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Leading UPS manufacturer, CENTIEL UK, has confirmed it is one of the sponsors for the Electrical Review Excellence Awards 2020. CENTIEL will sponsor the Data Centre Build and Design Product of the year category for these prestigious awards which recognise projects that embrace the latest in electrical engineering, display forward-thinking design and implementation and champion the highest environmental, safety and energy efficiency standards.

Mike Elms, managing director, CENTIEL UK explains: “This year was the first time that Data Centre Review magazine has been involved in these important awards and this enabled an expanded range of categories including new awards for products and projects, opening up the floor to the data centre industry. As experts and trusted advisors in this growing sector, we are keen to be part of that.

“In 2019, CENTIEL was shortlisted for three ER Excellence Award categories: Power Project of the Year, Power Product of the Year and Energy Saving Project of the Year, and so we felt it was right to ‘put something back’ by sponsoring the Data Centre Build and Design Product of the year award next year.

“Sponsorship offers an outstanding platform for us to join Electrical Review in rewarding excellence, innovation and collaboration. It also doesn’t preclude us entering one or two of our own projects in other categories – so watch this space!”

Amanda McCredie, group account manager SJP business media commented: “The ER Excellence Awards continue to grow in popularity and now certainly offer one of the industry’s annual highlights. As the organisers, SJP business media is delighted to welcome CENTIEL as a category sponsor for the first time in 2020. Attracting major new sponsors such as CENTIEL, underlines our continued commitment to support, recognise and celebrate important innovation and projects in this way.”

The overall winners for the Electrical Review Excellence Awards 2020 will be announced at a gala dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel on London’s Park Lane on 21 May 2020.

For further information please see: www.centiel.co.uk

Evolution unveils new fleet livery

Evolution, the integrated fire and security systems business, has upgraded its fleet of service and maintenance vehicles with eye-catching new livery.

The design and branding of the new livery is in sync with the Evolution sponsored JCW Mini, currently racing in this years' Mini Challenge. The car is being driven by 19-year old student Josh Stanton, with round seven of eight in this year’s taking place at Donington Park.

Richard Lambert, Managing Director of Evolution, said: “The new corporate design reflects the personality and creativity of Evolution and will definitely help us to stand out from the crowd! With the Evolution JCW Mini now available on Sony Playstation game Gran Turismo too, I’m in no doubt that the Evolution brand will gain greater recognition across the industry and beyond.”
**New concept hotel breaks ground in Birmingham**

BLOC Hotels’ third location, opposite Birmingham’s Grand Central and New Street Station, will open in 2021. With work now onsite, the building will comprise 227 bedrooms spread across 22 floors, bringing a contemporary new structure to Birmingham’s developing city centre skyline.

Joel Sawyer, director at Building Services Design (BSD) – which provided mechanical and electrical engineering (M&E) design services - said: “The demolition of the site’s previous building - Gallan House - has made way for this 7,000 sqm scheme, which will support the wider regeneration work taking place around New Street Station.”

BSD developed the M&E and technical designs for BLOC Grand Central, working alongside project partners, BrightSPACE Architects and structural engineers ICIS Design Ltd.

Joel added: “Due to the height of the building, our biggest challenge was the splitting of water services. We had to design a system that would allow the correct amount of flow and pressure, serving every level of the building seamlessly. This was achieved through the boosted cold-water services being designed to utilise two different pump sets. This allows the lower half and upper half of the building to be served independently.

“There’s no ‘one size fits all’ when it comes to hotel design. In addition to standard rooms, BLOC Grand Central will offer apartment-style accommodation with kitchenette, lounge and separate bedroom.

“BLOC Grand Central will have a tall, slim structure that’s like nothing else we have in Birmingham - so will be a welcome, modern new addition to the city.

“Birmingham is quickly transforming into a world-class city. BSD has had a presence here for more than 10 years, so we’re incredibly proud to be involved in such a significant scheme in the heart of our city.”

BLOC’s commercial director, Danny Jones, said: “We have a fantastic team working on BLOC Grand Central, which has managed to fulfil and deliver on our brief. BSD have managed to overcome challenges the building presented and design a fit-for-purpose system.

“We’re delighted to be opening our third hotel, adjacent to Grand Central station in Birmingham. It’s an incredible city which has seen significant development over the last few years.”

For more information about BSD, please visit: bsd.co.uk.

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**Greenlight for £80 million Skyliner development in Leith, Edinburgh**

A planning application by S1 Developments for the “Skyliner” site in Leith has been granted, subject to conditions, by City of Edinburgh Council Development Management Sub-Committee.

The committee voted in favour of a 338 apartment Build-to-Rent (BTR) scheme on a brownfield site at Ocean Drive on the edge of Albert Dock in Leith. The amended proposals comprise four blocks of seven to thirteen storeys with 25% ‘tenure blind’ affordable housing. A previous application for 245 units was approved by councillors in December 2018. The site is allocated for residential development in the Local Development Plan.

