Health Sector News

'Radical' new procurement programme to save the NHS £1.5 billion

With the NHS spending over £20 bn annually on goods and services – accounting for some 30% of each hospital's operating costs – but, in the view of Health Minister, Dr Dan Poulter MP, the NHS still 'failing to harness its enormous purchasing power', the Minister last month unveiled a new NHS procurement development programme, the goal of which he said would be to help NHS Trusts 'find' over £1.5 bn of procurement efficiencies over the next three years.

Describing the programme, which was launched on 5 August, as 'a radical new blueprint for how the NHS buys everything – from rubber gloves and stitches, to new hips, building work, bed pans, and temporary staff', the Department of Health (DH) said it would 'radically change what our NHS does with its money, by cutting wasteful spending'.

In unveiling Better Procurement, Better Value, Better Care: A Procurement Development Programme for the NHS (available at http://tinyurl.com/kbkl6su), the DH said the Government's NHS reforms were already making £1.5 billion of back office savings annually for the service 'by reducing unnecessary bureaucracy'. However, the new programme would 'show how our NHS can save much more, and support economic growth, by changing the way it buys supplies and does business'.

Dr Poulter said: "The Government is putting an extra £12.7 bn into our NHS, but that money needs to be spent much more wisely by local hospitals, who must wake up to the potential to make big savings, and radically change the way they buy supplies, goods, and services, and how they manage their estates.

"We must end the scandalous situation where one hospital spends hundreds of thousands more than another, just down the road, on something as simple as rubber gloves or syringes, simply because they haven't got the right systems in place to ensure value for money for local patients. This kind of poor resource management cannot continue."

The new publication 'takes an open and frank look at the procurement inefficiencies that currently exist in our NHS'. The DH said: "Findings show there is little consistency in the way our NHS spends money, and that very few senior people in NHS hospitals know what good procurement looks like. There is also an over reliance on 'framework agreements', at the expense of the NHS striking radical money-saving deals, such as hospitals getting together to bulk-buy equipment for a discount."

One of the key 'actions' set out in the new strategy will be the recruitment, to start shortly, of a new NHS 'procurement champion' with private sector expertise, 'with the authority to drive better procurement practices across the whole of the NHS'.

Cover Story

Energy scheme to save Trust £920,000 annually

The front cover of this issue of *HEJ* shows the waste heat boiler which forms part of the recently completed CHP energy centre at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Working with the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust under a Carbon and Energy Fund scheme, health sector energy specialist, Dalkia, has completed the design and build phase of the energy scheme, the goal of which is to achieve a 25% carbon footprint reduction by 2015, and secure annual energy savings of £920,000.

Under the 15-year contract, Dalkia has designed, built, and funded, a 2 MWe Cogenco CHP unit, and a 1 MW waste heat boiler, and installed hot water mains and a plant management system to control the energy centre. Downstream energy management, including the installation of 1,500 low energy lights, work to improve insulation, fitting of optimisation controls, and management of heating systems, are also all encompassed, with the costs of the contract to be repaid via guaranteed performance savings. The new lighting – which will be fitted in wards and circulation areas – will save £30,000 a year alone. Dalkia will operate the energy centre for the Hospital for the next 15 years.

Having managed energy in hospitals since 1938, Dalkia now provides secure on-site energy to over 6,000 hospitals in 35 countries – including through over 50 combined heat and power plants in NHS hospitals. By implementing site-wide carbon management strategies, supported by energy awareness campaigns, Dalkia says it 'delivers significant cost and carbon reductions using proven, energy-efficient technology, and best practice optimisation techniques'.



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Weatherboard 'just clicks' for specifiers

Marley Eternit says its Cedral Click is the UK's first 'innovative, low maintenance, fibre cement tongue and groove weatherboard' and offers 'a contemporary take on the traditional style of Cedral Weatherboard'.

The range features the 'appealing textured surface finish and performance benefits' of fibre cement weatherboard, and is fitted in a contemporary flat finish. Cedral Click will thus 'appeal to those looking for the enduring weatherboard style, but in a style which complements a modern architectural aesthetic'.

