TCR UK: a busy start to the year

There has been plenty of activity at TCR, the leasing and renting specialist, as 2017 has unfolded.

To begin with, TCR UK has just passed UK network audits for the triple certification of ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001. TCR's Development Director, Nicholas Dymock, commented: "This was a big effort and sets the stage for our future development and growth, knowing that we have full compliance and well established processes and procedures that will deliver even higher standards of service to our customers."

Aside from that has been its ongoing work with London Luton airport, where the company has been involved in the implementation of phase one pooling. According to Dymock, things are on track and going well. "We are supplying two sets of steps, one beltloader and one GPU per stand, covering 30 stands, but that number is now looking to increase. It's not just the GSE, though: we've also provided all the ancillary equipment, such as PIGS, chocks and cones.

"We are now working on phase two, which will include baggage tractors, carts and dollies and possibly pushbacks: the aim is to have everything under the wing included." Luton and TCR are acutely aware of the focus this is bringing from other airports. "We are learning valuable lessons from this ground-breaking project," he admits. "A number of airports are now starting to explore the pooling concept." He adds that there will be some issues to resolve with the pushback part of the pooling concept, but hopes with the collaboration of the airport authorities, these will be solvable.

"Ultimately, pooling works on all levels. There's less equipment on the ramp, lower emissions and more efficient use of the GSE. The only main difference is in the method of billing usage."

Dymock is also keeping a watching brief on Gatwick. "We supply 97% of the GSE there and there's great interest in pooling on the part of the carriers, handlers and airport authority. There have been a couple of delay factors there recently, with handlers pulling out and terminal re-shuffling; but once things are settled for a period and the Luton pooling project has been established, things will move at a pace. It all looks very positive."

Elsewhere, Heathrow, which trialled the GSE pooling concept with TCR in Terminal 4 for towable steps, is yet to make a decision on the final choice of supplier. It's a complex scenario there, involving nine handlers, but the success of the original trial bodes well for the future.