

Health Sector News

Cylinder brackets with built-in antibacterial properties

Medical Gas Services says it can now offer a range of 'revolutionary' cylinder brackets impregnated with an antibacterial composite and compounds that offer a degree of effectiveness against harmful microorganisms 'unmatched by any competitor system'.

The Rochdale-based medical gas specialist says many hours of work went into developing the new range of cylinder brackets, one of the key elements being a new system of temperature control during the cooling and moulding process. This reportedly ensures finished brackets without the brittle characteristics some competitor products exhibit when antibacterial materials are incorporated during manufacture. The innovative temperature control system, and the use of 'new and modified individual ingredients', result in a range of brackets that meet five key criteria for potential purchasers:

- Robustness, including the ability to withstand trolley and bed strikes.
- An easily cleanable design, 'with no crevices or joints'.
- Ease-of-installation (but with a 'rigid, secure construction').
- Interchangeability, enabling multi-cylinder size fitting.
- A bracket that is easily identifiable, through the use of bold colours.

The company said: "We believe no other company has developed a range of medical gas cylinder brackets of this type offering such effective antibacterial properties. All medical gas cylinders should be kept with the correct brackets and trolleys, but if these are harbouring germs, then the bacteria are passed on to the cylinders themselves, and then, potentially, onto patients.

"Impregnating the plastic and composite materials used to form cylinder brackets

with anti-bacterial materials normally changes the materials' properties to form a brittle composite, or reduce the effectiveness of the anti-bacterial substance if overheated. However, with our new and innovative system of temperature control, and the new and modified individual ingredients within our materials, we have come up with a range of products that meet all of the aforementioned specifier criteria.

"The testing regime has also been as severe as we could make it. In fact we have even driven a 3-tonne Range Rover vehicle over the cradle to demonstrate its robustness, which did not impinge upon its integrity."

Medical Gas Services offers 'complete cylinder management packages', including audits, training, and equipment supply and maintenance, 'to ensure compliance and safety for all types of healthcare establishments'.



Cover Story

Think buildings, think storage, think Medstor

Mailbox: Stamford Products says its Medstor product is 'the UK's favourite materials management tray system', used extensively throughout both the NHS and the private healthcare sector.

The cover of this month's *HEJ* is 'an original promotional concept for Medstor used to affiliate high density storage solutions with population density – high density living. Put simply: the best use of the cube – built in'.

Mailbox said: "The provision of healthcare follows the population. Building in high density systems which can efficiently manage the storage of the essential medical items and other consumables used in patient treatment and care is proven not only to enhance that care, but equally to deliver cash savings throughout the lifetime of the healthcare building. Good stock management and storage systems can bring savings via great productivity, and better use of both space and staff time.

"With value-for-money increasingly paramount, Mailbox focuses on manufacturing products that deliver best value and promote best practice – products that assist in the management of stock, aid hygiene and infection control, and comply with LEAN and PEAT principles."

With a 25-year pedigree in system manufacturing, Mailbox Medstor offers 'well-planned solutions built to last'. Flexibility in the production of the company's core product HTM 71 modular storage system and HTM 63 variations enables Mailbox to respond to architects and Trusts' specifications, and main contractors' build requirements, 'without fuss, whatever the colour, whatever the specification, and whatever the change, on time, and on budget'.

Mailbox Medstor offers national sales, survey, and installation coverage, and is CHAS-accredited. Integrated furniture, fixtures, and equipment solutions from



Medstor will be shown on stand G41 at Healthcare Estates 2012 in Manchester.

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Better bedroom set for Manchester unveiling

The Design in Mental Health Network (DIMHN), which is holding a special Workshop event on 9 October at this month's Healthcare Estates event, will launch a 'concept adult mental health bedroom', 'The Better Bedroom', on its stand (D11) at the show.