Fitted using a simple clip system, the product is 'quick and easy to install', and offers 'ongoing low maintenance, avoiding the issues associated with painted timber, such as flaking and warping'. Alongside being used for cladding, the planks are suitable as 'a low maintenance alternative to timber, on applications such as window surrounds and roofline'.

Available in seven colours, Cedral Click is offered with a range of colour matching aluminium trims.



Putting 'assets' on the map

With the UK public sector now having some £385 billion worth of property under management (Deloitte research reveals), national mapping agency, Ordnance Survey, says more and more public sector organisations across England and Wales are improving service delivery and cost efficiencies by accurately mapping their property assets.

Ordnance Survey says its 'innovative geographic data', provided

under the Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA), is 'underpinning this vital work'.

John Kimmance, director of sales and market development, said: "Knowing where these assets are, and, crucially, where they need to be, has proven to be essential to an effective estates management programme. The potential for cost savings is substantial, and the availability of open and shared geographical data through the PSMA



John Kimmance.

provides a platform to make a real difference to collaborative working, and effective planning."

York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the latest, and 3,000th, PSMA member, added: "Joining has given us the opportunity to explore how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can support estates and facilities management." Tom Whitfield, a Trust CAD

technician, said: "As an existing CAD user, I am keen to understand how GIS can complement our existing systems, and help us map asset locations to understand how facility location can improve service delivery.

"I can also see benefit from geographic analysis across other areas of Trust, particularly business intelligence teams. This would not have been possible without the PSMA, and the support from Ordnance Survey."

Seminar on improving air quality

IHEEM is supporting a one-day seminar on *Improving air quality in healthcare facilities*, being held by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) at its London headquarters at One Birdcage Walk on 7 November.

The IMechE said: "At this seminar, engineers, healthcare researchers, and lab designers, will examine the engineering challenges and solutions available to ensure that you meet modern healthcare ventilation standards and requirements."

Among the topics covered will be 'Trade-offs between energy and infection risk in healthcare ventilation' – Dr Cath Noakes, director, Pathogen Control Engineering Institute, University of Leeds; 'Low energy hospital ventilation' – Frank Mills, MD, Environmental Design Consultants; 'A new isolation room design for Category 4 pathogens' – Blanca Beato Arribas, senior research engineer, BSRIA, and 'Recent trends and influences in the design of laboratories for healthcare facilities' – Mike Dockery – Lab design consultant, Sui Generis.

More information on the speakers, and the event, is available at: www.imeche.org/events/S1799

IHEEM members can attend at a discounted price of £260 + VAT. To book, visit: https://events.imeche.org/ EventProduct.aspx?EventID=2046

P4 launches herald expanded sales team

P4 (FASTEL), the specialist manufacturer and supplier of self-testing emergency lighting systems, has further strengthened its sales team with the appointment of five 'experienced and talented professionals'.

Robert Kemp, Kevin Pearson, Jenny Orchard, Steve Rham, and Helen Rosenthal (pictured left to right on two 'levels'), bring 'extensive design, technical, and sales experience and knowledge, to provide world-class solutions for the public and private sectors in their respective territories', including healthcare, education, local government, leisure, high security establishments, airports, and infrastructure.

Rob Warner, P4's MD, said: "We are delighted that sales professionals of the calibre of Jenny, Helen, Steve, Kevin, and Robert, have joined our expanding specialised sales team, and I look forward to the role they will play in expanding our market share, and providing the very best service to our customers. They join us at an exciting time, following the successful launch of our new FASTEL Wireless emergency lighting system, and the significant expansion of our range of addressable and self-testing LED sign luminaires."



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Medical centre 'marries security with tranquility'

The Queensway Medical Centre, on the site of a former 'burnt out' public house in Wellingborough, in a 'challenging' residential area surrounded by roads and a low-rise shopping centre, 'marries external security with internal tranquillity', say its designers, maber architects.

