

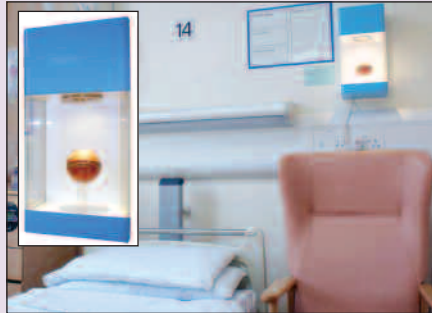
# Health Service News

## Memory boxes make an impact

**A £450,000-plus healthcare project, reportedly England's largest of its kind, at Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI), has improved the hospital environment for acute elderly care patients suffering from dementia.**

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has redeveloped Wards 23 and 29 at BRI through a six-month refurbishment scheme that attracted £50,000 in funding from The King's Fund's Enhancing the Healing Environment (EHE) programme (see also pages 63-66), a matching Department of Health contribution, and a £15,000 'top-up commitment' from the Trust itself.

The project brief was to look at how design and artwork could influence patient behaviour and improve the patient and staff environment. Special 'memory boxes', into which patients can place easily recognisable and memorable personal objects, alongside a descriptive caption, have been put by each bed. These have both helped them find their way back to their beds, and doubled as nostalgic 'triggers', by



helping them reminisce about their past.

In addition, oversized Kodak-style slide frames, backlit with LED lighting, feature interchangeable images provided by The Yorkshire Film Archive, based at York University. They include bygone scenes of Bradford and Yorkshire folk. The images came from entrants in a Trust-run, Yorkshire-themed, photographic competition.

Leading the project is head of nursing, Dawn Parkes, who said: "This groundbreaking initiative for the Trust is already making a huge difference by clearly illustrating how relatively small changes can reduce anxiety, accidents, and

challenging behaviour. Immediate improvements include reduced rates of falls, less agitation among patients, and reduced complaints from relatives. Our patients used to wander up and down the wards aimlessly. Now, they will sit more attentively on the special seats we have provided adjacent to the lightboxes and image boards.

"They are much more orientated, and there is increased interaction with hospital staff, who, in turn, are better able to engage them in meaningful conversation."

Bradford-based New Vision Signs & Graphics provided the memory boxes, slide frames, and image boards, while another local firm, PEC Building & Shopfitting, was main contractor.

Leeds-based Andy Edwards Design led on project design, while Bradford-born photographer, Ian Beesley, took pictures of patients and staff for use in the displays.

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is now working closely with Bradford Institute of Healthcare Research to evaluate the EHE programme and its impact.

## Cover Story

### A 'watershed' in critical power system design

Bender, which has over 70 years' experience in the design and manufacture of electrical safety systems, has launched the ATICS changeover system in the UK.

Developed harnessing the experience gained during its involvement in the preparation of HTM06-01, Bender says ATICS 'marks a watershed' in critical power system design.

For category 4 and 5 medical locations such as operating theatres and intensive care units, a secondary supply must be available within 0.5 seconds should the primary supply fail. Fully monitored and with wraparound bypass facilities, integral insulation/transformer monitoring, and a 'unique' rotary cam arrangement for increased reliability, the compact, modular system offers enhanced levels of resilience said to be unique. The integral bypass switch enables testing or replacement during service works without interrupting the power supply – considerably enhancing

safety, particularly in busy areas operating '24/7', such as intensive care and neonatal units.

The ATICS auto-changeover system complies fully with all relevant standards, and is independently certified by an independent technical inspection authority, TUV SUD, in accordance with EN61508 SIL 2 and DIN VDE 0100-710.

To achieve SIL 2 compliance and deliver the highest level of dependability, Bender's R&D department developed complete redundancy throughout the design, using dual microcontrollers and failsafe software platforms. The work took specialist engineers two years to complete.