Developed in partnership with the Building Research Establishment (BRE), the concept bedroom will 'bring together the latest best practice to ensure adult mental health service users benefit from a modern, homely bedroom that offers a therapeutic and safe environment'. The first of two sample bedrooms will be unveiled at Britplas's Warrington factory

on October 8, with a second planned at the BRE Innovation Park in Watford.

It is hoped the bedroom will stimulate debate among commissioners, clinicians, designers, manufacturers, and service users. Jenny Gill, leading the Better Bedroom initiative on DIMHN's behalf, said: "We hope people will come along to see the bedroom and say 'I've got a better solution for that'. We certainly do not see it as a finished product; our aim is to stimulate innovation. It incorporates products which may be considered to be some of the best presently available."

DIMHN says The Better Bedroom 'looks at ways of balancing the demands



of creating an anti-ligature environment with user-friendliness, risk management, and efficiency'.

To register for the DIMHN workshop, visit www.healthcare-estates.com and to express interest in a future Better Bedroom visit, see: www.dimhn.org/design



Wood's natural beauty in ceilings

A 'stunning' range of tiles that 'bring the warm and natural beauty of wood to the ceilings of building interiors without loss of acoustic performance' has been launched as part of Armstrong Ceilings' Atelier offer.

The company says it has selected 'the finest quality wood finish, which complies with all fire requirements (Euroclass B-s2, d0), without comprising acoustic performance (sound absorption up to Class C), or environmental considerations (FSC-certified), to offer a luxurious, modern interior finish for new-build and refurbishment projects'.

The range is available in tiles and planks and in laminate, 'for a durable and more affordable option', or veneer. Both options are coated with a clear, UV-enhanced, solvent-free lacquer that protects against ageing and sunlight. The tiles and planks are compatible with Armstrong's well-established grid system, to enable ease of installation, and safe and secure plenum accessibility for electrical and HVAC maintenance.

Showroom's stylish flooring

Three Altro products have been selected for a healthcare showroom at the Central London premises of Flourish Healthcare, the healthcare offshoot of Tsunami-Axis, a commercial office environment designer.

The showroom features items ranging from bariatric chairs to headwalls, and from electronic and lighting control systems to ergonomic task seating.

Penny Barral, manager, Flourish Healthcare, said: "Our aim is to source the newest products for use in total healthcare environments, such as

maternity and oncology wings, visitor areas, and medical storage."

Altro Suprema II safety flooring features in the 'consulting room' setting, favoured 'because it is bright, bold, and very comfortable underfoot'. Available in 40 colours, its 'sparkle-free' finish 'makes it ideal for use in dementia and mental healthcare environments'. It also incorporates Altro's bacteriostat 'for enhanced hygiene'.

The patient bedroom setting features Altro Timbersafe II safety flooring (pictured), giving 'a true wood look'. It contains Easyclean Maxis technology 'for superior cleanability and colour retention'.

Vibrant Altro Whiterock Chameleon wall cladding has meanwhile been used in a variety of coloured strips to create eye-catching wall art. 'Highly durable', it provides 'a watertight, wipe-clean, smooth surface'.

The Altro products were installed by Brook Commercial Finishes UK.



H&S systems independently reviewed

An independent review service from the British Safety Council that formally checks and benchmarks how well an organisation's occupational health and safety systems and procedures are being implemented at individual sites is now available for the health and social care sectors.

The Independent Systems Review examines the effectiveness of an organisation's health and safety arrangements at either a single site or multiple locations, comparing what is

happening against the employer's own agreed standards, policies, and procedures. Designed to help organisations ensure their health and safety management systems are effective, the service includes a 'user-friendly' report featuring recommendations for improvement, and an 'action planning table'. The review takes at least half a day, depending on the site's size and nature, and the number of locations checked.

For more information, visit: www.britsafe.org/systemsreview

News in brief

Steel appeal for Quantec

C-TEC has added an extensive range of state-of-the-art stainless steel devices to its Quantec addressable call system range (see also pages 79-84). Said to be ideal for creating a stylish impression in prestigious reception areas, or at sites where vandalism has been reported, the devices are 'high-quality, durable, and very competitively priced'. C-TEC said: "Their launch means that virtually every existing Quantec call point and corridor display now has a counterpart crafted from brushed stainless steel."