They said: "From the outside, the 250 m², two-storey building is a robust, traditional cavity wall construction, with Trespa rainscreen cladding on the first floor, yet it opens into a welcoming, double-height glazed atrium housing the entrance lobby and waiting area. These look onto an internal courtyard, created because of the lack of scope for external landscaping."

The building, constructed by Stepnell, houses a large GP practice and a pharmacy, 17 consulting rooms, a minor operation room, and staff facilities.

The architects' specialist interiors team, maber iD, selected furniture, and worked with the client on branding, including signage. On maber's advice, the site's original owners, the 'now defunct' NHS PCT, acquired neighbouring land to



allow additional room for a car park, preventing any compromise on space for patients.

Coincidentally, the desktop archaeological study was undertaken by the team who discovered the remains of King Richard III in Leicester, where maber is working on a new visitor centre.

Security ensured at emergency care centre

Provider of electronic fire and security solutions, ADT Fire & Security, has been selected as security provider for NHS Grampian's new Aberdeen Emergency Care Centre.

ADT won the competitive tender with a CEM AC2000 integrated access control, security management system (SMS), custom designed to secure the 400 doors throughout the premises.

The Emergency Care Centre has replaced 40 per cent of the beds at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI – an acute hospital), 'combining all the services required to give emergency care under one roof'.

"When selecting a security



management system, reliability, scalability, and cost-efficiency, are all vital considerations", explained Paul Paton, senior security officer, NHS Grampian. "ADT offered a customised solution which enabled us to import our existing 10,000+ staff card holders from our previous system directly into the new AC2000 system. This seamless transition saved both time and money, while futureproofing our system for the years ahead."

The AC2000 SE (Standard Edition) system, designed by CEM Systems, was customised to enable seamless migration from the legacy system to the new AC2000 system; right down to the access cards. This meant no downtime during installation, and no additional expenditure on new staff cards. The system also integrated fully into the care centre's other CCTV, intruder detection, and intelligent lift control systems.

Royal Free facility to conduct global immunology research

Multi-disciplinary construction consultancy, Edmond Shipway, recently completed its work role as cost manager on the £6 million Phase 1 development of the Institute of Immunity, Infection and Transplantation, a new research facility for University College London and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, located at Hampstead's Royal Free Hospital.



A partnership between University College London and the Royal Free, the Institute is the UK's first global immunology research centre, and one of only five currently in existence worldwide. The Centre will bring together pioneering research and clinical trials in a purpose-built facility to

give patients quicker access to the latest therapies for diseases including cancer, leukaemia, chronic infections including HIV and tuberculosis, autoimmune diseases such as diabetes, and 'other rare conditions', such as haemophilia. It will also undertake clinical trials.

The Phase 1 works involved extensive refurbishment of the Royal Free's second



floor to create laboratories, clinical space, and a clinical trials unit. The development has enabled groups conducting research in immunology, infection, and transplantation, to be relocated directly alongside clinical services.

Edmond Shipway added: "The cost management role (the main contractor was ISG, and the architects, Ansell &

Bailey) involved ensuring that the new facility's design and construction stayed within its demanding budgetary targets."

Phase II, valued at £47 m, is due for completion in summer 2017, and would see the development of a standalone building adjacent to the Royal Free housing further treatment facilities, laboratories, and 200 leading researchers.

International award for Safesee door

Britplas's Safesee door, featuring an opaque panel which is quickly switchable to 'clear' to allow patient observation, and which is designed, as a whole, as a 'programmable scale' that enables staff to set a trigger point for notification of ligature attempts, has won a major international award.

The Safesee won the Product Design for Healthcare Application award at the 2013 Design & Health International Academy Awards, staged recently during the 9th Design & Health World Congress & Exhibition in Brisbane, Australia.

The Product Design prize was awarded 'for a product that adheres to human factor principles, is integrally installed in a healthcare environment, advances levels of technical performance, and integrates with the setting designed to accommodate it'.

The door's opaque panel ensures patient privacy, but, at the swipe of a card or a fob (for example, during observation rounds), can be rendered 'instantly clear' to allow viewing. The time and the name of the individual carrying out the observation are instantly logged – for an auditable record.