Available in single or three-phase versions, ATICS can be retrofitted within single-feed IPS panels to quickly achieve HTM06-01 compliance. Bender believes ATICS is also compatible with UPS systems and the COM460 smartphone gateway. The company says the system offers the



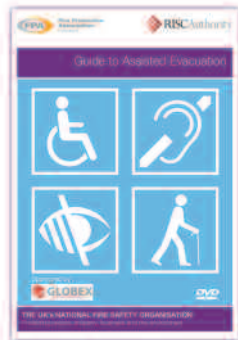
market's 'highest level of protection and compliance'.

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# Evacuation guidance DVD

Pointing out that all employers must have a 'suitable and sufficient strategy' to provide for the safe evacuation of all staff, clients, and visitors, including those who may require assistance, the Fire Protection Association (FPA) has launched a new DVD that considers typical evacuation strategies in all types of occupancy, and offers guidance on the equipment and procedures that should be in place to aid the evacuation of people with mobility, visual, hearing, and learning impairments.

The Association says: "The 'Guide to



Assisted Evacuation' DVD will be of particular interest to those operating in the health and residential care sector or specialised learning centres. It covers legal obligations, evacuation strategies, PEEPs and GEEPs, and assisted evacuation for people with mobility, hearing, and/or visual impairments, and those with learning difficulties."

'Guide to Assisted Evacuation' is priced at £109.50+VAT (£99.50+VAT for FPA members), and can be ordered by contacting FPA publications. T: 01608 812524, emailing: sales@thefpa.co.uk or visiting: www.thefpa.co.uk

# New ductwork standard 'ends confusion'

A new British Standard for cleanliness in newly installed ductwork 'marks the end of a potentially damaging source of confusion', specialist in ductwork contracting, System Hygienics, says.

The company says BS EN 15780:2011 *Ventilation for buildings – Ductwork – Cleanliness of ventilation systems*, 'clearly defines, for the first time, what is considered acceptably clean'.

System Hygienics said: "With standardised cleanliness levels stated according to the building use, specifiers, installers, and facilities managers, now have clear guidance, a published set of standards, and a new vacuum test applicable to both circular, and rectangular, ductwork.

Darren Ling, a director, said: "The new British Standard has newly defined limits set against trigger levels for cleaning these types of systems for existing ductwork, which differ from the current guidelines set out in the Heating and Ventilating Contractors Association's TR/19 *Guide to Good Practice Cleanliness of Ventilation Systems*."

Gareth Keller, HVCA head of specialist group services, however, added: "The HVCA is currently revising TR19 to incorporate this new British Standard. The revision will include the new vacuum test method, and clarify the situation regarding newly installed ductwork."

# MITIE chief executive is awarded CBE

Ruby McGregor-Smith, chief executive of MITIE Group, was named on the New Year Honours List for 2012, and will receive a CBE for her services to business and diversity in business.

She joined MITIE, the FTSE 250 outsourcing and energy services company, in 2002, and was appointed CEO in 2007, and is one of a small number of women holding the position of Chief Executive in the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250, and the first Asian woman to be appointed in such a role within that group of companies.

Ruby McGregor-Smith has overseen MITIE grow its revenues from £0.5 bn to £1.9 bn, continuing its 24-year track record of consecutive revenue and earnings growth. MITIE says she has embedded into the business her 'strong belief that responsible business practice should sit at the heart of corporate strategy, and is fundamental to business success'. She has also become a national spokesperson on diversity in the workplace and on corporate boards; women in business; work/life balance; sustainability; reducing energy consumption; providing opportunities for the long-term unemployed; apprenticeships; entrepreneurialism, and growing businesses in recession.

MITIE had a staff of over 62,000 in 2011 – making it one of the UK's largest private sector employers.



Ruby McGregor-Smith.

# Edinburgh's new arrival for thousands of new arrivals

The £2.1 million, 650 m<sup>2</sup> Simpson Birth Centre, recently opened at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, was built by Premier Interlink (Waco UK) in just 28 weeks, to time and on budget, in a 'total design and build contract', with the design fully DDA and HTM-compliant.

