

Health Sector News

London teaching hospital's integrated theatre project

Olympus Medical has partnered with one of London's busiest teaching hospitals, King's College Hospital in Denmark Hill, to deliver what is reportedly Britain's largest 3D surgical endoscopy installation.

Two new laparoscopic operating theatres have already been created via the conversion of existing facilities – featuring upgraded surgical technologies including full HD (FHD), 3D, and 4K surgical imaging platforms, and Olympus's surgical tissue management system, THUNDERBEAT. A third such theatre, specialising in liver surgery, is due for completion in September.

In October 2012 Olympus was invited by the King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to tender to provide a managed equipment service within a theatre setting. It proposed use of its Guaranteed Performance Solutions (GPS) model, via which it guarantees to ensure that the latest medical technology, within the agreement's scope, is available to clinicians precisely when required, and to maintain it 'to an appropriate level

to enhance the patient's experience'. The company added: "GPS removes the reliance on high residual values typically built into traditional leasing agreements."

In March 2015 Olympus was confirmed as the successful service-provider, and began preparing for a large-scale implementation of mobile imaging equipment and fully integrated turnkey operating theatres.

The KCH requirement was for 'a technological and financial solution' for inpatient and day surgery services operating around 2,000 procedures per month across general surgery, bariatric, liver, urology, orthopaedics, and gynaecology. Olympus supplied, installed, and will maintain, on an ongoing basis (including via the provision of a full-time on-site engineer), fully integrated laparoscopic theatres and related equipment.

Throughout, the Olympus project management team has worked closely with senior clinicians, divisional leads, procurement personnel, and the KCH Estates Department. The company said: "A critical aspect has been to ensure minimal disruption, to allow one of the



UK's busiest operating departments to continue operating seamlessly."

During the consultation phase it was vital that the design would meet the clinical and estates team's requirements. Olympus utilised 3D modelling using BIM software, Revit, and virtual reality 'head gear', to produce 'a true-scale virtual operating theatre' to aid in visualising the design of each theatre prior to construction. This allowed the project teams to adapt the theatres 'in a 3D world', rather than risking having to make potentially costly and time-consuming changes during the construction phase.

Kara Hollings, theatre service manager, King's College Hospital, said. "The introduction of this ground-breaking technology has been incredibly smooth. The delivery of efficient patient care has been maintained during the entire process, and disruption minimised."

Cover Story

Altro creates 'wow' factor at new birthing unit

A wide range of Altro flooring and hygienic wall cladding has been used to create a homely atmosphere, with a 'wow' factor, in the Meadow Birth Centre at Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester.

The centre is run by experienced midwives, and offers a comfortable environment where birth is treated as a 'normal' process. This style of birthing unit is becoming more popular throughout the UK. Those involved with the project visited other birthing units to see what was already being done successfully.

Altro's products were chosen as they fulfil the hospital's design requirements to combine original and striking aesthetics with practicality. Altro Whiterock Chameleon wall cladding was chosen to add stunning, bright blocks of high gloss

colour in birthing rooms, corridors, kitchens, and *en suite* bathrooms. These bursts of colour were used alongside Altro Whiterock White to create unusual and striking designs.

Safety flooring was a must for the unit, and Altro Aquarius – a specialist solution developed specifically for use in wet and dry areas, for shoe and barefoot use – was ideal for this environment, which sees midwives, other staff, and visitors, plus mothers, in and out of birthing pools with bare feet.

Louise Turbutt, Meadow Birth Centre midwife team leader, said: "Altro's products have been a welcome addition to our new Meadow Birth Centre; they have proved high quality, and are easy to clean. Being bright and bold, they enhance the environment of the rooms in the unit, and help achieve the look we wanted."



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Workshops to embrace topical themes

Registration is now open for a series of CPD electrical workshops being delivered by Eastwood Park this year, led by electrical trainer and hospital Authorising Engineer, Peter Handforth.

The theme for two workshops in July is *Inspection and testing of electrical installations in healthcare facilities*. The workshops, at the Airth Castle Hotel, Stirling on 5 July, and at Eastwood Park's Gloucestershire training centre on 21 July, will address the requirements of BS7671 and advice in Guidance Note 3, and provide practical guidance for projects ranging from minor work, to new installations, and the periodic inspection and testing of existing installations. Later in the year – on 10 and 22 November at Eastwood Park and Wetherby Racecourse respectively, two workshops will cover

Electrical installations in medical locations, Section 710 of BS7671. Eastwood Park is pleased to continue to be able to offer places on these events free of charge.

Meanwhile, Eastwood Park will deliver high voltage (HV) electrical training from a new dedicated electrical training facility at its training centre from September. A comprehensive portfolio of HV courses will be offered following the appointment of senior engineering and training consultant, Kevin Furey, who is leading the development and fitting out of the new training rooms, and will also lead the HV training. A member of IHEEM, IET,



Peter Handforth.

and the Engineering Council, he brings to Eastwood Park over 30 years' experience managing significant industrial, defence, and commercial projects, and working within healthcare as an Authorising Engineer. The new facility will be completed during the summer. Course information is now available on Eastwood Park's website. The HV courses available are:

Authorised Person HV HTM 06-03; Authorised Person HV HTM 06-03 refresher; Managers' awareness HV HTM 06-03; Authorised Person HV commercial, and Authorised Person HV commercial refresher.



