

# Health Sector News

## PF2 to 'address widespread concerns'

The Government last month published details of a 'new approach' to public/private partnerships – PF2, following 'a broad-based engagement process' last year that sought views on how the existing PFI system could be reformed.



While it 'remains committed' to private sector involvement in delivering infrastructure services, the Government said, as Chancellor, George Osborne (pictured), unveiled the new finance model in his Autumn Statement on 5 December, that it had 'recognised the need to address the widespread concerns with the Private Finance Initiative and the recent changes in the economic context'.

Full details of PF2, which George Osborne said would replace the 'now discredited version' are viewable online in the HM Treasury document, *A new approach to public private partnerships*, ([www.tinyurl.com/bxq6648](http://www.tinyurl.com/bxq6648)).

Among the key measures are:

- The Government will look to act as a minority public equity co-investor in PF2

projects, and introduce funding competitions for a proportion of equity to attract long-term investors into projects prior to financial close.

- The tendering phase of PF2 projects, measured from project tender to appointment of a preferred bidder, will not take longer than 18 months unless agreed with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.
- A 'standardised and efficient' approach to PF2 procurement, and 'a comprehensive suite' of standard documentation, will be introduced.
- There will be 'greater scrutiny' of project preparation via additional Treasury checks at pre-procurement stage.
- 'Soft services', such as cleaning and catering, will be removed from projects.
- Procuring authorities will 'have discretion to include certain minor maintenance activities at the project's outset', with 'additional flexibility to add or remove certain elective services once a contract is in operation'.
- An 'open book approach', and a gain

share mechanism, for the lifecycle fund, will be introduced to facilitate sharing of any surplus lifecycle funding.

- Introduction of periodic reviews of service provision.
- Introduction of a control total (or 'cap') for all commitments arising from off-balance sheet PF2 contracts signed.
- Mandatory private sector provision of equity return information for publication.
- Publication of an annual report detailing project and financial information on all projects where the Government holds a public sector equity stake.
- Improvement of the information provision within the standard contractual guidance.
- Introduction of a business case approval 'tracker' on the HM Treasury website.
- Greater management of risk by the public sector.
- A financing structure designed to enable access to long-term debt finance.
- The Government will develop and consult on guidance which will replace the existing Value for Money Assessment Guidance.

## Cover Story

### Winning the battle to keep radiators bacteria free

Research into healthcare infection prevention has made significant discoveries of late, suggesting that the convection process used by heating systems contributes to the distribution of harmful contaminants in healthcare (and other) environments.

Current microbiological research by leading low surface temperature (LST) radiator specialist, Contour Casings, is now also delivering greater understanding of the levels of bacteria present.

In laboratory testing of swab samples from an NHS hospital in southern England, more than eight bacteria colonies were found inside a single radiator guard within an area measuring just 5 x 5 cm. Internal samples were taken from the rear wall, the floor, the emitter, and the casing. Extrapolate the number of colonies to reflect the contaminant levels present over the total internal surface area of an average-sized radiator guard, and the figure would exceed

8,000, equating to hundreds of thousands in a hospital ward or corridor. Equally revealing was the diversity of bacteria found; suggesting a single radiator could contain over 8,000 different types.

Contour Casings' ongoing research suggests no discrimination between which radiator casings become most contaminated. Swabs from a range of locations yielded consistent levels of bacterial colonies.

Specialist LST radiator suppliers now provide effective cleaning solutions, reducing the opportunity for undisturbed casings to become bacterial breeding grounds. Leading designs feature innovative, full-access front doors, delivering fast, complete access for one cleaning operative to every internal surface, without assistance from estates personnel. Modern LST radiator guards incorporating antimicrobial technology within the paintwork can help reduce levels of harmful bacteria, such as MRSA, *E. coli*, and H1N1, by up to 99.99% in under two hours.



Embracing the latest advancements in LST radiator design is a key component in the complex battle against the growth and distribution of bacteria and infection.

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# Improving dementia care environments

Up to £50 million in Department of Health funding is to be made available to NHS Trusts and local authorities, working in partnership with care providers, 'to help tailor hospitals and care homes to the needs of people with dementia'.

Following Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt's announcement, in late October, that the cash would be made available to help create care environments that would help reduce anxiety and distress for people with dementia, the DH announced in late November that 'expressions of interest' were being accepted.