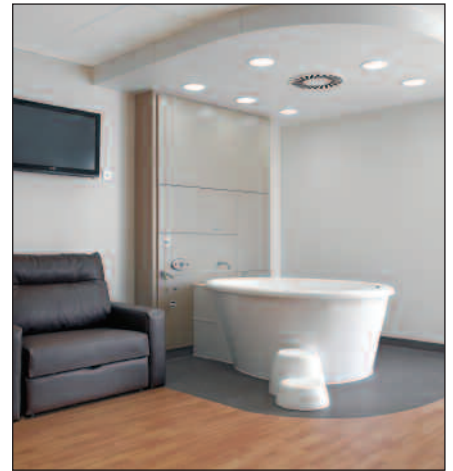
Births in Edinburgh and the Lothian area have reportedly been rising by over 10% per annum, and the new facility was constructed to meet the demand for extra maternity services. The contract was awarded to Premier Interlink by Consort Healthcare, working for NHS Lothian, as part of a multi-million pound investment in maternity care.

The impressive new midwife-led centre has the capacity to treat an extra 1,500 expectant mothers in an extension to the

main hospital building. This is Scotland's biggest and busiest maternity unit, with over 6,000 babies born there every year.

Formed from 27 of Premier Interlink's PremierPlus bays, the Birth Centre houses six 'state-of-the-art' birthing suites with *en suites* and birthing pools, administration areas, and a first floor plant room. All of the equipment is stored in high-tech Mediwall built-in cabinets when not in use, to comply with HTM specifications. The building's exterior is clad in attractive laminated, and 'low maintenance', Cedral cladding.

PremierPlus is a steel-framed, permanent building solution that 'provides clean, modern, and comfortable healthcare environments in a significantly shorter time than traditional build'.



Premier Interlink says buildings can be completed up to 50% faster than via conventional construction, 'at a highly competitive price'. A design life of over 100 years, 'excellent acoustic performance', and thermal efficiency standards that exceed Building Regulations, are other key features.

## Space and style from 'glass walls'



Aiming to improve patient privacy and dignity at Warwick Hospital, moveable partition specialist, Style, has installed acoustic, moveable glass partitions in the hospital's A&E Observation Unit, delivering flexible space that is easy and quick for staff to organise into single sex-accommodation with some *en suite* facilities.

The four sets of Dorma's Moveo glass moveable walls used feature automatic seals, allowing the panels to be set rapidly into place or moved to their 'parking area' without using an operating handle.

Creating a feeling of space while maximising natural light, the glass panels incorporate Venetian blinds controllable remotely from the nurse's workstation.

As this was a refurbishment, storage options for the Moveo panels were limited, but, by using double point suspension, they are conveniently 'parked' clear of the opening when not in use. Inset personnel doors give a clear access of 1,000 mm width.

## Howorth's new fumigation division

Specialist in clean air, containment, and infection control solutions, Howorth Air Technology, has formed of a new division – Howorth Bio Technology.

Headed by product and business manager, Mike Aitchison, it will service Howorth's 'ever-increasing market demands' for effective, safe, state-of-the-art vapour phase fumigation systems, whether for controlling healthcare-associated infections, or eradicating micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi, and yeasts, in the food industry.

Under the registered product brand name, BioGen, the bio-technology division will supply DVHP (dry vaporised hydrogen peroxide) systems and decontamination equipment into Howorth's long-established healthcare and pharmaceutical market sectors, and develop DVHP systems for the life science, veterinary, and food processing and manufacturing markets.

All BioGen's new DVHP standard model generators are 'designed around unique hydrogen peroxide technology', with patents pending.

## Beam seating introduced

Two new ranges of beam seating have been introduced by Knightsbridge Furniture, an Approved Supplier to the NHS, 'to meet demand for stylish yet cost-effective seating in waiting rooms and reception areas'.