Photo courtesy of Eyelevel Creative.

'Green light' given for Hull Integrated Care Centre

Conditional planning approval has been granted for a new £9 m Integrated Care Centre in East Hull, designed by Medical Architecture, which will support patients with long-term health conditions and illnesses associated with older age.

The ICC is part of the 'Hull 2020' vision to improve the city's future health. Commissioned by NHS Hull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and partners, Citycare and Community Health Partnerships, the centre will provide community-based assessment with supporting clinics and rehabilitation facilities. As an alternative to hospital admission, patients will be referred directly by their GP for assessment and treatment, before being supported to return home with an ongoing care plan.

The centre will also provide a small base for the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, with specially trained fire personnel supporting the rehabilitation of people in their own homes.

The design concept is for a therapeutic and welcoming heart to the building at the point of arrival, with clear wayfinding, and open and transparent views to landscape, 'designed as much for the wellbeing of patients, as it is for the staff and visitors'.

The three services of Rapid Assessment, Health Hub, and Therapies, are laid out in two main building wings linked by common and community-shared spaces.

Construction will start late this year, with a scheduled opening in March 2018.

Gerflor to 'come clean' at EHD

Being held at London's Royal College of Physicians from 27-28 June, the European Healthcare Design Congress and Exhibition promises to be 'an interdisciplinary forum for policy advisors, researchers, and practitioners'.

International flooring and interiors specialist, Gerflor, says it will be 'taking a ground-breaking approach' by not actually exhibiting products; rather it will showcase its 'specific understanding of the sector', and 'the benefits and solutions this can provide'.

Amanda Hickman, business development, said: "Contrary to the typical manufacturer's approach, we don't wish to lead with product at EHD. While very proud of the flooring solutions we have created for the healthcare sector to date, and fully committed to our future R&D, it is crucial to us as innovators to use this opportunity to engage with the delegates who will help shape our healthcare product development.

"Our congress topic for debate will be the concept of 'clean', and what it means to each individual. Whether it's the fight against infection control, the high cost of maintenance, or the effect a clean environment has on patients' experience, everyone in the sector will have something to say about how 'clean' impacts on their profession. We invite delegates to talk directly and openly with us about their problems, considerations, and ideas, on creating a 'clean' healthcare environment."

Mobile unit proves popular at paediatric facility

Over the past year, mobile fleet operator, Vanguard Healthcare, has been providing additional clinical capacity to Birmingham Children's Hospital, and both parties have acknowledged the partnership's success.

The hospital offers expert care to over 90,000 children annually. Experiencing heightened patient demand, the Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust engaged Vanguard to provide temporary facilities to allow access to treatment to continue across the board.

Vanguard Healthcare said: "The unique combination of facilities we provide is often referred to as a 'visiting hospital', due to the ability to act as a standalone treatment and recovery centre for day-case patients. Birmingham Children's Hospital elected to integrate the facility with its existing buildings via a bespoke link corridor. The eight-bed ward unit, and a laminar flow theatre, provide valuable additional day case capacity."

In the unit's single year on site the Trust has been able to offer over 1,200 young patients safe, timely treatment. The hi-tech temporary facility is expected to remain in place, just outside the hospital's main entrance, for at least another year.

Experienced AE joins Water Hygiene Centre

Bryan Hill, an Authorising Engineer (Water) for clients across Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the North of England, with a wealth of professional knowledge and experience in water systems, and over 10 years' experience in Legionellosis and water hygiene risk management, has joined the Water Hygiene Centre.



A member of the Royal Society of Public Health, the Chartered Institute of Plumbing,

Heating & Engineering, the Water Management Society, and IHEEM, who is currently undergoing the application process for the new IHEEM AE (Water) Register, his experience includes acting as an Authorising Engineer (Water), incident investigation, identifying cross-contamination from recycled water and drinking outlets, and independently auditing water safety policies for a variety of organisations throughout the UK.

Barcode scanning 'app' released for hospitals

Ingenica Mobility, a real-time barcode scanning 'app' for use by clinicians recently launched by Ingenica Solutions, is claimed to be the first application in the healthcare market designed on an Android platform for the Zebra MC18 mobility device, and enables the track and trace of inventory 'to patient level' in hospitals.

The application enables clinicians to remove and return items, and record wastage, with the added functionality of being able to track items to a patient, case, surgical team, perioperative team,

or even procedure. Ingenica Mobility meets government requirements including the eProcurement Strategy and GS1 standards, and should, Ingenica Solutions maintains, facilitate greater stock visibility and control, in turn improving productivity and operational efficiencies, and helping hospitals to reduce costs and wastage.

