

PRESS RELEASE



27 October 2015

Ricardo plc
Shoreham Technical Centre,
Old Shoreham Road,
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Ricardo helps Heathrow Airport monitor black carbon in air

Ricardo Energy & Environment is working with Heathrow Airport Ltd to monitor airborne black carbon in efforts to enhance the airport network's understanding of atmospheric particulate matter and guide air quality policy in the region

The new detection system, implemented by Heathrow Airport Ltd with the support of air quality specialists from Ricardo Energy & Environment, provides real time measurements of the proportion of black carbon produced by combustion. The project is the first of its kind outside of UK government-operated networks and will provide a greater depth of understanding for researchers and policy makers to develop the best informed policies for air quality control across London and the wider area.

Black carbon contributes to atmospheric warming by reducing albedo - the ability of the earth to reflect sunlight - when it deposits on snow and ice. There are currently no European or UK mandated limits or recommended targets that regulate concentrations of black carbon and just 13 monitoring stations operate in the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) networks.

With the deployment of the new monitoring system, Heathrow Airport Ltd now undertakes measurements of black carbon at two additional locations within its network. The newly installed analyzers are modified versions of those employed by Defra, with enhanced analytical capacity for near instantaneous particle characterization. Black carbon measurements from the network's Oaks Road and Heathrow LHR2 stations are now available to view in near-real-time on the [Heathrow Airwatch Website](#).



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Paul Willis, Ricardo Energy & Environment project manager, said: "Heathrow Airport Ltd has a strong history of pro-active air quality monitoring and we are proud that our specialist team could help to expand this even further. Near real-time monitoring of black carbon goes above and beyond what is required of the airport and will provide invaluable data to guide air quality policy in the UK and across the world."

Ricardo Energy & Environment is a leading environmental consultancy with over 40 years' experience helping public and private sector organizations solve air and environmental quality challenges at business, citywide, regional and national levels. On behalf of Defra, Ricardo Energy & Environment delivers quality assurance and quality control services to the UK's largest air quality monitoring network, the Automatic Urban and Rural Network.

Find out more about Ricardo Energy & Environment's air quality solutions at <http://ee.ricardo.com/cms/helping-clients-protect-the-environment-and-the-air-we-breathe/>

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ricardo Energy & Environment is a leading sustainability consultancy, helping clients to respond to environmental challenges and opportunities around the world. Its team of over 450 staff draws on an impressive heritage supporting governments and businesses for over 40 years. The consultancy is an operating division of Ricardo plc.

Ricardo plc is a global, world-class, multi-industry consultancy for engineering, technology, project innovation and strategy. Our people are committed to providing outstanding value through quality engineering solutions focused on high efficiency, low emission, class-leading product innovation and robust strategic implementation. With almost a century of delivering value through technology, our client list includes the world's major transportation original equipment manufacturers, supply chain organizations, energy companies, financial institutions and governments. Guided by our corporate values of respect, integrity, creativity & innovation and passion, we enable our customers to achieve sustainable growth and commercial success. For more information, visit www.ricardo.com.

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