On announcing the funding, the Department emphasised that research by The King's Fund demonstrates that good design can help with the management of dementia. Organisations that bid successfully for money will be able to adapt care homes and hospitals using design principles tested in The King's Fund pilots. Specially designed rooms and spaces could include features such as:

- Hi-tech sensory rooms using lighting, smells, and sound, to stimulate people's senses.
- Large photos of local scenes from the past to prompt people's memories.
- Specially adapted outside space to prevent people from wandering, by helping them keep busy and active with activities such as gardening.
- Technology such as day / night clocks and controllable mood lighting to emulate day and night, which can help with sleep patterns, orientation, and safe movement.
- Calming colours, non-reflective surfaces, large-print signs, and the creation of 'zones' to help people know where they are and find their way back to their rooms.

The projects will form part of a national pilot to showcase the best examples of 'dementia-friendly' care environments. The lessons learned will inform local Health and Wellbeing Boards on how to create better environments for dementia care.



Courtesy of The King's Fund EHE Library

*In December 2011, in a King's Fund Enhancing the Healing Environment project, King's College Hospital became London's first to completely transform one of its wards into a 'unique, sensory environment for older people'. Pictured is a new activity unit on the wall in the main ward corridor.*

## '24/7 protection' against *Legionella*

New Energy Management (NEM) has launched in the UK the IMECA Legionella Control System, which is claimed to provide '24/7 protection' against microorganisms in water systems, and to be 'proven to be effective' against bacteria, fungi, spores, micro-plasma and viruses, including *Legionella* and *Pseudomonas*.

The company said: "The system is unique in not only acting directly on the polypeptide constituting the cell wall of microorganisms, causing their destruction, but also on the biofilm that can form a habitat and nutrient supply for *Legionella pneumophila*."

IMECA is reportedly effective at temperatures between 4°C and 80°C, and suitable for use in both hot and cold



water systems and as a surface disinfectant agent. It reportedly has 'low operating costs and requires minimal maintenance', and 'works constantly throughout the day and night, keeping water systems germ-free'.

Manufactured by German membrane technology company, MAV, it has been successfully installed at over 400 sites, including hospitals, schools, and food packing plants, in

mainland Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

NEM added: "Our in-house testing has shown 99.9% efficiency. The system manufactures a powerful disinfection agent – non-toxic and a non-irritant to humans and animals – added to the water system as a dilute solution."

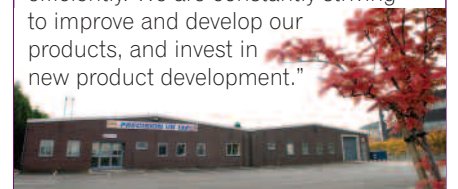
## Precision on the move again

Four years after it move to Stockport's Newby Road Industrial Estate, medical gas pipeline specialist, Precision UK, is once again expanding, and moving to a new, state-of-the-art design, manufacturing, and training facility, in the town's Hazel Grove.

The move signals another landmark for the company, as its management has decided to bring together the activities of its three current sites on a new 45,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility known as The CPX Technology Building.

The move required 'considerable investment to deliver the business environment required by the company's growing operations', and, it says, will allow it to manufacture its full range of medical gas pipeline equipment more effectively and further finance new product development.

MD, Rob Parry, said: "The premises offer us a great deal more space, and will allow us to pursue the process of our Quality Management System more efficiently. We are constantly striving to improve and develop our products, and invest in new product development."



## Practical guide to procurement

A practical guide 'for professionals interested in using a competition to procure a great design for a new building or structure' has been launched by the RIBA. Downloadable at [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com) under 'Design Competitions', the free 22-page guide,

*Design Competitions: Guidance for Clients*, 'seeks to cut through the jargon, and explain the different competition formats and how they work', and covers 'the key points to consider when planning and running a successful competitive process'.

# Elemental copper ban on 1 February

Users and suppliers of water treatment systems that use elemental copper for *Legionella* control should be aware that, from 1 February this year, it will be illegal to sell or use water treatment systems that use such copper to add copper ions to water as a biocide.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) bulletin published on 29 November explained that the decision had been taken 'at EU level' under the Biocidal Products Directive 'because no manufacturer supported the use of elemental copper for use as biocides in these systems during a review period that ended in September 2011'.

