

Health Sector News

Welsh mortuary's award-winning design

Off-site and system building solutions specialist, MTX Contracts, has completed a new £2.2 million 'state-of-the-art' modular mortuary facility at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in North Wales.

Having been contracted to design and build the new standalone, 550 m² modular facility, MTX began work on site last June in a scheduled 28-week building programme, but handed over the building to the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board earlier than planned, in December, 'well within budget'.

An attractive building, the new mortuary is externally finished with bespoke coloured spandrel panels and a Kingspan micro-ribbed cladding system, providing a clinical, modern look, while remaining sympathetic with the building's purpose. Built to achieve a BREEAM 'very good' rating, the mortuary also features a louvered screen wall along the first floor roofline, with a matching Kingspan parapet that effectively hides the external plant area without screening it off entirely. Rooftop-



mounted solar PV panels supply some of the department's energy requirements.

Incorporated within are a post-mortem room, body fridges, offices, changing rooms, and a viewing room and observation area, all serviced by a dedicated first floor plant room.

Local Building Control has recognised the building's quality and finish by awarding it 'Winner of the Denbighshire County Council Building Control Building Excellence Award 2013 in the Best Healthcare/Community project category', and has now nominated it for the National Award for 'North Wales Building Excellence 2013', to be announced later this year.

Working for the main contractor, Laing

O'Rourke, MTX has, over the past year, been awarded a number of projects at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, as part of the Health Board's £90 m refurbishment and remodelling of the hospital, expected to be completed by 2018. In the spring of 2012, MTX completed a suite of five new 'modern and future-proofed' operating theatres there (*HEJ* – August 2012).

While the multi-phase broader refurbishment project was primarily initiated to remove asbestos from older parts of the hospital, the Health Board has taken the opportunity to refurbish many other areas, including the operating theatres, the mortuary, and the Pathology and A&E Departments.

MTX project manager, Scott McCaskie, said: "We always enjoy working with Laing O'Rourke. The project team worked really well together, and the Trust was very proactive in ensuring any issues were ironed out easily, and without delay. The building, on a green belt site at the rear of the hospital grounds, was highly specified, both internally and externally."

Cover Story

Bio-decontamination with '24/7 peace of mind'

Howorth Air Technology has formed a new division – Howorth Bio Technology – to service 'ever-increasing market demands for effective, safe, state-of-the-art, vapour phase fumigation systems', whether for controlling healthcare-associated infections, or eradicating microorganisms.

Under the registered product brand name BioGen, the division will supply DVHP (Dry Vapourised Hydrogen Peroxide) systems and decontamination equipment to the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, and develop such systems for the life sciences, veterinary, and food processing and manufacturing markets.

All BioGen's new 'family' of DVHP standard model generators are designed around patent pending, 'unique' hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) technology. Howorth says: "This highly successful technology has been developed over

many years, and is applicable in both pre-occupational decontamination and service, and to equipment supply projects."

Howorth offers the systems both on a direct sale basis, or as a service provided by its own engineers, either on an individual job basis, or via renewable service contracts. The company added: "All validated results – confirmed via biological indicators – prove that Howorth's BioGen DVHP vapour phase fumigation systems are an effective bactericide, virucide, and sporicide, and are biodegradable, leaving no residue."

A 'unique' function of the system is its real-time cycle monitoring, with the results displayed and downloadable immediately to a PC or on-site BMS 'to give immediate customer confidence that the decontamination cycle has been effective'. BioGen DVHP generators are 'simple and flexible', have no moving parts,



are easy to operate and maintain, and 'extremely competitively priced'.

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Improving facilities, changing attitudes



Dave McKenna

With a high quality treatment environment acknowledged to significantly speed the recovery of those suffering from mental illness, and the Government recognising the need to update older, outdated facilities, May's Design in Mental Health Conference and Exhibition, at Birmingham's National Motorcycle Museum (*HEJ* – February 2013) is, organiser, Step Exhibitions says, 'designed for everyone with an interest in mental health – from the professionals involved in creating, maintaining, and delivering mental healthcare facilities, to clinical staff, service users, and carers'.

James Lee, event director, said: "The event, taking place from 14-15 May, is a unique opportunity to share and explore ideas and insights, learn from others, and join the debate on how facilities can be made more welcoming and therapeutic without compromising safety and security. Alongside the conference, visitors will be able to see and discuss the latest products for the sector in the accompanying exhibition. Improving the nation's mental healthcare facilities will not only boost recovery rates; it will also help change attitudes to such facilities and those who

use them, in turn helping to remove the stigma and discrimination still so often associated with mental health problems."