Anti-ligature-wise, a design

team specifying the Safesee for a mental healthcare bedroom might, say, choose 40 kg as an alarm trigger point for an



adult male ward, with a delay of 8 seconds before an alert is triggered. These parameters can be changed at any time using a simple Windows programme, while any alerts are instantly logged.

In addition, the door opens inwards, but has an invisible, 'instant release' anti-barricade jamb operated by the same card or fob used for

observation. No keys or tools are required. In 2009 Britplas won the same award

for its Safevent window.

Technology set to flush away 'old habits'

Reaqua Systems, a business originally formed by Scottish Southern Energy to explore energy reduction and greywater reuse, and subsequently spun out under investment funding from Scottish Equity Partners and backed by Scottish Enterprise, has established a factory in Livingston, southern Scotland, to supply a new technology for collecting wastewater (greywater) from baths, showers, and sinks, and subsequently 'recycling' it for flushing toilets.

Customers can optionally specify a system that will also extract heat from greywater, before it is 'recycled', so that it can be fed back into a central heating system.

The reAqua and reAqua+ units will, the company claims, both reduce water



reduction' in CO₂ emissions.

Suitable for retrofit and new-build use, the systems are designed to be easy to install and use. A revised plumbing set-up takes all wastewater from baths and showers, redirecting it through a compact filtration unit, where it is treated with a disinfectant. This treated water is collected in a tank, and piped on, as required, to supply all flushing needs for multiple toilets.

'Aspiration smoke detection' CPD

Recent changes to EN54-20 legislation, and the introduction of next generation aspiration smoke detection 'to provide earliest warning, accuracy, and flexibility', are 'just some of the aspects covered' in a new CPD accredited presentation from Honeywell Life Safety.

Its new seminar presentation, *Utilising fire alarm aspiration sensing technologies to deliver EN54-20 compliant very early stage smoke detection solutions to a broad range of challenging applications*, is designed for consultants, specifiers, and installers, working in the fire system design, architectural, mechanical, and electrical contracting, and FM sectors. Presenter Tim Checketts, responsible for EMEA Sales within System Sensor, part of Honeywell Life Safety, said: "The presentation's principal objective is to provide a clear understanding of how aspiration technologies, legislation, and associated system design tools, have evolved to enable applications such as hospitals, data centres, prisons, and warehouses, to benefit from the most effective fire protection."

The presentations are organised on demand at venues chosen to suit attendees. There is no charge, presentations last for around an hour, and attendance qualifies towards the individual's CPD record.

Tougher flooring for busy areas

A 'tougher' high-performance vinyl flooring for busy public areas has been launched by Gerflor.

The company said: "Architects, specifiers, and contractors, will appreciate the improved colour choices, durability, and lighter weight, of new Mipolam Elegance." Suitable for the healthcare, education, and retail sectors, the homogeneous flooring has a Group T wear rating, and comes in 33 contemporary colours.

Treated with Evercare surface treatment, Mipolam Elegance is 'scuffresistant', and needs no waxing or acrylic polishes to maintain appearance, while the combination of Evercare with other treatments ensures that chemical stains can be safely and hygienically removed 'with a minimum of water and detergent'.



Pegler's £5 m investment

Pegler Yorkshire, the plumbing and heating manufacturer, has invested over £5 million at its two Yorkshire sites to double production capacity to accommodate expected demand for its range of metal push-fit fittings.

Its Leeds site has received a £2.8 m investment, and its Doncaster factory, £2.5 m. The investment has been made in new presses and related machinery for producing components for plumbing systems, thermostatic mixing, and engineering valves.

Phill Jackson, marketing and business development director, Pegler Yorkshire, said: "Recent reports have highlighted a rise in UK manufacturing output – a good indicator for sustained recovery in our sector. Yet it would be difficult for this to continue if UK manufacturers do not continue to push the boundaries of innovation, target additional markets, and



Hydraulic stamping presses at Doncaster.

ultimately invest in their own businesses." The company has installed four hydraulic stamping presses, automatic bar saw, and shotblast machines for finishing forged product at its Doncaster site, and in Leeds, a dedicated Tectite cell, which delivers a quality-engineered finished metal push-fit system at a rate which doubles current production capacity.

