

'Highest infection control standards' met

Installation of 'one of the world's most advanced' laminar clean airflow canopies has helped an operating theatre at a multi-million pound healthcare facility 'meet the highest industry standards for infection control'.

Bender UK supplied, installed, and commissioned the operating theatre clinical resource on the Cheshire/Merseyside border, owned and operated by Pall Mall Medical.

The main operating theatre presented a significant challenge due to restricted space, but an Admecco advanced performance canopy enabled Bender to optimise clean airflow to achieve the highest NHS standard and UK HTM 03-01A criteria.



Admecco canopies offer 'high performance and low noise levels' from the integral fans, and the model chosen incorporates a media bridge which replaces conventional services pendants. Differential distributors (laminisers) allow a targeted accelerated airflow in a defined zone of the outlet field.

Barrier washers' vital role

With soiled laundry in healthcare facilities potentially a source of infection spread, and, the company claims, 'many nosocomial infections traceable back to poor hygiene standards in the processing of contaminated laundry', Miele Professional's PW 6163, PW 6243, and PW 6323 barrier machines reportedly 'provide the ideal solution' for processing soiled and potentially infected laundry.



and dirty sides of the laundry, Miele Professional says barrier washers 'contribute to laundry room hygiene in several ways'. It added: "Safe thermal disinfection depends on meeting precise temperature and holding time criteria. With chemo-thermal disinfection, laundry should be processed at between 30 and 70°C using temperature holding times of 10-20 minutes, and the addition of chemical disinfection agents."

The Profitronic M controls on the Miele washer-extractors control temperature and holding times precisely to comply with the required standards. Miele Professional barrier washers have special hygiene programme packages – thermal disinfection, chemo-thermal disinfection, and incontinence / soiled laundry, and are available in 16 kg, 24 kg, and 32 kg load capacities.

The company said: "These high-throughput barrier machines with 160-320 litre drum capacities offer care and retirement homes and hospitals optimum physical separation between the unclean and clean sides, and are also suitable for other situations where hygienic processing of laundry is paramount.

Aside from the ability to separate clean

Copper ironmongery for new cancer centre

The recently opened Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre in Harrogate – a newly-built cancer support and information centre (*HEJ* – January 2015) – features antimicrobial copper touch surfaces.

The centre was designed by IBI Group, and, constructed by Sir Robert McAlpine.

To reduce the risk of infections spreading between patients, staff, and visitors, the IBI Group singled out some of the most frequently touched surfaces for special consideration. Door furniture was the first surface targeted.

Allgood supplied its Contego antimicrobial copper lever handles, push plates, pull handles, WC turns, and escutcheons. Made from a copper alloy, benefiting from the metal's inherent ability to rapidly kill bacteria and viruses on contact, Contego items 'have the aesthetic of stainless steel', meaning they also complement the surrounding, non-touch items such as signage, door closers, and kick plates.

'Easy-flush' shower's time and labour savings

Bristan's new Opac bar shower – 'designed to aid commercial users in the complex task of ensuring optimum water temperature and infection control' – features inbuilt TMV 3 control, and an automatic thermostatic shut-off, in the event of hot or cold water supply failure.

As 'the overriding feature', however, a simple isolation and hot flush mechanism means maintenance personnel need only turn the two valves on the rear of the shower body to get inside, eliminating the need for additional flushing equipment.

Bristan said: "A typical hot water flush can take anywhere up to an hour to complete with a traditional shower set-up, whereas with the Opac the process can be completed in just 10 minutes."

The Opac bar shower features separate controls for timer and flow, with lever handles, making it 'incredibly easy to operate', and is fully 'cool touch', so never gets hotter than the mixed water temperature.

Rapid elimination of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and spores

Howorth's Biotechnology Division provides 'a range of equipment that addresses ever-increasing market demands for effective, safe, state-of-the-art patient protection systems'.

The company said: "The BioGen DVHP (Dry Vaporised Hydrogen Peroxide) range of products (see photo), and the BioSphere Total Containment Protection System, form part of the Howorth portfolio of equipment and services that are extremely well-established in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors.



"BioGen DVHP decontamination is an effective bactericide, fungicide, virucide, and sporicide that provides up to and including a 6 log (106) kill against pathogens such as MRSA and *C. difficile*."

BioSphere, meanwhile, is 'a quick and simple containment solution that provides aesthetic, robust, and highly capable pathogen containment to hospitals and treatment facilities'. "Hospitals can safely contain HCAs, and provide absolute biological decontamination, in just 24 hours," Howorth explained.

Conference in Coventry will address key sterilisation standard

A conference aimed at educating medical device manufacturing companies on changes that have been made to a key sterilisation standard – ISO 11135:2014 – will be held at the Heart of England Conference Centre in Coventry on 4 March this year.

Synergy Health, a global supplier of sterilisation solutions to the medical device and healthcare industries, will host the event, which will focus on a key sterilisation method – Ethylene Oxide (EO).

It explained: "As one of the principal methods of sterilisation, EO is often associated with complex regulatory and

environmental constraints. The conference will a look at changes that have come into force affecting its use, including revised definitions and new requirements. Delegates will get an overview of the changes, covering top priorities, responsibilities, and new validation requirements that medical device manufacturers must execute to ensure full compliance by July 2017."

Featuring presentations from industry experts, the conference will also include afternoon workshops and practical demonstrations.

For further information on the event visit: <http://tinyurl.com/pfvb9xb>



Benchmarking milestone for i-Clean

Independent benchmarking specialist, i-Clean, which has worked with a number of high profile NHS Trusts and providers, and helps clients, cleaning contractors, and in-house cleaning teams, achieve and demonstrate efficiency and best value for money through independent benchmarking, has announced that it has now benchmarked in excess of 200 separate providers across '5,000 plus' commercial client sites to a service value of £250 million. According to the company's last 10 mixed provision reviews, i-Clean identifies, on average, 27.5% in efficiency improvements.

Mike Boxall, managing director, said: "We look forward to working with many more Trusts and providers as the need to balance cost improvement targets and robust infection prevention becomes ever more challenging."

Hand-held germicidal UV lamp

UV Light Technology says its new, high intensity UV 400W hand lamp will kill viruses or bacteria, including Ebola, 'in seconds' without the need for chemicals.

The company explained: "This hand-held UV germicidal light is ideal for mobile, rapid disinfection of surfaces and air. It can achieve 99% reduction of the Ebola virus in five seconds over a surface area of 500 mm x 500 mm. This enables large areas to be decontaminated by slow scanning movements of the UV light beam, resulting in significantly reduced risk of cross-transmission of Ebola infection.

MD, Paul Jackson, added: "Our UV 400W germicidal hand lamp can be used as a standalone solution, or with current cleaning methods, to further reduce infection risk".