Ingenica Mobility is designed to work with Atticus, the first GS1-certified solution developed specifically for the healthcare sector, described as 'a future-proof, fully cloud-enabled, end-to-end inventory management solution'.

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Compass aims to boost female chef numbers

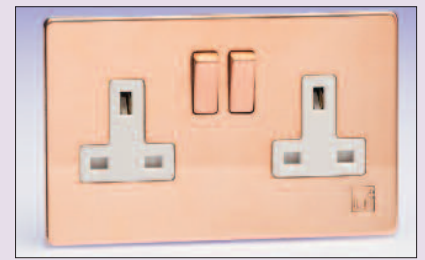
Compass Group UK & Ireland says it is 'the first company in the industry looking to tackle the shortage in female chefs' – through the launch of its 'Women in Food' Programme – and has committed to have female chefs form 50% of its workforce by 2020.

With approximately 60,000 employees overall, the food services firm currently employs 4,393 chefs, of which 35% are female; this 'already exceeds the industry average of 18.5%'.

The company said: "Inflexible and long working hours in the traditional restaurant sector have made it a challenging career choice for women wishing to juggle a family life. However, contract catering offers an alternative, with the ability to work shifts in a variety of fields, from healthcare to business."

Compass says it will make an investment in learning and development for female chefs that currently work for it, and new recruits. It will also be reviewing working practices, to identify areas where shift work and flexible working hours can be introduced, and further enhanced opportunities for development – 'from entry level through to senior roles'.

To launch the 'Women in Food' initiative, the company hosted an event on 19 April in London which was attended by senior female chefs from within and outside the company. Key speakers included leading female chefs, Sabrina Ghayour, Prue Leith, and Emily Roux, pictured left to right, centre, with Dennis Hogan, MD, Compass Group UK & Ireland, and, far right, Fiona Ryland, HR director.



Antimicrobial light switches launched

Screwfix – the multi-channel supplier of trade tools, accessories, and hardware – has launched a range of antimicrobial copper light switches and sockets from award-winning British manufacturer Varilight, 'making this innovative technology available over the counter, or deliverable within 24 hours, for the first time'.

The switches are made from solid copper, combining its aesthetic appeal with 'inherent hygienic qualities'. Copper rapidly destroys germs that can be picked up, unseen, from frequently touched surfaces. These include hospital 'superbugs', such as MRSA, and viruses including influenza and norovirus.

Established in 1972, electrical wiring accessory and dimmer switch manufacturer, Doyle & Tratt Products – better known by its brand name, Varilight – has twice received the Queen's Award for Enterprise, most recently in 2016.



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Code to boost heat pump technology uptake

A new Code of Practice for surface water source heat pumps has been launched by CIBSE, in a bid to help the UK meet targets to reduce its carbon emissions.

Produced in association with the Heat Pump Association (HPA) and the Ground Source Heat Pump Association (GSHPA), it is reportedly the first such Code relating to surface water source heat pumps, and aims to promote the use of the technology in UK buildings, which CIBSE says 'has historically suffered by being less well known than ground and air source alternatives'.

CIBSE added: "The Government has

identified surface water source heat pumps as a key part of its strategy to cut the amount of energy the nation uses by 80% by the year 2050. Heating accounts for a large proportion of the energy used by buildings, so the Code is a vital step in establishing this underused technology as a major tool in combating climate change."

CIBSE has also released a new version of the weather data used by building designers in their calculation of heating and cooling requirements for buildings. The datasets provide climate information for building simulation software which is then used to demonstrate compliance



with UK Building Regulations. Produced in association with the Met Office, the datasets are based on historical data collected from 14 sites around the UK since the early 1980s.

Addressing the capital's water issues

A new independent consulting practice specialising in water quality in the built environment of London has been established by Dr Nick Hill BSc MSc MBA (Oxon) PhD DIC CBiol MSB FIHEEM (see also pages 29-35), chair of IHEEM's Water Technical Platform.

Water Quality London will serve those with interests in the major property portfolios of the capital, whether public or private, 'wherever possible with simplicity, clarity, independence, brevity, defensibility and efficiency'. Dr Hill said: "Our purpose is to provide ideas and answers, based on risk and cost, for the effective, efficient management of water quality within buildings. The debunking of myths is particularly important."

'Awkward questions' from clients that Dr Hill has resolved include:

"We've got black blobs/brown string/feathers coming out of our taps. Why? What shall we do?"

"Our laboratory results show *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* counts so high that we must shut down the unit, but our client's laboratory reports are negative. Who is correct?"

Water Quality London will offer Authorising Engineer (Water), auditing, cooling tower risk assessments, water safety plans, troubleshooting, and expert witness and training services.

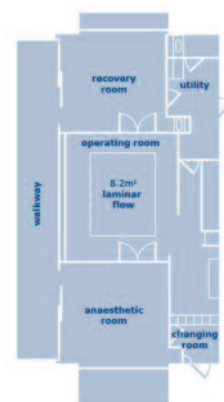


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