Star and Chatter are both available as 2, 3, or 4-seat beams, and can be fitted with arms and tables at any point along the beam.

Based on an attractive openwork design to ensure breathability, Star (pictured) features a sturdy

epoxy-coated frame with polished metal seats and tabletops, while the Chatter range is set on a chrome frame with graceful curved legs. Seats are in timber, plastic, or with fixed upholstery, while tabletop options include timber or melamine.





# Lundy Healthcare acquired

**Medical logistics business, Canute International Medical Services (CIMS), has acquired the trade and assets of Lundy Healthcare, in what the former describes as 'a strategic deal', for an undisclosed sum.**

CIMS says the acquisition will deliver a number of strategic synergies that will enable the enlarged business to offer 'class-leading end-to-end services' for customers in the medical equipment market.

Guy Pomroy, CIMS director at the Canute Group, said: "Sadly, Lundy had been placed in administration, and this was very much an eleventh hour involvement by Canute. We are particularly pleased that we have been able to keep the Lundy team together, and



*Guy Pomroy.*

integrate them into our merged business. The Canute Group is committed to the company's long-term future, and to making the most of the skills and experience of the new team.

"We can now offer all of our customers, including those of Lundy Healthcare, a comprehensive service in pre-medical turnkey, and a much wider range of services through CIMS."

Lundy Healthcare is a specialist in installing and de-installing medical equipment, including MRI, CT, X-ray, and dental components, and 'equipment re-marketing'. The company has a single UK office in Crowthorne, Berkshire, employing 29 staff, with customers in the UK, Europe, and Canada.

## Modular specialists on GPS framework

**Modular construction specialist for the healthcare sector, MTX, has been included in the new Modular Building Systems framework awarded by the Government Procurement Service.**

The framework will provide a high quality pre-approved supply chain to allow NHS clients and other public sector organisations to procure buildings without having to go through the EU

OJEU tendering procedures, saving an estimated six months in procurement time, and consequential significant procurement costs.

Also in the framework are Premier Interlink (Waco UK), which 'designs, manufactures and installs permanent or temporary buildings using modern methods of construction for sale or hire', and Portakabin.

## An 'evolution' in safety flooring

**Altro describes its new Altro Aquarius as 'an evolution in safety flooring' that offers 'guaranteed performance' in wet or dry conditions for combined shoe and barefoot use – including hard-soled, rubber, and training shoes.**

The result of three years' R&D in direct response to customer feedback, Aquarius achieves over 36 in TRRL pendulum tests, and Class B to DIN51097 for barefoot use, is '100 % recyclable', and 'provides optimum slip resistance in both wet and dry environments'.

Incorporating Altro Easyclean Maxis PUR technology, it is claimed to offer significant savings on cleaning and maintenance over its lifecycle compared with non-PUR-treated safety flooring, and comes in a range of warm, homely, chipped, and non-chipped colours.

The company explained: "While studded safety flooring is perfect for barefoot and soft-soled shoe use in wet locations like pool surrounds, there are many wet areas, such as bathrooms, showers, and



changing rooms, where use is more diverse. Frequently, wet and barefoot users share the environment with those who are dry, or wearing footwear. Until Altro Aquarius's arrival, these areas proved problematical flooring-wise."

## News in brief

### International safety entries sought

The British Safety Council's International Safety Awards 2012 scheme is open for applications. Open to all organisations, the Awards relate to individual sites and business units, allowing organisations to enter as many of both as they wish. The detailed marking scheme which underpins them sets out the scores that must be achieved to gain a pass, merit, and distinction. Details, and the registration form, can be accessed at [www.britsafe.org/isa](http://www.britsafe.org/isa) (Closing date for applications is 29 February 2012).

