

Application of Skid Resistant Coatings Using Convergent Spray Technology

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and United Space Boosters, Inc. (USBI) have joined efforts to evaluate an automated method of applying skid resistant coatings on concrete road surfaces to restore traction to roads that have been worn smooth by traffic. This system applies a thin layer of skid resistant material in a single step without the use of solvents. Currently, skid resistant coatings require multiple steps that are applied manually. This automated method is based upon Convergent Spray Technology, a process that was developed by USBI to apply protective coatings to the Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Boosters. USBI designed and developed a prototype machine that uniformly applies the skid resistant coating. The machine deposits a resin and an aggregate to the surface in a single pass. Once the road surface has been cleaned, the coating is applied quickly and the lane can be opened to traffic in about four hours.

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