

Health Sector News

Royal opening for tertiary care facility

The Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery (KIMS), a £95 million independent hospital on a seven-acre site near Maidstone, which, it is claimed, will 'transform acute and specialist health provision in the county', has been officially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

The royal visit saw the 'independent, patient-focused, clinician-led' hospital toured by the royal party, civic dignitaries, and 'the team responsible for making it all possible'. The latter include KIMS President and marketing director, Franz Dickmann, 'the driving force' behind the KIMS, and his wife, Dr Phyllis Holt, a consultant cardiologist. The two other founders are the couple's son, KIMS development director, James Dickmann, and Steven Bernstein, a London-based solicitor instrumental in raising the funding to enable the hospital to be built.

Speaking at the opening, Dr Holt explained that, a decade ago, a group of Kent-based cardiologists had striven, unsuccessfully, to secure NHS funding for



a new Kent tertiary care centre, but, thanks to private and bank-sourced finance, and the 'buy-in' of local surgeons and clinicians, Kent's first – and currently only – such facility, had finally become a reality.

The KIMS has 74 dedicated inpatient beds, including seven chemotherapy rooms, a further 20 day care beds, seven intensive therapy unit beds, and high dependency beds. The all single-bedded hospital will provide complex procedures and acute care in areas including cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurology, neurosurgery, complex orthopaedics, and surgical oncology.

KIMS explained: "In a first for Kent, local

patients will be able to avoid lengthy journeys to London. The new hospital will have one of the UK's largest cardiology departments, and will be the county's first and only institute to carry out open-heart surgery."

The new facility was completed on time and on budget by Vinci Construction. Architects were David Morley, and M&E contractors, NG Bailey. The design team sought to give the buildings a feel that would meld well with the neighbouring fields and woodland – a theme reflected in artwork throughout the hospital, but particularly eye-catching in two full height vertical green walls on the exterior.

The imaging, cardiology, ultrasound, and critical care theatres and wards, will feature over 50 GE Healthcare-designed technologies, including a Discovery CT750HD GSI, reportedly 'the world's first high definition, low radiation' CT system; a wide bore 3 T MRI; Vscan, a 'pocket-sized ultrasound visualisation device that brings scanning to the point-of-care', and acute care equipment.

Cover Story

A 'new standard set' for operating theatre lighting

Brandon Medical says its new Quasar eLite operating theatre lighting system has been designed and built in the UK 'by a consortium of some of Britain's finest engineers and infection control specialists'.

The outcome is 'a radical improvement in the performance of surgical lighting and medical video systems'. The products feature enhanced light distribution, fully integrated HD-SDI video cameras, and 'world-class hygienic design principles'.

With medical AV now 'at the heart of the modern digital operating room', Brandon Medical has paid particular attention to video integration in the design of the new light. Quasar eLite is reportedly the first operating theatre light to incorporate full SDI High Definition cameras and zoom controls, which are fully embedded within the slim lamp head. Brandon explained:

"Mounting the cameras inside the lamp head enclosure obviates the need for excessively large handles and restricted rotations, while retaining the camera position directly above the subject.

"Quasar eLite has been designed to minimise infections, and adheres to world-class hygienic design principles." Andrew Kemp, consultant infection control nurse, commented that 'the surface of the lamp is easily the best design I have seen for cleaning'. The smooth continuous surfaces are easy to clean, with minimal split lines, while an anti-microbial agent is integrated into the light head surfaces, which are sealed to IP54 to guard against the ingress of dirt and liquids.

Quasar eLite surgical lighting also incorporates 'the next generation of HD-LED lighting technology', providing the surgeon with accurate full colour representation of anatomical structures during procedures.



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Waste management initiative's success

Liverpool's Aintree University Hospital has worked with B&M Waste Services to reduce its clinical waste output by over 28 tonnes a month, while around 300 tonnes of 'offensive' waste is collected annually and sent to landfill sites, where the methane produced is captured and re-used to generate electricity.

B&M was initially brought in to manage general waste, but its remit was soon extended to cover clinical and offensive waste segregation and disposal. It designed a bespoke waste compound, deployed the latest compactor technology, installed 450 bins, a confidential document shredding service, and dedicated battery collection and recycling, and trained over 500 domestic and clinical staff in waste segregation.

The offensive waste stream's introduction has not only reduced clinical



waste output by nearly two-thirds, but also, with the staff training, has seen general waste increase, with over 80 per cent recycled in 2013. Previously, all this waste was sent direct to landfill.

Due to segregation, and use of an on-site baler, 165 tonnes of cardboard was recycled last year, compared with none before 2011.

Flush-mounted door warning signs

Specialist in x-ray shielding products, Raybloc, has developed a new two-stage warning light for incorporation into its doors.

'For the first time ever', using flat panel LED technology, the company can flush fit illuminated signs directly into its doors, 'meaning no separate wall-mounted boxes, no room confusion, and no above door mounting'.