The HSE says its 'primary concern' is that *Legionella* control is not compromised, and stresses that businesses and organisations have a continuing responsibility to manage the risks. While it plans to 'take a sensible and proportionate' approach to enforcement, it urges users of affected water treatment systems to contact the manufacturer promptly 'to discuss a way forward'.

Although it intends pursuing an 'essential use derogation' from the EU for continuing use of copper in UK *Legionella* control systems, the Executive stresses that it cannot predict the outcome, and that the result of its application will not be known when the ban takes effect on 1 February. For more information, visit: [www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/faqs.htm#silver-copper-systems](http://www.hse.gov.uk/legionnaires/faqs.htm#silver-copper-systems) or [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/silver-copper-ionisation](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/silver-copper-ionisation)

## News in brief

### BBES awarded £1.7m Morriston M&E contract

Balfour Beatty Engineering Services (BBES) has won a £1.7m health contract to design, supply, and install M&E services associated with the development of the Combined Services Department (CSD) at Morriston Hospital, Swansea. The existing Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (ALAC) unit will be refurbished, with a new three-storey extension providing specialist clinical accommodation, co-locating complimentary services under one roof, and improving accessibility, and patient privacy and dignity. BBES' customer is BAM Construction, and the ultimate customer, the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

### Stimulating sustainability debate online

Carillion's new STN (Sustainability Talk and News) is 'an exciting new online portal, which will host a range of opinion, comment, videos, presentations, and case studies, looking at key issues of sustainability from the building services and construction industry, worldwide'. 'With regular, independent contributions from sustainability journalists and figures from leading industry bodies in the UK, Middle East and Canada', STN aims 'to inform, motivate, and stimulate discussion'. Visit [www.stnlive.info](http://www.stnlive.info) or follow on Twitter @Carillionplc #STN

### Fast Track 100 entry for standby power specialist

Dieselec Thistle Generators has entered the Sunday Times 'Fast Track 100' league table of the UK's fastest-growing privately-owned companies for the first time thanks to a 68.61% growth rate. The diesel generator supplier and installer is ranked number 56 in this year's league table. The company's sales have jumped from £4,166,000 in 2008-9 to £19,968,000 in 2011-2012.



# Integrated digital theatres for Reading hospital

The Berkshire Independent Hospital (BIH) in Reading recently became the first Ramsay Health Care hospital to install Karl Storz OR1 NEO operating theatres.

Business tycoon Sir John Madejski, a former patient, unveiled the two new digital integrated theatres in October.

The 'multifunctional' theatres are particularly suited to endoscopic or laparoscopic surgery, and 'integrate fully' with endoscopic equipment; 42% of all surgery at BIH is laparoscopic or endoscopic. They feature touchscreen controls, with provision for a 19" touchscreen to enter the sterile field. The touchscreen has a realistic user interface and recording and data capture, giving surgeons full control of all devices.

High definition broadcast capture using a 3-chip digital camera system, and three 24" HD 1080P LCD widescreen monitors,



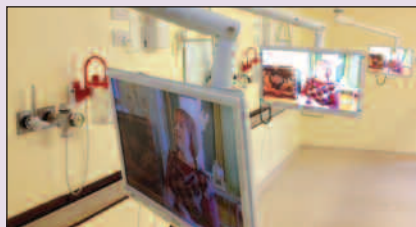
mean the surgeon's needs can be anticipated at all times. The touchscreen also allows for use of the AIDA surgical image capture and archiving system.

The OR1 NEO's fully dimmable green room lighting, meanwhile, provides improved contrast of endoscopic images, and reduces monitor background glare and flicker. The mounting solution ensures that all surgical equipment is off the ground and can be easily moved around.

## Patient TV 'armed and ready to go'

With patient television 'a necessary and expected facility' in healthcare establishments, Airwave Europe offers both a range of Airwave Healthcare LCD and LED televisions, and wall pattress plates, arms, and ceiling poles, 'in various styles', for mounting them.

The Airwave Healthcare television range offers the ability to provide 10 different remote control settings, which Airwave describes as 'an essential feature' in multi-bedded areas. Other features include wipe-down cleaning, 'simple, large button solutions', a 'headphone only' setting with audio output for personal headphones, and



additional connections for other personal devices. Additional enhancements include hygienic covers and anchoring.

Airwave Healthcare provides a complete service – from requirements gathering and system design, to equipment supply, installation, implementation, and support.

