

Release date: 12 July 2017

ANDOVER TRAILERS DESIGNS UNIQUE DRAWBAR SOLUTION FOR FM CONWAY

Infrastructure services company FM Conway has taken delivery of a specially designed centre-balanced drawbar trailer from Andover Trailers to support its growing road construction and maintenance operations.

The unique trailer has been developed by Andover Trailers to help speed up the transport of FM Conway's range of asphalt chip spreaders to site.

Built by Tex Engineering, the chip spreaders are vital to FM Conway's highway surfacing and maintenance operations. The spreaders are currently supplied with their own purpose-built trailers which, due to a lack of powered braking, cannot be used on EU roads. In an extremely inefficient and costly process, FM Conway has previously had to load and secure each chip spreader, including its trailer, on to the back of a step frame for transport to site.

John Tobin, Asset Manager at FM Conway, explains: "Moving our chip spreaders in the past has always been an arduous procedure that took up time, money and manpower. We're always looking for new ways to improve the way we work and deliver efficiencies for customers so we asked the team at Andover Trailers to help us design a more suitable solution.

"We've worked with Andover for the past 27 years so we knew that if we sent them the machine specs and challenged them to devise a more efficient means of transfer we wouldn't be disappointed. As expected, they produced the goods and we now have a safe, fast way of transporting the spreaders to site, helping us to continue delivering great projects for our clients."

Andover Trailers' design team were given the measurements for two different sized chip spreaders and access to one of the existing trailers to assist with the design

process. From there, they developed a road-legal, nine-tonne tandem-axle drawbar trailer capable of carrying either of the two chip spreader variants.

The finished product is equipped with Gigant axles on steel-spring suspension and running on 235/75 R17.5 tyres. It features a full air braking system, LED lighting and aluminium loading ramps that allow loading and unloading from either side.

The new trailer means either size of chip spreader can be now towed to site using the company's Volvo FE320 4x2 rigid. This improvement in operational efficiency translates into significant cost savings for FM Conway and its customers, as the trailer will be in regular use on projects across London and the south east.

Tobin concludes: "We've taken delivery of more than 20 trailers from Andover since we awarded them our first order in the 1990s, and currently have six of their step frames in the fleet. We know that everything they build is designed to last, and even though this is something a little different, we're certain it will still be running 10 years from now."

Based in Sevenoaks, Kent, FM Conway has more than 50 years' experience supplying the services required to keep the UK's infrastructure and public spaces operating effectively and efficiently.

ends

For information on the heavy haulage and specialist transport solutions provided by Andover Trailers, contact Andover Trailers Ltd, Unit 75, Columbus Way, Walworth Business Park, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 5NP. Tel: 01264 358 944 or e-mail: sales@andovertrailers.co.uk Website: www.andovertrailers.co.uk

Note to editor: For further press information please contact Gary Baker or James Keeler on 020 8647 4467.

About FM Conway

FM Conway is a leading infrastructure services company delivering vital services in transportation, the built environment and open spaces for communities and businesses.

FM Conway inspects, designs, builds, enhances and maintains essential infrastructure services for the community.

With more than 50 years' experience, FM Conway prides itself on being an industry leader and innovator, especially in recycling and reuse. It has its own recycling facility at Dartford and asphalt plant in Erith, with a Thames-side wharf and its own research and development laboratory. FM Conway produces asphalt with a high recycled content and low carbon footprint.

It is a member of the British Safety Council, the Civil Engineering Contractors' Association, the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Quarry Products Association, as well as being BSI registered for environmental and quality management.

For more details about FM Conway, please contact: Stephanie Byrne at Camargue on 0207 636 7366 or email: sbyrne@camargue.uk

AT/403/17