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## Testimonial: Colpatch

**Colas Limited** has a strong reputation across all aspects of the Highway and Airfields market sectors throughout the UK and our Products Division has developed an extensive portfolio of materials which are aimed at providing sustainable solutions to our customers. A key element in our success has been our continued focus on Research and Development to both improve our existing materials and to introduce new products. This has enabled us to ensure that our customers are able to benefit from a choice of the latest Highway Maintenance Solutions.

**Our Clients** are under continual financial pressures with regard to the availability of budgets to be spent on the road network in the UK and this has resulted in a significant growth in the spend on 'reactive maintenance', e.g. Patching/pothole repairs.

As a result the competition to provide the most effective solutions in this market sector has become intense and it is therefore critical that suppliers offer premium products that provide extensive 'Features and Benefits' with regard to performance of the product as opposed to solely focusing on products that are cheaper but less cost effective in the long run. Our customers in this particular market sector are looking for a 'Cold' material that will provide a long lasting repair with minimum or no wastage at a cost effective price.

The availability of MACFIX® Cold Asphalt Technology has enabled Colas to introduce, '**Colpatch**', a new product which contains enhanced properties that address these customer's requirements:

➤ **Storagability**

The extended storage life of Colpatch enables our clients to take the material into stock in a variety of ways, (loose, 1 tonne bags and 25kg bags), without the worry of wastage through the product hardening and becoming unusable. External stockpiles of Colpatch have been stored outside in the rain and snow throughout winter or summer.

➤ **Workability**

Colpatch remains workable throughout its storage life, even during winter in temperatures below freezing. The product is designed to form a protective skin which maintains the workability of the material underneath, but the skin easily re-juvenates back into the rest of product, so there is no waste.

➤ **Durability**

In spite of the extended stockability and workability the Colpatch material becomes a long lasting repair once installed into the re-instatement, again this is due to the protective skin. The material has been observed in many different situations, including heavily trafficked arterial routes where the Colpatch has remained in-situ without rutting or plucking out. We have also been observing sites that were installed up to 2 years ago and can confirm that the Colpatch is still performing up to the standard of the surrounding Asphalt.

➤ **Handle-ability**

An increasing number of our clients are now choosing to use Colpatch in bulk loads as it enables their maintenance crews to take the days requirements direct from a stockpile as opposed to a trip to the nearest Asphalt production facility to join the queues of the early morning rush. If any Colpatch is left over at the end of the day it can be used on the next Job several days, weeks or months later so there is no wastage, as in the case of the hot mix materials.

### **Testing**

After observing the performance of the product since its introduction in 2005 we decided to extract sample cores in order to measure the performance against the parameters set by the British Board of Agreement (BBA) specification for Cold Permanent Reinstatement Materials. Our investigations found cores of material that had been installed for only 18months (BBA observations are over a 2 year period) gave very good results and based on these findings Colas has decided to undertake further testing on other sites with a view to obtaining BBA certification of the product.

### **Summary**

Colas carried out laboratory evaluations of the MACFIX® technology, between April 04 and May 05, and were extremely encouraged by the results. We then took the decision to proceed with a full evaluation of the product in the field and targeted specific customers who we felt would provide a variety of tests.

The positive feedback from the field trials resulted in the commencement of a License agreement from August 2005, since this time we have carried out extensive investigations across all aspects from the production to the installation of the material and to the ongoing performance once laid.

Aberdeen City Council, where relatively severe winter conditions mean that surfacing products are placed under extreme tests, is one of a number of local authorities in Scotland to have put Colpatch through its paces before its commercial release.

Aberdeen's Road Services Manager Mike Cheyne comments as follows:

“We were looking for alternatives to an earlier material that needed dry conditions for laying and lots of compacting. We took up the offer to trail Colpatch and had it for over a year using it on pot holes in all kinds of weather. The long shelf life of Colpatch, its availability on 25kg bags or large bulk loads and the price all make it an attractive option. Colpatch works well and we are certainly happy to continue using it.”

We have received similar feedback from a number of our nationwide customers which has convinced us that Colpatch has an important place in our product range; accordingly we decided to renegotiate the period of the MACFIX® license to 7years.

**The work that has been carried out has proved to us that Colpatch has a place in the market which offers our customers a product that provides a sustainable solution to an increasing problem.**

**Sommerville Wright**  
**Business Manager - Products**