Conference speakers already signed up include:

- Dave McKenna, acting director of Security, Mersey Care NHS Trust. (including Ashworth Hospital, pictured)
- Warren Irving, Chief Operating Officer, St Andrew's Healthcare.
- Sarah Waller CBE, programme director, Enhancing the Healing Environment, The King's Fund.
- Alice Liang, principal, Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc (Canada).
- Gary Barnes, senior director, Kier Health.
- Paul Tarbuck, deputy head of Healthcare Inspection, HM Inspectorate of Prisons.
- Carol Ann Bristow, project lead for Service User Involvement, Lancashire Care NHS Trust.

Until 31 March delegates can benefit from the 'early bird' conference rates of £140 for those in the private sector, and £85 for public sector employees (to include catering and exhibition access). To book, visit www.designinmentalhealth.com

Water hygiene training

Eastwood Park has 'refreshed' its water hygiene course portfolio to deliver 'a more clearly defined and concise learning opportunity', to equip healthcare estates teams with practical workplace skills in a shorter timeframe.

Two new shorter three-day courses have been introduced to meet the individual requirements of the Responsible and Authorised Person, and of the Competent Person:

- Practical water hygiene compliance – Authorised and Responsible Person, and
- Maintaining safe water systems – Competent Person.

Both are City & Guilds accredited, and based around the core requirements of the HSE's Approved Code of Practice, L8, and HTM04-01.

Eastwood Park's courses focus both on *Legionella*, and emerging threats such as *Pseudomonas*. Among Eastwood Park's tutors are health and safety risk management expert Alan Hambidge, who specialises in legionellosis and water hygiene, and renowned water safety expert and ex-HSE inspector, David Harper.

Alan Hambidge emphasised: "We will be equipping staff with an essential skill set applicable both to those working in a healthcare estates environment, and craftsmen or trades personnel responsible for general water systems."

The new courses complement Eastwood Park's existing one-day courses covering 'Water supply (water fittings) regulations'; Disinfection of water systems; Cooling towers, and Water hygiene governance (for duty holders and senior management).

NHS Protect welcomes new dog law

Changes to the Dogs Act 1871 lobbied for by NHS Protect will give greater legal protection to healthcare staff facing dangerous dogs on private property.

NHS Protect says the extension of current legislation on dog attacks in public places to cover private properties is essential to protect NHS workers caring for patients in the community. The organisation said: "Current laws do

not offer sufficient legal protection to medical professionals and other legitimate visitors to private residences, if injured on the premises by a dog."

The changes mean that dog owners will be held to account for the behaviour of their pets. All dogs will also need to be micro-chipped from 6 April 2016, making the task of finding the owners of dangerous dogs easier.

Energy-efficient relaxing images

Wardray Premise says it can offer 'a fantastic range of images' in its Relax & View image collection via backlit wall and ceiling units lit by energy-efficient, low maintenance, flicker-free LEDs.

Customers can choose an image configured for single or multiple wall panels. A single wall panel can be produced up to 1,000 x 3,000 mm, with a curved silver anodised frame, for maximum impact. Alternatively, multiple smaller wall panels can combine for a window effect, covering an area of 1,562 x 3,208 mm.

Ceiling images are configured to fit into standard suspended ceiling tile dimensions. A maximum of 16 tiles can be combined to cover a 2,380 x 2,380 mm area, or a simple design of just three ceiling panels can 'dramatically improve a patient's view when lying in a hospital bed or recovery area'.

The Relax & View image collection was originally developed to help calm and relax



patients undergoing MRI scans. The units are reportedly 'easy to install', lightweight, and 'ultra slim', while replacement images can easily be produced on backlight film and installed in existing boxes to refresh a room's décor.

Wardray Premise added: "Alongside displaying photographs and child-friendly images,

the lightboxes can be used to improve signage, patient information, and corporate branding."

Wandsworth's move and £7m expansion

Wandsworth Group, reportedly the UK's oldest independent manufacturer of wiring accessories and call systems, has moved to new, 40,000 ft² custom-specified headquarters in its 'home town' of Woking.



