lanarkshire Council and are delighted that they have taken delivery of the UK's first eSwingo to help meet their green

ambitions. The new eSwingo offers both local authorities and private service contractors not only the cleanest possible emissions, but provides sustainable technology and an all-inclusive package covering service, maintenance and performance needs. It truly heralds the dawn of a new era in sweeping technology. With its silent electric drive it can be deployed at night or in the early hours of the morning in built up areas without a problem. And last but not least less noise is beneficial to the drivers as well.»

In addition to less noise, driver operators benefit from an ergonomically optimised workplace, featuring a height-adjustable and articulating steering column and intuitive control via a joystick. The eSwingo is one of only a few compact sweepers in the market carrying a seal of quality from an independent health expert council. It features all-wheel steering and has a top speed of 50 kmh (31mph), using just one electric motor fitted directly onto the rear axle to give more performance and lower maintenance

costs than other systems. The fully integrated air-conditioning and heating system comes complete with the option to pre-condition the cabin to ensure the operator can work in comfort at any time of the year. Smart and intelligent, the new eSwingo also provides a new generation of telematics solutions. These give GPS-based positioning in real time, allow for optimised driving and battery performance, automatically track service intervals and can also be used for route optimisation.

When increased safety matches a boost of productivity

Worcester City Council has fitted new safety features to three new Schmidt sweepers that it has added to its municipal fleet to increase driver safety and boost productivity. Learn here how Environmental Operations Manager Kevin McFeeley explains the thinking behind the new initiative.



New arrow light board on rear of SK 660

The new features comprise stand-out and highly visible arrow light boards with up to 14 bright LED lights which are fixed permanently to the rear of the sweepers, two Street King 660s and a Cleango 500, and which are controlled by a button in the cab. These clearly signal to following drivers which way to drive around the sweeper – and with official British winter time featuring darker mornings and earlier nights already upon us, they look set to be a major safety aid.

Environmental Operations Manager (Waste & Fleet) Kevin McFeeley explained the thinking behind the new initiative: “Previously, if a sweeper driver needed to change direction or switch to the opposite side of the road to carry out a sweeping operation, he had to stop the vehicle and manually change a directional board on the back of the sweeper. This was not only time-consuming but presented a safety hazard as he had to leave the cab and walk to the rear of the

vehicle. The new arrow light boards which have been wired to a control box in the cab, mean that the drivers can clearly signal any manoeuvres without leaving their seat. This not only increases safety both for the driver and any following traffic, but it boosts productivity and driver effectiveness substantially.”



«Sweeper parade»

Worcester City Council last year added three new Euro 6-compliant Swingo 200+ compact sweepers to its fleet. They have proved to be a success with a very high rating from Worcester driver operators. Hence, driver evaluations over several days identified the SK 660 as the clear winner. The role of the truck mounted «sister» to the Swingo 200+ is to sweep the arterial roads around the city area, up to within a mile of the city centre, where the Swingos can then take over. In order to tackle intermediate areas, such as the roads around housing estates, Worcester City Council operates a mid-size Cleango 500. Drivers rated its

manoeuvrability, especially in tight spaces around parked cars, its 360-degree camera angles and the highly flexible front-mounted third brush very well.



SK 660, Cleango 500 and Swingo 200+

All three sweeper types have been fitted with the new arrow light board safety feature in time for the start of the winter season. Despite the restrictions on social distancing during the current pandemic, Aebi Schmidt was able to effectively train Worcester’s drivers in the use of the new vehicles, thanks to the latest hands-free and two-way radio communication technology. “This has worked very well and all our drivers have been effectively trained, with one, Glen James, being trained to trainer level so that he can instruct and train our other drivers when required,” added Kevin McFeeley.