Simpler smart monitoring

Compatible with any volt-free pulsed output meter, the compact new COMLog smart metering data logger from HWM's Radio-Tech range is said to make energy and water monitoring easier and more convenient using the latest technology, wireless communication options, and innovative data handling. Efficient GPRS telemetry transmits the data quickly, and at low cost, and the specifically-designed low power electronics result in a battery life of over 5 years when transmitting every 8 hours. The tough ABS moulded casing is IP68 rated.

AECOM's Turkish delight

AECOM has been appointed project manager on Phase 1a of Bio Istanbul, the \$2.2 billion development that will become Turkey's first dedicated biomedical science park, advanced children's hospital, and sustainable residential community. The appointment comes a year after Davis Langdon, an AECOM company, was appointed cost and programme manager on the project.

Dorma Gulf expands Kuwait operations

Dorma, the 'premium access solutions and services' specialist, has extended its presence in the Gulf region by opening its own office in the State of Kuwait. The office is located in a prime location in Al Rai Industrial Area, where Dorma partners and competitors are also situated. Ben Shaw, Regional Director – MENA, Dorma Gulf, said: "We currently have a 35 per cent market share in the region, and foresee Kuwait as a vital location for construction projects."

Construction waste recycled

The contractor building the new £21 million extension to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital says it has successfully recycled 'virtually 100%' of the associated waste.

Figures compiled during the construction of the Netherton Grove Extension indicate that 98% of the resulting waste material was diverted from landfill.

The Netherton Grove Extension Scheme was delivered by BAM Construction's London team, whose project manager, Paul Thomas, said: "The end-users were heavily involved in the scheme's design, and are delighted with the facility. It is also good, however, to have built something of this quality so responsibly. All of the timber BAM used was from sustainable sources, for example, and our carbon footprint was substantially below our target. It is extremely encouraging, because 98% is very close to the ultimate target of zero waste to landfill that we are aiming for by 2015 overall as a company."



Lead-shielded window for new hybrid theatre

Wardray Premise, a specialist in the design, manufacture, and installation, of X-ray, gamma, neutron and RF shielding products, has recently installed a lead-shielded window, incorporating switchable privacy glass, into a window for a new hybrid theatre facility at the London Clinic for Galliford Try.

The hybrid operating theatre brings high-end imaging into what was previously the 'open' surgery environment.

The installation of lead-protected 'smart glass' technology means the view from the control room or the next theatre can be closed off at the flick of a switch if privacy is needed, protecting patient dignity. Wardray Premise can now offer the option of installing privacy glass into all lead-shielded windows.

The company says it has a fully qualified team of engineers working throughout the UK, 'with an excellent reputation for efficiency and technical expertise, and a broad knowledge of hospital-based medical equipment'.



Avoiding drama in the theatre

Medical technology company, Brandon Medical, says that, with reducing operating theatre downtime becoming increasingly important as hospitals and clinics strive to cut patient waiting times, it has enhanced its post-sales service and support activities accordingly.



Brandon's Service and Support Department's goal is to correct any equipment malfunction 'in the shortest time possible' to ensure healthcare services can function uninterrupted. The department is headed by installation and service manager, Tony Booth, an IOSH member and registered PRINCE2 practitioner who joined Brandon in 2010, bringing with him 20 years' telecommunications and IT experience.

Mandy Pearson, who is office based, can assist with any servicing day-to-day query and contractual agreements, while a team of full-time service engineers are all trained on a full range of medical technology equipment, including theatre lighting, pendant systems, surgeons' control panels, IPS, UPS, and battery back-up systems.

Brandon's service contract portfolio ranges from Planned Preventative Maintenance contracts, and yearly maintenance visits, to breakdown cover.