### Alternative to 'traditional' gas piping

Omega Flex says its TracPipe stainless steel semi-rigid gas pipe saves up to 75% of the time normally required for a steel or copper pipe installation, and is consequently rapidly becoming 'the recognised alternative' to traditional rigid copper or steel pipework installed between meter and appliance. It is now stocked as a same-day item by distributors including Collister & Glover, TG Lynes, Warrens, Harris & Bailey, Michael Pavis, Frasier & Ellis, Smith Brothers, and, most recently, Heating Plumbing Supplies (HPS).

### MEIGaN-compliant sockets

The Wandsworth Group has launched a range of blue sockets to comply with NHS Medical Electrical Installation Guidance Notes (MEIGaN). Designed for use in either bedhead trunking or medical services columns, the sockets are available in switched or unswitched single or twin units, offering a flexible solution for hospitals undertaking refurbishments or new build projects. The advice regarding blue-coloured sockets was introduced as part of the MEIGaN guidance to ensure that sockets connected to dedicated back-up power supplies are easily identifiable.

### Website 'built to simply specifying'

Venesta's new website ([www.venesta.co.uk](http://www.venesta.co.uk)) incorporates clear, concise technical information on its cubicles and washrooms, providing all brochures, NBS specifications, CAD blocks, and case studies. Cubicles are categorised into the company's V ranges: V1 'low-cost' cubicles, V2 'standard', and V3 'premium', simplifying finding 'the right product'. Venesta's previous website 'pioneered' its Design Studio 'tool', which allows users to experiment with colour to help visualise their project. The updated tool now offers a choice of washrooms, with the option to change the door, panel, and vanity unit material.

# James Cook's quest ends with a Vortex

The quest by Middlesbrough's James Cook University Hospital to standardise all its macerators has seen it select Vernacare's Vortex.

The hospital has over 1,000 beds, and had been using three different macerator types, which had become old and at risk of breaking down. When the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust decided to replace them, the Vortex was chosen.

David Horn, engineering officer at FM company, Carillion, who selected the system, said: "The use of pulp and macerators is very important in helping combat infection rates, and the Vernacare Vortex meets all the requirements, particularly on infection control. It is reliable, easy to use, and I have had no complaints from the staff, so it is definitely doing its job efficiently.

"We cannot afford the risk of possible infection caused by bagging up pulp waste and holding it in the sluice rooms, or the additional cost entailed." Alongside being a hygienic system, the Vortex has an innovative twin blade design which breaks down the pulp into a fine watery slurry, helping to avoid drain blockages. It also reportedly consumes 'minimal water and energy'.

## Anti-*Legionella* system launched in UK

Now available in the UK, having been designed, engineered, and manufactured, in Germany for over a decade, the Anodix system is designed to combat *Legionella* by harnessing water's natural properties to generate disinfection agents through 'in-situ' electrolysis.

Exclusive UK and Republic of Ireland supplier, AquaFix, says Anodix systems are already operating in major hospitals and institutions across Europe, with over 1,000 installations to date.

AquaFix's MD, Peter Bond, said: "Anodix does not use the dispersal

method or any chemical consumable to treat water for *Legionella* and other harmful bacteria. Instead, it utilises a dedicated 'in-line' oxidation chamber fitted as part of the recirculating pipework in hot or cold water systems. This guarantees high rates of elimination and control, regardless of water properties, and without the need to disperse and monitor disinfectant levels across complex water systems. Instant elimination also addresses bacterial resistance, and enables biofilm to be controlled through a unique mix of agents generated from the water that flows through the Anodix unit."



He added: "We have seen this product maintaining *Legionella* bacteria counts to within HSE guidelines for many years in hospitals elsewhere in Europe. Now is the time for the UK to experience it."

# Vanguard fleet reaches milestone in Holland

The British operator of what is said to be the world's largest fleet of mobile surgical facilities, Vanguard Healthcare, has clocked up its 150,000th patient procedure in one of its 40-plus vehicle-towed mobile surgical facilities.