## Go-ahead for community hospital

Kajima Partnerships and its construction partner, Mansell, advised by Indigo Planning, have been given the go-ahead for Bicester Community Hospital – Oxfordshire's second community hospital in 40 years.

The 1,963 m<sup>2</sup>, £5 million facility will be

located on a 0.9 hectare site south of Bicester, and will replace the existing hospital, which currently stands adjacent to the proposed development. It will provide an ambulance base, first-aid unit, out-of-hours care, and outpatient areas, with 12 inpatient rooms arranged around a central landscaped zone, and having direct access to a therapy garden.

The first floor will house clinical accommodation, imaging and physiotherapy suites, offices, and the community base. Work on the hospital is expected to start on site early this year, with completion a year later.



## Procurement needs greater transparency

A 'lack of transparency' in the market, leaving NHS Trusts in England 'unable to make cost-efficient decisions about purchasing supplies', is seeing such organisations 'pay over the odds' for everyday products, costing the taxpayer 'an unnecessary £500 million each year', say Ernst & Young and the product comparison website for the NHS, Peto.

They argue that, unless current procurement practices are reformed to ensure that data is 'fully shared' across the NHS, 'price variations' could cost a further £1 billion over the next two years.

Their research, 'based on an independent update and analysis of spending figures across 10 NHS Trusts', showed that:

- The same box of medical forceps is purchased for £13 by some Trusts, but others pay up to £23.
- The average price for adult warming blankets is £60 for a box of 10, but some Trusts pay up to £124 for the same box.
- Knee implants can be purchased for up to £1,109, when average price paid by Trusts is £787.

Ernst & Young said: "The statistics come two years after the National Audit Office and the Foundation Trust Network pointed out significant variations in the prices paid by different NHS Trusts for the same products. Today's figures highlight that the situation has not improved, with some Trusts paying over twice the average price for essential items like warming blankets."

Joe Stringer, partner at Ernst & Young (pictured), said: "There is a widespread misconception that price disparity is the inevitable consequence of policy decisions to encourage competition between NHS providers. With the NHS facing sustained pressure to contain rising costs and demand within a flat budget, transparency must be introduced across the board."



Julian Trent, MD of Peto, said: "The Government's current review of procurement practices must put an end to unethical charging within the NHS, so that Trusts can purchase supplies of best value and quality."

# Vernacare completes award-winning year

Vernacare has been highly commended in the 2012 Manufacturer of the Year Awards – joining an elite group of finalists, including BAE Systems, Coca-Cola, Ford, Rolls Royce, Sony, and United Biscuits.



The Bolton company was presented with its second place (Highly Commended) award in the SME Manufacturer of the Year category at a London ceremony hosted by *The Manufacturer* magazine, and Lord Digby-Jones, former CBI director-general and Minister for Trade. Vernacare was also shortlisted in the *Manufacturing in Action* and *Through Life Engineering Services* categories.

The accolade follows the company's recent success in the Cranfield School of Management and *Work Management's* Best Factory Awards, which Vernacare says 'set the benchmark for excellence in manufacturing and engineering'. Vernacare won the Judges' Special Award for leadership, cultural change and engineering, and was second placed (Highly Commended) for Best Process Plant.

In 2011, Vernacare, which claims to be the global market leader in single-use disposable medical pulp products made from 100% recycled newspaper, received the Queen's Award for Innovation.



## Sound, light, and video, create 'calmer spaces'

Individuals undergoing imaging and radiation therapy procedures at the San Joaquin Community Hospital in Southern California will benefit from Philips Electronics' Ambient Experience technology, which uses 'dynamic' light, video, and sound, 'to place patients in a calming, reassuring, and relaxing environment'.

This is the 500th Ambient Experience order since the 'hospital solution' first went on the market in 2006.

The San Joaquin Community Hospital, in Bakersfield, has ordered a Big Bore CT treatment planning room with Ambient Experience for its new Cancer Center, due to open this month. Two of the Center's radiation therapy treatment rooms will also incorporate the technology.

Philips says Ambient Experience solutions give patients 'personalised control over the theme selection that defines the colour and intensity of the ambient lighting and the audio-video content in the room'. It adds: "Through specialised design strategies, examination and treatment rooms are de-cluttered, so that patients feel less overwhelmed by technologically complex medical equipment and procedures."