From classroom to clinical practice

Endoscopists training at Cardiff University's Welsh Institute for Minimal Access Therapy (WIMAT) Endoscopy skills laboratory at University Hospital Llandough are to benefit from enhanced facilities.

This follows the supply, to the facility, of two new fully digital flexible endoscopy stacks and associated components



from Fujifilm by its sole UK distributor, Imotech Medical.

Valued at around £30,000, the equipment will be used to train endoscopists using high-quality simulation models.

WIMAT is the regional administration centre for JAG-approved endoscopy training courses in Wales. As a Royal College of Surgeons Accredited Training Centre, it offers courses from the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and hosts training provided by leading medical suppliers. Imotech has supplied the 'endoscopy skills lab' with two fully digital endoscopy stacks, including processor, light source, monitor, 'scopes', and trolley.

Monitoring optimises 'energy savings'

Spirax Sarco has enhanced its EasiHeat engineered systems for delivering hot water and heating on-demand 'to deliver up to 20% energy savings compared with conventional steam-to-water heating systems'.

EasiHeat now features the Spirax Intelligent Monitoring System (SIMS), a control and monitoring display technology that uses a colour touchscreen interface to deliver key performance data – such as steam use, fuel consumption, and temperature – to help operators monitor energy use more closely, and adjust systems to optimise efficiency. SIMS is accessible remotely through the Internet, or via 'smartphones' using SMS messaging, and compatible 'with most proprietary plant communication networks'. Steam users installing multiple EasiHeat systems can control them all via a single 'Master Panel'.

The company said: "Even without the addition of SIMS, Spirax EasiHeat systems typically offer between 6%–10% energy savings over 'traditional' shelland-tube exchanger systems. The new system delivers a further 10% energy saving on average – by ensuring that all useful energy is extracted."

News in brief

Call for 'pre-entry standards'

Speaking at the Association of Healthcare Cleaning Professionals' recent 2013 Annual Conference in Bolton. in her final address as AHCP national chair, Denise Foster, hotel services manager at South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust, challenged Association members, the NHS, and the Government, to introduce nationally recognised pre-entry qualifications and training standards for healthcare cleaners. Without these, she said. Government and NHS managers' attempts to deliver consistently high standards of hygiene and cleanliness in healthcare settings would 'continue to fall short of expectations'.

Synonymous with steam

Heat transfer specialist, Fulton, has moved to a new 43,000 ft² Bristol-based UK headquarters, a 'centre of excellence' for its heat transfer products, which will provide comprehensive customer support – from applications advice to delivery – and accommodate a training/seminar facility. The Fulton name has been 'synonymous with steam' since 1949, when the company introduced the vertical tubeless steam boiler in the US. Fulton is now 'a leading manufacturer of thermal heat transfer systems for applications such as water heating, steam sterilisation, and processing'.

Plans to take UK market by storm

Following some 20 years' successful trading in Germany and mainland Europe, plastics media specialist, Hewitech, has set up a subsidiary, Hewitech UK, in Cheltenham, and plans local production soon. Headed by director Dave Fozzard, who has extensive experience in the sector, Hewitech UK says it is 'well placed to take a significant share of the UK market in waste water treatment and storm water management'. Its parent company, based in Ochtrup, Germany, is 'an innovator of recycled polypropylene media, for applications ranging from cooling towers to waste water treatment'.

'Expert' healthcare cleaning division

Warrington-based In Depth Managed Services, a cleaning and FM specialist, has launched a dedicated healthcare cleaning division focusing on hospitals, dialysis centres, nursing and care homes, and dental surgeries. Kay Timms, the UK service delivery manager heading up the healthcare division, said: "Healthcare is one of our key areas for future growth. We've noticed an increase in demand for reliable, expert cleaners in this environment."

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Eastwood Park will use 'sensitive' protein detection test in training

Synoptics Health Division has announced that Eastwood Park is to use its ProReveal test to detect proteins on surgical instruments, to complement training of sterile services professionals on how to assess the validity of decontamination processes.