Boiler will more than pay its way

Space heating and domestic hot water at the new East Riding Community Hospital will be supplied by a combination of biomass and gas-fired boilers from Hoval.

This combination gives the hospital an efficient, responsive, low carbon heating system that also qualifies for the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI).

The new £19 m, 30-bed community hospital in Beverley, East Yorkshire, opened its doors in late July, replacing the ageing 12 bed Westwood Hospital. It also includes a minor injuries unit and a GP out-of-hours service. The facility was constructed under ProCure21, and Interserve was the lead developer. To meet with NHS low carbon design criteria, the design brief included a biomass component from the outset.

The primary boiler is a 425 kW STU biomass boiler manufactured at Hoval's factory in Newark, designed to meet the base heat loads through the year. It is supplemented by two SR Plus 500 gas-fired boilers which meet peak demands, and will meet domestic hot water demand when no space heating is required.

As well as helping the hospital reduce its carbon emissions, the Hoval STU boiler is eligible for payments under the RHI, providing a source of extra revenue for the next 20 years.



Anatomy teaching facility among UK's most advanced

The University of Manchester is investing £3 m in fully refurbishing the cadaveric anatomy facility within its Stopford Building, to create what it says will be the UK's most modern anatomy teaching laboratory.

The project includes the provision of dedicated space for surgical skills training courses, comprising a classroom, changing room, and teaching laboratory.

The latter will feature Karl Storz's new integrated OR1 NEO operating theatre, complete with endoscopic workstations, and a fully integrated audiovisual solution.

Dr Simon Merrywest, from the University says: "We are delighted to be working with Karl Storz on this new training facility. Our aim has always been to create an environment that closely resembles that of a modern operating theatre. This will be a

unique facility in the North-West, and creates a superb opportunity to realise a step-change in access to surgical training across the region."

Karl Storz has supported various courses in the faculty over the last four years, and was chosen for the project primarily because it could supply all the required equipment, and ensure seamless integration of all products.

Special flooring's artistic look

London's new purpose-built University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre, which has five floors, each tailored to investigating and treating specific cancers, features Tarkett floorcoverings, including 'some unique and rather special elements'.

Creating the flooring required 'the exceptional skills' of the Tarkett Floorcraft design team, using sonic cutting, and 'a broad spectrum' of Tarkett's Micra Premium and linoleum ranges.

The University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation

Trust's arts curator, Guy Noble, said: "A number of famous and significant British artists – Grayson Perry, Rob Ryan, Sir Peter Blake, Pure Evil, and Morag Myerscough – who were approached for their reputation for creating engaging, challenging, and inspirational work, have created floor designs for the waiting area on each level."

Each artist's design was accurately re-created by the Floorcraft team and expertly installed by Axiom Contract Flooring. Nick Edwards, Axiom MD, said: "Each design was delivered in sections or individual strips, and specific panels were laid into pre-marked grids to ensure exact placement. Thanks to Floorcraft's precision cutting technology, and our installers' skill, and attention to detail, we were able to ensure that the extremely complicated, intricate designs matched perfectly."



Windows' installation helps secure BREEAM 'Excellent'

The installation of windows that allow maximum natural ventilation, while, in the manufacturer's words, 'offering unprecedented security', has enabled the Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology in Liverpool to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' post-completion rating.

The Britplas Safevents are double-fronted windows with a free sliding internal or external sash. The in-line sliding design allows the glazed section to be fully opened, leaving a high performance stainless steel mesh in place.

The Safevents' use enabled enough natural air flow to meet the Building Regulation stipulation that requires a minimum of 1/20th of the floor area of each room to be served by openable windows. The windows' installation also 'effectively reduced mechanical ventilation requirements, power consumption, and the building's carbon footprint'.

Britplas added: "Due to the ventilation allowed by the Safevent windows, WSP

Group was able to reduce the amount of air-conditioning fitted at the Centre, reducing the project's capital costs, the building's ongoing running costs, and its maintenance requirements."