Letter

## Green light for self-testing

I was interested to read the 'Technical editor's view' within the article on the Weiss Klimatechnik Mediclean CPM system in the November 2012 issue of *Health Estate Journal* (pages 71-74).

The use of continuous particle monitoring (CPM) in operating theatres (OT) exceeds the current German Standard because it is measuring particles on line during surgery; as it is self-testing, ongoing checks and re-tests are not necessary. The aim of our product and research is to transfer the current state-of-the art practice found in our pharmaceutical business into the theatre environment.

The discovery of non-sterile air quality in Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) environments will see drugs manufacture halted immediately. If the air flow in an operating theatre becomes contaminated (usually from contact with human beings), then the air volume must be readjusted for the benefit of the patient from a pathogenic material standpoint.

The set point CPM ventilation runs according to the required number of particles (for example GMP Class A, 100 Part./cft). The higher the number of counted particles, the higher the air volume flow, and vice-versa. CPM is designed to operate at 0.20-0.38 m/s outlet air velocity. This means that, providing theatre staff are vigilant over hygiene, the ventilation will operate with an air velocity of approximately 0.2 m/s. Where particle pollution occurs, however, the system will operate with an air velocity of 0.38 m/s max, which is in accordance with HTM 03-01.

When theatres are not in use, the system will close down. The next time that the theatre is used, and the system activated, the CPM should display a green light, signifying that the system is ready to operate.

**Rupert Mack,**  
General Manager,  
Weiss Mediclean

## Rigid frames to guard against damage

Door protection product specialist, Intastop, says its Rigid Frame Guard is the ideal solution for those 'looking to reduce time-consuming and costly repairs to unsightly door frames'.



The Rigid Frame Guard protects the pull and push side of door frames, and the 'vulnerable rear edge'. Manufactured in high quality aluminium, it incorporates a PVC-u insert secured into the guard. The standard finish is in satin anodised aluminium, but Intastop can provide other anodised finishes or colour coating, including wood effect. The DDA-compliant product is available in a range of sizes and two types: Slimline Rigid, which can be used on both sides of the frame without any door opening restrictions, and is suitable for architraves up from 50 mm, and Standard Rigid, 'ideally suited for the push side of the door', which protects both the frame and door's rear edge when in the open position, and is suitable for architraves up to 100 mm.

Chester-le-Street Hospital's renal unit (illustrated) has benefited from the Slimline Rigid range.

## Hospital's 'risk-free revenue stream'

Low carbon energy efficiency, demand side response measures implemented at Stevenage's Lister Hospital in conjunction with KiWi Power, a 'smart grid' and energy demand management specialist, are expected to generate over £100,000 annually in new revenue.



Managed by the East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Lister Hospital recently upgraded its high voltage electricity network. During KiWi Power's turnkey project, four new diesel generators were installed for back-up power, alongside a duplicate power feed from UK Power Networks.

KiWi Power has also installed smart controls to allow new gas CHP plant to run in parallel with standby power equipment, enabling additional utility bill savings via reduced peak time energy consumption. Surplus power generated can be exported back to the grid, providing 'a new, risk-free, revenue

stream'. The hospital will receive payments through demand response aggregator KiWi Power via National Grid.

Control systems were integrated with the hospital's existing SCADA equipment, so KiWi Power can control the standby power equipment remotely from its smart grid operations centre in London.

## At your service

The Wandsworth Group has appointed Ben Griffin as service co-ordinator for its health sector range of products, including its IPiN nurse call and Telecall bedside computing systems.



Responsible for accepting and processing all items received at the company's Woking manufacturing plant for repair, Ben Griffin's role also includes co-ordinating Wandsworth's team of engineers to ensure that on-site maintenance and repair visits are scheduled and carried out quickly and efficiently at hospitals and nursing homes UK-wide. The new service co-ordinator previously worked in a similar role co-ordinating field teams for a point-of-sale installation company.

## Sodexo's Sussex soft FM win

Sodexo has won a five-year contract (with an option for a two-year extension) to deliver total soft FM services for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust.

With an annual turnover of over £15 m, the contract, delivery of which began last month, will reportedly be one of the largest of its kind to be awarded by

the NHS during the course of 2012.

The Trust provides acute services across two sites – the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, and the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath, treating over 750,000 patients annually. Sodexo has provided soft FM services to the Princess Royal Hospital since 1996.