The 'highly sensitive' ProReveal *in situ* fluorescence test, which can detect 'nanogram levels' of protein, will be used on decontamination courses to train several hundred personnel annually from UK and international decontamination validation service providers and sterile services departments (SSDs).

Synoptics said: "On the courses, they will use the technology to optimise their appreciation of cleaning efficacy within decontamination processes by detecting where, and how much, protein is on surgical instruments post-cleaning."

Bruce Garbutt, training consultant at Eastwood Park, explained: "Protein decontamination currently represents the ultimate challenge in cleaning efficacy. If your process has removed protein, you

PHS Datashred on acquisition trail

PHS Datashred, the confidential data destruction division of the £422 million PHS Group, has continued its national expansion by purchasing Bettershred, a '10-year old', £250,000 turnover, Milton Keynes-based mobile document shredding business, with over 900 clients.

In January PHS Datashred acquired Exeter-based Phoenix Shredding, expanding its geographical reach in the South West, and now has 15 destruction centres nationally.

Anthony Pearlgood, MD, PHS Datashred, said: "For our 50th anniversary year our aim is to cover more of the national shredding market. This acquisition means that, in the past few weeks, we have further established ourselves as one of the UK's largest shredding companies.



"We're always looking at opportunities to expand, and Bettershred fitted perfectly with our organic growth strategy. We will offer our new and existing customers in Milton Keynes improved service levels, enhanced security standards, and a more flexible range of services – including on and offsite shredding and IT recycling."

Each year, identity fraud in the UK costs more than £2.7 bn, affecting over 1.8 million people, recent National Fraud Authority (NFA) data reveals.

Strength, security, and style

Sunray Engineering's ExcluLouvre is a LPCB securityrated stackable louvre system that has just received full SR3 security accreditation to LPS 1175 issue 7.

Developed to harmonise with Sunray's existing 'stackable' and 'hinged louvre door systems', it combines a high aesthetic quality with important security features, and is designed for easy installation, being suitable for any size of square structural opening up to 5 m high. The modular sections, each up to 2.5 m wide, can also be fixed together to provide 'an infinite width'.

Combining the strength of a fully welded solution, and 'a unique interlocking



anchor system', the ExcluLouvre has virtually no visible horizontal joins, and provides up to 42% free air flow, subject to blanking requirements. Additional features include an antivermin mesh at the rear, a front face-fixed top panel, and optional flange detail.

A matching ExcluLouvre Door, specifiable in single and double door formats, provides a maximum opening of up to 2.4 x 2.4 m, and is constructed from the same blade profiles as the ExcluLouvre. Key additional features include three-point locking and hooked security dog bolts, and a padlockable hasp and staple to the front face.



know your surgical instruments can be made safe to re-use. Pre-1999 we did not fully appreciate that it is possible to infect patients with prion diseases like vCJD should our cleaning processes not be optimal. More recently, we have begun to realise how swab tests to detect protein levels can be flawed; hence the imperative for an '*in situ*' test like ProReveal."

£1.6 million REI work complete

A 'transition' of ophthalmology services from Plymouth's Royal Eye Infirmary (REI), Mutley, to Derriford Hospital, is now complete, following the reconfiguration and refurbishment of the Avon and Carey wards at Derriford Hospital.

Ophthalmology services were previously provided and managed from the Royal Eye Infirmary, a building that was over 100 years old. The new HLM-designed project provides 16,145 ft² of modern space for the Ophthalmic Outpatient and Diagnostic service.

A new, 'clearly defined and welcoming' entrance at Derriford Hospital caters for patients arriving from within the facility, and incorporates new signage easily understood by all, 'especially the visually impaired'. A discreet waiting area for children, and consult/examination and diagnostics services, now all share a common reception area – 'helping create a quiet and relaxed atmosphere, despite the large number of people and movements within the department'.

The new design also aims to enhance the delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate specialist teaching and training in the clinical rooms, 'while maintaining the REI identity and reputation within Derriford Hospital'.