Based at its previous Woking premises, housing all manufacturing, back office, and distribution facilities, for the past 60 years, it says the move – to a modern site on the Woking Business Park – will enable it to modernise its manufacturing facilities and create further growth capacity. All manufacturing, product development, and office-based functions will move across to the new site, which will be equipped with new 'lean production' and assembly lines, machinery, and office equipment, this month.

The move was made possible by the sale of Wandsworth's existing premises to a local authority/private developer consortium for redevelopment as a supermarket, allowing the company to lease a more 'fit-for-purpose' site while remaining in Woking.

Wandsworth has also announced 'a significant strategic investment programme' to enable further expansion, following a £7 million cash injection, which it says will help it maximise the benefits of its new headquarters and production plant, facilitate new product development across its wiring accessories and healthcare technology business, and help drive international expansion and acquisition opportunities.

Sealing the gap with EcoGuard

Performance doorset manufacturer, Leaderflush Shapland, can now offer 'a highly effective' intumescent seal option for doors – EcoGuard – that provides up to 30 and 60 minutes of fire resistance, and allows 'an extremely clean and simple installation'.



The new 'wedge-shaped' seal is designed for application between the gaps of a door frame and surrounding wall during installation, 'for a more precise, dry fit'. The wedge shape accommodates varying gap widths around the perimeter, while its compressible nature ensures an appropriate friction fit.

The company said: "EcoGuard offers contractors and installers accurate, even coverage around the frame perimeter, without the need for tubes of intumescent mastic." EcoGuard 30 and 60 have already been used successfully at Glasgow's Southern General Hospital, where Leaderflush Shapland is supplying some 7,600 doorsets.

The product, and especially its intumescent properties, are 'backed up' by rigorous testing in accordance with British Standard BS476 part 22.

Stephen Hutsby, new product development manager, added: "Fire doors are highly effective in retaining fire for a specified time, but the areas around the frame's perimeter must also be considered. Fire will penetrate any gap, and it is thus crucial that this area be effectively sealed."

Help with choosing the right IPS system



A planning tool designed to help customers find the right IPS system for their medical location has been launched by Brandon Medical in partnership with Esa Grimma, a 'specialist in secure, efficient, electrical distribution and control'.

An IPS (Isolated Power Supply) unit's function is to supply medical electrical life support equipment in classified Group 2 medical locations. The IPS outgoing electrical circuits are constantly monitored for short circuits or earth leakage faults, with faults resulting in an audible/visual alarm to enable remedial action before any unexpected loss of electrical power supply.

Brandon has worked with customers

including consulting engineers, estates managers, and mechanical and electrical engineers, to develop the planning tool, which can be used to determine the number, size, and versions, of the IPS system distribution boards for ICU units and operating theatres, and will automatically generate drawings and specifications.

The company, which can supply a wide range of 'bespoke IPS solutions' for critical care/life support equipment, says it can design and install medical electrical devices and systems in full compliance with MEIGaN.

Aiming for better patient nutrition

The National Association of Care Catering (NACC) and the Hospital Caterers Association (HCA) are promoting the introduction of 'Nutrition Advocates' to help raise awareness of the importance of nutrition in all UK social and health care settings.

They say the Nutrition Advocates programme will improve nutrition and hydration care, and the eating and feeding practices in adult social care settings. They explained: "Nutrition Advocates will maintain the emphasis on good nutrition on the frontline, overseeing the introduction and embedding of best practices. They will

provide the focal point of contact, reference, and action, within a unit or team."

The aim is that the role be taken on voluntarily by a team member with a keen interest in food and nutrition who is in a position to bring about change, and can commit time to leading the nutrition project, and attending training and project meetings.

The introduction of Nutrition Advocates supports the aims of the NACC/HCA Nutrition Day 2013 on 20 March – 'to increase awareness among health and social care professionals of the fundamental role that food plays in any health or social care package'.

£19 m hospital refurbishment

Cossham Memorial Hospital in Kingswood, Bristol, has re-opened to patients following an extensive £19 m refurbishment by NHS South Gloucestershire.

The building has new, modern, and fully accessible facilities from which double the amount of outpatient appointments can be delivered, meaning that many local people will no longer have to travel to an acute hospital to see their consultant.

Capita Symonds provided project management and design team services on a refurbishment scheme that has seen many of the original features, from a building that first opened in 1907, retained. Key new departments include the area's first stand-alone, midwife-led birth centre, and a new renal dialysis unit,

which opened in October 2012.