Raybloc said: "The lights are positioned at 'eye level', and in the door to the room that they relate to, as recommended by most Radiation Protection Advisers. They are totally flush into the surface of the door, and are sealed, maintenance-free, and guaranteed for life. Users should experience no more 'blowing' and



changing of lightbulbs. Produced using only the highest standard of components, these light units are 'built to last'. Being flush fitting, they comply perfectly with infection control protocols, and have no ledges or dust traps.

"The legends are fully customisable at the time of order, so wording, colours, text, language, and logos, can be added to suit user requirements and the application."

News in brief

Raising awareness of TR19 launch

MD of specialist ventilation cleaning services provider, InDepth Hygiene, Richard Norman, has been appointed chairman of the Building and Engineering Services Association's (B&ES) Ventilation Hygiene branch. He says: "My focus will be on raising awareness of the imminent TR19 launch to ensure that all relevant stakeholders are fully aware of the changes, and what they mean for the industry." Richard Norman was on the sub-committee that re-wrote the industry standard TR17 document to create TR19, setting out a guide to good practice around the internal cleanliness of ventilation systems.

New facility to 'support regeneration'

A new health facility for Barrow is now closer following Cumbria County Council's sale of the former Alfred Barrow School site to eLIFT Cumbria, opening the way for a new £12 million town centre NHS health centre that will 'support wider economic regeneration in Barrow', and bring up to six GP practices under one roof, alongside community health services from Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Secrets of keyless locks unlocked

CodeLocks is offering NHS estates and facilities managers the opportunity to attend a free digital lock training course to help them improve access control within healthcare buildings. Grant Macdonald, MD, said: "The course is designed to help make the most of today's keyless entry door locks. High-specification electronic locks can now perform functions only previously available in traditional access control systems. The course will explain how these products can significantly reduce the time spent managing and programming access codes."

Grundon buy broadens its services

Grundon Waste Management has acquired Arundelle, a specialist industrial services and cleaning company, in a deal Grundon says will enable it to expand its services into key areas such as confined spaces cleaning, decontamination, site decommissioning, pollution control, scheduled inspection and maintenance, and Hazpack/Hazmat spill response. Clayton Sullivan-Webb, Grundon MD, said: "The expertise and strength of Arundelle's specialist teams will enable us to widen our industrial cleaning offering, and pursue new opportunities in key sectors, such as hospitals, universities, laboratories, and factories."

Energy-saving CHP in Brussels

Dalkia has supplied the St-Anne St-Remi Hospital in Brussels with CHP to lower its utilities costs via the use of a single fuel source for electricity and hot water generation.

The system is expected to save the hospital some 370 tonnes of CO₂ annually.

Chirec operates six hospitals across Brussels and Braine. St-Anne St-Remi Hospital is the group's third site where Dalkia's CHP division, Cogenco, has



installed a CHP engine to cover the continuous demand for electricity and hot water. The 238 kWe plant uses natural gas to fire the CHP engine, recovering the waste heat emitted during the electrical generation process. The retrieved thermal energy is in turn

used to produce low-grade hot water via on-site boilers. Dalkia also provides guarantees on energy efficiency and availability as part of its service package.

Steam boilers protected

A Turbidity Monitoring System for detecting non-conductive contaminants such as fats, oils, and greases, in condensate, enabling steam system operators 'to recover substantial amounts of energy that would otherwise be lost', has been launched by Spirax Sarco, which says that, if accidentally released into condensate, such contaminants could cause a boiler to overheat, requiring a lengthy shutdown for chemical cleaning, 'or, at worst, causing boiler failure'.

The company added: "To eliminate this possibility, some operators may discard hot condensate rather than recycle it as boiler feedwater. With condensate containing around 25% of the useful energy in the original steam, recovering it can substantially reduce water, energy, effluent, and chemical treatment costs."



Comprising a turbidimeter and a converter, the Turbidity Monitoring System helps operators re-use condensate by providing real-time monitoring, raising an alert should contamination rise above a set level, and allowing the tainted condensate to be diverted to drain immediately, rather than fed into the boiler. The system can also monitor the quality of other water sources, such as mains, demineralised, and reverse osmosis supplies.

Built for the community

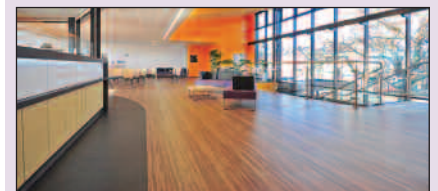
Forbo Flooring Systems' Eternal project vinyl and Surestep safety vinyl products feature within a £6 million Neighbourhood Health Centre in Anfield, Liverpool.

Considerable community involvement during the Townsend Lane development saw local people put forward their requirements, whilst being kept 'in the loop' throughout.

Architects, IBI Taylor Young, worked with the doctors on the design. Forbo's Eternal Marble and Eternal Wood were specified for corridors, staff rooms, and main patient areas. Forbo's Eternal range is R10 slip-resistant, while its PUR pearl finish 'makes the floorcovering easy to clean'. Its 'lasting performance guarantees that Eternal will stay in prime condition'.

