

Smooth Travels with Delastic® Preformed Compression Seals on Spaceport America Runway

A 27-square-mile area of land in the southern part of the New Mexico is the home of the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport, Spaceport America. The state funded \$200 million spaceport will provide cutting edge facilities and a location for fledgling astronauts to realize their dreams through civilian space flight marketed by Virgin Galactic.

A key factor to the success of the airport is a runway that can support the excessive weight and abuse from both aircraft and spacecraft taking off and landing. To seal and protect the 10,000-foot-long runway from premature deterioration, Spaceport America chose D.S. Brown's Preformed Delastic Pavement Seals. D.S. Brown is a worldwide designer, manufacturer and supplier of engineered rubber, steel and concrete products in the transportation infrastructure construction market.

"Spaceport America is a unique project, and its high-performance concrete pavements need high-performance joint sealants," said Ryan Sypher, National Sales Manager, Pavement Products Division of D.S. Brown. "Space tourists may never notice the difference, but our Delastic Preformed Pavement Seals are designed to protect the concrete, even in the most demanding applications."

This is not new territory, as runways built for extreme tolerances are in use throughout the country, particularly at the Air Force bases. Preformed compression seals have previously been installed at military bases such as Edwards Air Force Base where the space shuttle lands and many millions of feet of preformed compression seal have been installed at major commercial airports and military bases prior to the installation at Spaceport America.

Molzin Corbin of Albuquerque designed the runway and specified the compression seals for the Spaceport America runways. Working with David Montoya Construction, Inc. (the concrete airfield construction contractor), and A-Core Concrete Cutting Specialists (the sawing and sealing sub-contractor), D.S. Brown supplied over 300,000 linear feet of pavement seals, which were installed through a self-propelled installation machine called a Delastall Kompressor.

The Kompressor is a self-propelled preformed compression seal installation machine. A-Core Concrete Cutting performed the installation using only one Kompressor machine. The installation occurred over several months. A-Core is an experienced contractor with the Delastic seals.

Thomas H. Lewis, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, said, "Like any critical infrastructure, Spaceport America needs a complex mix of the highest-quality components. With D.S. Brown runway seals, the owner has selected a product designed to match the overall purpose of the project: to ensure safe and uninterrupted space travel well into the future."



Delastall Kompressor Installation Machine

Spaceport America | Delastic® Preformed Compression Seals
Case Study

About The D.S. Brown Company

Founded in 1890, The D.S. Brown Company is a leading worldwide designer, supplier and manufacturer of engineered products for the bridge and highway industry. D.S. Brown's home office and manufacturing facilities are located in North Baltimore, Ohio. D.S.

Brown is fully integrated, performing and controlling all manufacturing processes internally: Research and Development; Engineering Design/CAD Detailing; Extruding, Molding, and Testing; Custom Steel Fabrication and Machining. For more information, visit D.S. Brown at www.dsbrown.com.



Spaceport's Gateway to Space Apron.*



Spaceport America Aerial View.*

*Courtesy of the New Mexico Spaceport Authority.



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