Vanguard's specialist fleet – each unit weighs 26 tons, is over 15 metres long, and 8 metres wide – includes operating theatres, endoscopy suites, day surgeries, clinics, wards, and outpatient facilities. The units are increasingly being called upon outside the UK in mainland Europe to help reduce waiting times, increase capacity, and provide cover during hospital refurbishment and expansion.

The 150,000th patient underwent a hand procedure in a mobile operating room at the Antonius Hospital in Emmeloord in the Netherlands on 14 December 2011, marking Vanguard's rapid growth and expansion over the past decade.



*Traumatologist MM Kuipers at Antonius hospital, Emmeloord; Mary Smallbone, marketing and operations director, Vanguard Healthcare, and 150,000th patient, Lianda Kurvink-de Ridder.*

In the UK, Vanguard has worked closely with the NHS for over a decade. The 65-strong company, a management buy-out from Nuffield Health three years ago, also works with a large number of private hospitals, both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

## Wandsworth's IPI wins in Denmark

Danish electrical contractor, Lindpro, has selected The Wandsworth Group's IPI nurse call system for all its hard-wired nurse call installations, in a deal potentially worth up to 25 million Danish Krone (£2.5 million) annually.

A €140 million company employing 1,200 people across Denmark, Lindpro claims to install security and safety systems in around 50% of Danish hospital projects, and 25% of care home schemes. Its search for a new nurse call system saw it undertake a rigorous selection process for both hard-wired and wireless systems, before narrowing down its hard-wired choice to just two IP-

based products – the Ethernet-based IPI from The Wandsworth Group, and one from a Belgian competitor.

Negotiations were handled by Wandsworth's exclusive Scandinavian agent, Norway-based Maxeta AS, which demonstrated the advantages of the IPI product to Lindpro, and delivered a pilot project in competition with the Belgian system to win the business. The agreement will see the IPI system become the only hard-wired nurse call system installed by Lindpro's healthcare division, with Maxeta continuing to deliver the supply chain as Wandsworth's local agent.

## Training courses with wide appeal

Eastwood Park's new 2012 course calendar presents a range of training opportunities for all involved in specialist healthcare equipment, engineering, and facilities management.

The training provider said: "The wide range of accredited courses cover basic essentials, through work-based learning and short refresher training, to advanced degree-level learning, and all reflect new industry developments and the latest legislative codes of practice and HTM guidelines."

Refresher training is mandatory in many areas to ensure compliance, and two new courses added to Eastwood Park's existing refresher training include:

- Medical gas pipeline systems – quality controller refresher.
- Release of trapped passengers (lifts) refresher.



For a 2012 calendar, or specific training guidance and planning, T: 01454 262777, or email: [training@eastwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:training@eastwoodpark.co.uk)

Eastwood Park has also recently recruited a new, 'highly experienced work-based learning team' to lead development and servicing of its learning provision in the workplace. Training manager for work-based learning, Carol Holloway, is keen to hear from those with a decontamination background keen to become Eastwood Park assessors/IQAs, and those who are already qualified.

## 'Holographic nurse' to get messages across

London's University College Hospital says it is the UK's first to introduce a 'virtual nurse' to greet staff and patients on arrival and remind them about good infection control practice.

Alongside reminding on the importance of hand hygiene and cleanliness, the 'holographic' virtual nurse, reflected via high definition video projectors onto a specially developed material, will also



provide information on other Trust projects.

The University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust says the device is just one tactic being used by UCH to improve awareness of the importance of infection control. Others include improved signage, recorded messages prompting staff and patients to clean their hands, patient information leaflets, and training and education programmes.

Visitors will be regularly prompted by the virtual nurse, supplied by The Healthcare Messaging Group, and funded by Interserve Facilities Management, to clean their hands at the hospital's many hand gel dispenser points. The unit has two built-in working dispenser units.

During a short study with the virtual nurse located in the hospital's main entrance, 173 (33 %) of the 610 visitors passing listened to its message and used its dispensers over a two-hour time slot, compared with a 'hit rate' of just 2.1% with the existing dispenser.