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< Track & Infrastructure

# HIRD Group

## HIRD Group: Delivering Innovation, Sustainability and Longevity as Standard



The HIRD Group is a collection of companies delivering a wide range of sustainable and innovative solutions across the UK and European rail industry and beyond.

Comprised of HIRD Rail Services (HRS), HIRD Rail Development (HRD), Trough-Tec Systems (TTS) and HRD BV, the Group provides

market-leading solutions to the rail industry that improve efficiencies and provide longevity. Possessing specialist industry knowledge, the HIRD Group develops ground-breaking solutions from inception to installation, working closely and collaboratively with its clients from design to delivery.

Across the group we supply:

- Our range of 'STB'\* Insulated Rail Joints, supplied pre-installed
- in rail or as kits for installation at site
- Pre-curving and twisting of rail to a variety of rail profiles
- Cold Bolt Hole Expansion (CBX) kits, a preventative system to reduce rail breakages, track-related incidents and derailments
- End Post Life Enhancement kits, used for the rapid and cost-effective, in-service repair of insulated rail joints
- The PRISMA range of anti-



### Coated joints

trespass, suicide prevention systems

- Green Trough cable management and anti-slip walkway systems c/w optional handrail

#### *\*Simply the Best*

As a group and as individual companies we are consistently and constantly identifying and delivering new ways of improving our products to ensure our clients see tangible benefits across safety, efficiency and sustainability measurables. This simultaneously supports our ethos of supplying only the best products that have been developed and designed in collaboration with our customers.

One such example of this is the HRS Coated Insulated Block Joint (IBJ) the design of which includes a hard wearing, electrically resistant, durable waterproof coating capable of extending IBJ life expectancy to over 15 years. This protective coating was subject to a thorough

and extensive programme of testing that comprised:

- Extensive laboratory life-cycle testing
- Sample testing in our state-of-the-art purpose-built coating facility in Doncaster (UK)
- In-track testing on European customers' rail infrastructure

Years on we are proud of the fact that our Coated IBJs improve network reliability, adding value and reducing whole life costs for our clients, ultimately helping keep the travelling customer as safe as possible. These IBJs are installed in extremely testing environments, where product integrity and durability is crucial such as the following problem areas:

- Coastal routes exposed to saltwater
- Level crossings subjected to salt and grit spreading
- Locations such as tunnels where metal filing debris often accumulates

- Locations with high humidity

HRD has also developed an IBJ that utilises a shorter multi-groove pin assembly that improves track maintainability, enabling tamping to take place without risking damage to the point, supporting improved track quality that in turn extends joint life. These seemingly simple changes to our product design are indicative of our attention to detail, that is always driven by a desire to provide the best product that can respond to clients' needs and problems as they evolve, and always with safety and sustainability at the heart of the solution.

### Sustainability in Practice

The HIRD Group is wholly committed not only to being an exemplar for product development, but also in being as sustainable a supplier as possible. Many of our products, specifically our cable management and anti-trespass systems are manufactured



PRISMA anti-trespass pads

from recycled waste that would otherwise go to landfill.

The PRISMA anti-trespass system, manufactured from recycled aircraft tyres, is an effective solution to the problem of undesired and unauthorised rail access by trespassers, vandals, cable thieves or people who have suicidal intentions, problems which are unfortunately rife across the railway.

Aware of the environmental and financial impacts of materials-handling the design of the anti-trespass pads means that their installation is simple and cost efficient and negates the need for expensive machinery on site. Each of the panels slot together like

pieces of a jigsaw puzzle and will form a complete matrix to cover any specified area for in-track or off-track deployment. Weighing only 42kg means installations can be carried out by a two-person team without the need for lifting equipment, which is more labour-friendly as well as cost-effective.

This ease of installation is also a key feature of our cable-management and walkway systems, as detailed in this [video](#). Wherever possible we work with our clients to address direct and indirect challenges, to provide safer working conditions for our trackside colleagues, ensure the most reliable railway for our customers and uphold our commitment to sustainability throughout.

### Simply the Best

We are delighted to announce that we will be exhibiting at InnoTrans, where we will be showcasing our products and services, including the STB insulated rail joint, and demonstrating our commitment to innovation and sustainability. Come and meet us at the Hird Rail Development Stand in Hall 25, Stand 300.

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