Drawing on the natural characteristics of wood and natural material finishes, the selected products feature warm zebrano and light beech wood effects, 'blended with feather and dove shades of neutral marble-inspired design'.

Forbo's Step safety project vinyl collection was specified for the washroom areas' safety flooring.



Child safety standards for blinds

New child safety standards for internal window blinds in homes, public buildings, and commercial premises, have been welcomed by the British Blind and Shutter Association (BBSA), which says they are a result of its continued campaigning.

Nelson Watt, BBSA President, said: "Anyone involved in the design and management of buildings where internal blinds are fitted should be aware of these new requirements, and take the

necessary steps to ensure compliance."

The new standards aim to protect children via: limitations on cord and chain lengths; safety devices for preventing cords or chains from creating a hazardous loop; testing of all safety critical components of internal blinds, and complete blinds using safety devices; installation of safety devices on the product at point-of-manufacture, and the correct fitting of these blinds, and safety warnings and product instructions.

water hygiene courses

is your water safe? are you fully compliant?

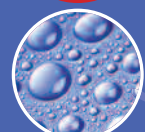
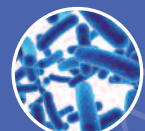
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C-TEC equipment for health centres

Two 'state-of-the-art', recently opened, NHS health centres in Colne and Great Harwood in Lancashire have been fitted with 'sophisticated life-safety equipment' from C-TEC by installation company Solid State.

After a number of setbacks due to lack of funding, construction of the multi-million pound facilities got the go-ahead last year, and now the 'supersize' medical centres, incorporating facilities ranging from doctors' surgeries to podiatry, are fully up and running.

Solid State was tasked with furnishing both with complete security systems, including stand-alone access control, anti-vandal day/night CCTV, video and audio door entry, and powerful intruder alarms. The systems at both sites are monitored remotely 24 hours a day via Solid State's NSI Gold-approved alarm receiving centre.

C-TEC's Quantec addressable call systems, disabled refuge systems, and PDA induction loop amplifiers for the hard of hearing, have been installed to provide additional assistance for the disabled, infirm, and elderly.

Nigel Thomas, Solid State's project manager, said: "As the challenge was to simultaneously complete the two installations to tight deadlines, the fact that we successfully finished both centres on time and within budget is further evidence of our excellent project management skills."



Sensory room brings smiles to children's faces

Staff members at Brian House Children's Hospice in Blackpool have seen the difference a sensory environment can make to children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions.

The Hospice provides care for children to give parents some respite, and the sensory room, from SensoryPlus, a specialist designer and installer of sensory environments, helps the children relax, play, and receive sensory therapy.

Sue Pelling, a play worker at the hospice, said: "The sensory room has brought huge smiles to the faces of the children here. We now have a water bed where the music vibrates underneath, an infinity tunnel, fibre optics, a bubble tube, and a projector with a changing colourwash. We would definitely recommend that other hospices invest in a sensory space. David Payne, the SensoryPlus product manager, and his the



team, were incredibly proactive in designing the room, and helping us choose the right equipment."

Additional corridor space is fitted with 'Zig Zag' wall panels (interactive panels which allow 'tracking of bubbles', and incorporate 'cogs' that can be manually rotated, 'inviting the swirls of water to change direction'). The panels' LED lights 'gently change colour to create an exciting sensory room addition'.

Doorsets' whole-life benefits shown

Assa Abloy says its 'robust' timber doorsets have helped to reduce maintenance and replacement expenditure at Lancashire's Royal Blackburn Hospital, delivering 'best value' over the installation's lifetime.

The hospital opened in 2006, and was supplied with over 2,200 Assa Abloy doorsets. The company said: "Since then, the site has been inundated with visitors. The doorsets were installed as part of the initial capital expenditure budget, but their ability to withstand the wear and tear of high-density through-traffic, and heavy equipment, is providing value over time."

Allan Thomson, commercial manager, Assa Abloy Security Solutions, said: "Specifiers for projects like this can no longer make large project investments without justifying the long-term cost



implications. It is important not to risk investing in a doorset offering an attractive initial saving, if the product is not fit for purpose and sufficiently durable for the application.

"Whole-life costing-wise, the general allowance for building managers to have a repair/redecoration programme is every seven years, so our doorsets' long-lasting performance is now saving this hospital money."

New operations director takes helm

Eric Wright Facilities Management (EWF), a division of the Eric Wright Group, has appointed Andrij Korolczuk as operations director, following the retirement of his predecessor, Allan Mazey.

With over 15 years' experience in bidding, mobilising, and delivering PFI and LIFT schemes for schools, courts, acute

hospitals, primary care, and the Ministry of Defence, Andrij Korolczuk will lead and strategically develop operational delivery across the division, and assist the business development team in retaining existing contracts and establishing new opportunities.

After graduating with an honours



degree in Building Services Engineering from Northumbria University, Andrij Korolczuk began his career as a design engineer for Building Design Partnership. His career 'evolved' into facilities management, where he

provided services to Ministry of Defence establishments including airfields, bunkers, and army garrisons.