The hospital will also have enhanced X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, and CT scanning facilities, and will be able to offer twice as many physiotherapy appointments. The Cossham Dialysis Unit has the capacity to provide care for 96 patients, with 24 dialysis stations.



News in brief

Bender UK rewarded for good health and safety practice

Electrical safety specialist, Bender UK, is celebrating achieving what it says is the flagship standard for occupational health and safety best practice at its headquarters in Ulverston in Cumbria, which houses product testing facilities, and delivers sales, service, project management, and technical support. Bender UK has achieved OHSAS 18001 after 'six months of intensive activity driven by a determination to have the new standard in place for the start of 2013'.

Improving response to patient calls

Static Systems Group's latest nurse call 'app' harnesses recent advances in VoIP technology to enhance patient-to-staff communication and improve staff efficiency in healthcare establishments. Using industry standard SIP and RTP protocols, the addition of the Fusion-IP VoIP speech 'app' enables routing of calls on the nurse call system to wireless handsets, meaning mobile medical staff can answer patient calls immediately via their personal handsets, and then either deal with patients immediately, or grade the call dependent on its urgency.

'Sales partnership' for Maquet and Aesculap

Specialist in the integration of operating theatre equipment, Maquet, and Aesculap, which manufactures products ranging from surgical instruments and endoscopic systems to suture material, implants, and sterile containers, have announced a 'sales partnership' via which they will jointly offer 'comprehensive OR integration solutions for endoscopy'. Maquet said: "In today's complex ORs, surgical teams work with equipment from a wide variety of manufacturers, all of which needs to be independently controlled and operated."

OCS wins £13 m contract extension

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, which has worked with the company since 2006, has extended by two years its relationship with international 'total facilities management provider', OCS. The new contract, valued at over £13 m, will run from May 2013 to May 2015, and includes catering, cleaning, portering, switchboard, reception, security, and washroom services. OCS now serves 60 Trust sites – from health centres and clinics to inpatient facilities.

Frieze brightens up 'daunting' corridor

An engaging new wall within the children's emergency department at St George's Hospital, Tooting, has brightened up a long corridor previously painted white that families and children had found 'daunting'.



London-based artist, Donna Wilson, who created the 'Friendly Forest' frieze, said: "The work needed to be uplifting for kids of all ages. We lined the wall with curious-looking trees, in which various creatures – a smiling cat, a family of hand-drawn koalas, a lime green snail, and even a bear in boots – live. We wanted to bring smiles to faces passing through the corridor in often stressful circumstances."

The initiative was led by Belinda Harward, arts director at St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, and funded by Arts St George's, who are supported by St George's Hospital Charity. She said: "Over 37,000 children attend the emergency department every year. Many are agitated, and find it difficult to concentrate on anything for long, and, because the youngest children cannot explain their symptoms, parents will also be anxious."

Bradford-based New Vision Signs & Graphics, which worked on a similar project at Bradford Royal Infirmary last year to redevelop two wards utilising design and artwork to improve the environment for acute elderly care patients, supplied and installed the precision cut self-adhesive vinyl. Experience dictated that the wall artwork be mounted on coloured vinyl, a medium already approved for cleaning, infection control, and building maintenance.

Furnished in style

Seating and tables from Knightsbridge Furniture's specialist Challenging Behaviour Collection have been specified for the Redwoods Centre in Shrewsbury (*HEJ* – October 2012), a £46 m inpatient mental health facility recently opened by South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

Replacing the 'old' Shelton Hospital, the 'village-style' Redwoods Centre comprises seven wards offering 112 beds for adult mental health patients.

Furniture in day rooms, lounges, dining areas, and bedrooms, is all from the Challenging Behaviour Collection, which comprises upholstered seating, stacking chairs, and foam block 'soft' seating, tables, and cabinet units, all designed to be 'safe and robust, and yet stylish'.

"The furniture's quality is excellent, and it has been well-received by service users, staff, and managers," explained Margaret Hughes, operational commissioning manager, The Redwoods Centre. "It meets all the service users' varying needs, yet there is no feel of being in an institution."



Knightsbridge presented a diversity of product options, staging an open day to enable staff and service users to view the proposed furniture, colours, and fabrics.

