



**GROUND
PENETRATING
RADAR
SYSTEMS, INC.**

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Ground Penetrating Radar Used at the New McNamara Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport

One of the largest construction projects in the Midwest is the new \$1.2 billion, recently completed, McNamara Terminal at the Detroit Metro Airport. This terminal will serve as a hub for Northwest Airlines. For passenger convenience, a Westin Hotel is being incorporated into the main terminal building.

Pace Mechanical is the mechanical contractor for the hotel, which is due to open in September of 2002. The concrete structure utilizes post-tensioned cables for reinforcing. It is critical when making the penetrations in the floor for the various mechanical systems, that these cables are not cut. Pace Mechanical and Walbridge/Aldinger decided to use this new technology to locate the post-tensioned cables prior to drilling.



While scanning the area where a penetration is needed, the operator marks the locations of the post tensioned cables

Pace Mechanical's foreman, Mike Pummill, was amazed at the accuracy of the ground penetrating radar. He commented, **"GPRS really took a heavy burden off of our shoulders and allowed us to drill these holes with ease. Without this service we could not have drilled 125 holes without hitting any of these cables."**

If you have a project where it would be beneficial to know the exact location of the reinforcing steel or utilities prior to cutting or excavating, give Ground Penetrating Radar Systems a call. This technology may be new, but it will become a routine procedure in the near future. If you would like more information about GPRS, give Matt Aston a call or e-mail him at matt.aston@gp-radar.com. Then you can decide if this is a technology you should consider adding to your specifications.

Should You Add This New Technology to Your Specifications?



The mechanical contractor is able to drill the hole by staying away from marks which represent cables.

What is Ground Penetrating Radar?

Ground Penetrating Radar is a technology developed by geophysicists to help them locate valuable natural resources. By transmitting ultra wide band radio frequencies into the ground geophysicists are able to detect anomalies that may represent oil, natural gas and other resources without the expense of drilling. Archaeologists use ground penetrating radar to explore historical sites. Use of ground penetrating radar gives them the ability to excavate areas that show the greatest promise.

Ground Penetrating Radar is proving to be a valuable tool in commercial construction. **This technology allows the contractor to precisely locate reinforcing, electrical conduit, water and sewer lines and voids in and below a concrete slab.** The radar is much safer than x-rays and can be done in structures without disturbing the occupants.

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If you had to drill 125 holes
in a post-tension reinforced structure without hitting cables,
HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?

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