Milestone reached at new £85 million Kent hospital

The Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery (KIMS), an £85 m new hospital which the developers say will 'transform acute and specialist health provision in the county', had its 'topping out' on 11 February.

The ceremony marked completion of the external structural work of the first phase of what will reportedly be Kent's only private and NHS tertiary care centre, by VINCI Construction UK, the contractors building the facility, located on a seven acre site on the outskirts of Maidstone.

The management and clinicians from KIMS, led by chairman, Steven Bernstein, clinical director, Chris Thom, and clinical chairman, Tony Hammond, and Dan Hollis, regional commercial manager from VINCI Construction UK, welcomed over 80 guests. When the hospital's first phase is completed, patients will have access to

over 300 clinicians, with over 400 people expected to be employed there by late 2014.

KIMS will provide advanced and specialist healthcare, including complex procedures and acute care in areas such as cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, complex orthopaedics, and surgical oncology, also providing Kent's only cardiothoracic and neurosurgery tertiary care beds.



ThermaFrame 'anticipates future standards'



Knauf Facades' new ThermaFrame system is designed 'to meet the thermal requirements of any construction by greatly reducing thermal transfer through the wall, and removing the need for external insulation', making U-values as low as 0.15 W/m²K 'easily achievable'.

ThermaFrame was developed to 'anticipate the future requirements of the Code for Sustainable Homes, and current Building Regulations and Technical Handbooks'. "In many cases," the company explains, "ThermaFrame can also reduce the thickness of the overall solution, thus increasing internal space." By using Knauf's own 'innovative thermal stud', ThermaFrame offers 'a cost-effective cold frame solution that places the insulation between the vertical studs'.

The system is complemented by a 'One System Warranty'; the Knauf full System Material Warranty covers the complete solution for the building's design life.

All Knauf Exterior Wall systems have been tested for their structural, thermal, fire, and acoustic performance, in collaboration with UKAS laboratories and 'industry-leading' consultants.

'Seasonal commissioning' guide

BSRIA has launched a new guide (BB 44/2013, ISBN 9780860227182) to 'seasonal commissioning'.

The consultancy, test, instruments, and research association for the building services sector, said: "The concept of seasonal commissioning recognises that some aspects of the systems need to be commissioned when the external temperatures and indoor occupancy patterns are close to the peak conditions for which the system was designed. For

most of the time, however, most systems are operating at part load, and it is important to establish that they also operate correctly under those conditions."

The new guide 'defines what seasonal commissioning is, and the reasons for carrying it out', explains which tasks and activities fall under its scope, and discusses the requirements for such commissioning within various environmental assessment tools, such as BREEAM and LEED.

Mace hands over burns unit

Mace has handed over the first phase of a proposed 10 at London's Chelsea & Westminster Hospital to the Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust.

Delivered under the iESE (Improvement and Efficiency South East) Framework, the £1.7 m phase entailed the complete strip-out, and a total re-fit, of the first floor Chelsea Children's Hospital to create a new children's burns unit. The Trust is one of the UK's leading burns care providers, offering specialist inpatient and outpatient burns services to a population across Greater London and south-east England. The specialist service had been hindered by space constraints, another continuing concern being the co-location of paediatric burns care in an adult environment, contrary to national guidelines.

The new paediatric unit provides separate paediatric care; inpatient and outpatient therapy and dressing changes, as well as sufficient bed space capacity to meet the catchment area's demands.

Antimicrobial copper's 'halo effect' proven

In a claimed world first, it has been reported that 'antimicrobial copper' surfaces in a Greek hospital ICU have not only reduced contamination but, due to a 'halo effect', have also lowered contamination on adjacent surfaces.

The Copper Development Association says the results from a clinical trial of antimicrobial copper touch surfaces in a neonatal ICU at Aghia Sofia Children's Hospital in Athens showed that, alongside contamination being 90% lower on the copper surfaces, non-copper surfaces up to 50 cm away exhibited a reduction in contamination of over 70% (compared with surfaces not in copper's proximity).

In the trial, frequently touched surfaces such as door furniture, work surfaces, drawer tops, and handles, were replaced with antimicrobial copper items.

The 'evidence' of antimicrobial copper's positive effect accords with the findings of previous clinical trials in the UK, US, and Chile. The 'halo effect' was also observed in a 2010 trial at a US outpatient clinic, but the CDA says this is the first time it has been seen in an intensive care unit.