For elective renters, the Skyliner development is well located for transportation links around Edinburgh, including the anticipated phase II tram line. Provision for 71 on-site car parking spaces has also been made, including 6 accessible spaces, 12 electric charge points and 2 city car club spaces. Cycle parking provision has been increased to 708 spaces.

Subject to conditions, the scheme will be funded by Legal & General, as the company’s first Build to Rent development in Edinburgh and its second in Scotland. Build to Rent is an emerging, fast-growing market in the United Kingdom offering high quality and well-managed homes with ancillary services for elective renters. Legal & General is a major investor within the Build to Rent sector with 15 schemes, delivering over 5,000 homes, currently in operation or development across the UK.

S1 Developments, an Edinburgh family-owned developer who owns the site, will deliver the development for Legal & General. Scarlett Land and Development has been representing Legal & General and working with S1 Developments in the formation of the proposals. It is estimated that the scheme will be completed in 2022.

Luke McClelland, Project Manager at S1 Developments, said: “I’m delighted with the decision taken today by councillors. As an Edinburgh-based family company, we are thrilled to see this exciting project given the green light and look forward to breathing new life into a long-neglected area of Leith.

“A key element of the scheme is delivery of a new public boardwalk, served by established cycle routes and the new tram connection, which will provide the local area with a fantastic new amenity space.

“We look forward to getting these proposals underway and to continue working with council officials and the local community to deliver them.”

Dan Batteron, Head of Build to Rent at Legal & General, said: “Skyliner is another great example of Legal & General investing in a location with significant urban regeneration potential and delivering much needed city centre homes. With Edinburgh predicted to continue to see notable population growth, we are pleased that our plans to deliver this scheme have been approved by Edinburgh City Council. In light of today’s decision, we can now move forward to deliver these 338 new homes, which will provide flexibility and security to elective renters.

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Monese gets familiar with fintechs

Monese

Monese spent a week in Vilnius getting familiar with local fintechs and other startups, talked about how Brexit is forcing UK fintechs to acquire European licenses, and the Vilnius fintech ecosystem

Monese, one of the rising stars of the UK fintech scene, visited Vilnius for a week-long workation. The company was part of this year’s Workation Vilnius program - an initiative by the city, aimed at introducing Vilnius business environment to global companies.

After a week of getting to know the local business scene, Monese’s VP of Finance, Amish Mody, compared the fintech scenes in London and Vilnius, talked about the company’s plans to acquire a financial license in mainland Europe, and why emerging cities are sometimes better for up-and-coming startups.

"Lithuania is actively promoting its fintech scene, it is close-knit and very collaborate, and that is a huge advantage and draw for fintechs from all over Europe," commented Mody. "Of course, the UK has the advantage of having a big community of fintechs offering various kinds of services and access to capital."

A big part of the workation experience in Vilnius was meeting other startups and fintechs to share knowledge and get familiar with the local ecosystem.

"After meeting a couple of companies in Vilnius, it seems that Lithuania is an extremely attractive destination for companies to launch their businesses or establish support centres," elaborated Mody. "Having favourable conditions for support centres is essential for any startup. The companies I’ve discussed with had compliance, HR, development teams here. All of these are crucial for any up-and-coming fintech startup."

Monese has secured post-Brexit licensing coverage and has plans for a more localised service for its customers across Europe, which includes the introduction of European account numbers (IBANs). Using the opportunity, the Vilnius fintech community suggested Monese to consider acquiring their European e-money license in Lithuania.

"A fintech can never be an island; it can never operate alone. The world today is globally more interlinked and connected than ever before. Europeans will continue to travel the world, study abroad or work in another country, regardless of Brexit," said Mody. "Here at Monese, we have been a globally-minded business from the start. We knew we would need to be set-up to serve many customers in many countries around the world, regardless of and even post-Brexit. We have secured post-Brexit licensing coverage in Belgium, and we are firmly committed to offering more localised products, services and partnerships across Europe."

If Monese decided to set up part of their processes in Vilnius, they would be joining an increasing number of fintechs and other startups. The Lithuanian capital has a thriving startup and fintech scene with almost 250 active startups, 38 of them being fintechs, present in the city. Currently, the fintech companies in Vilnius are employing 2600 specialists, and 88% of them, according to Invest Lithuania, are planning to expand their Lithuanian team. 70% of fintech startups in Lithuania are located in Vilnius.

"The fintech cluster has already become a calling card for Lithuania," commented Julius Norkūnas, a technology expert at Invest Lithuania. "By attracting fintechs from the UK, Israel, USA, among other places, the country managed to become the regional leader of the sector. The companies establishing their operations in Vilnius do so due to competencies of the local talent pool, innovative approach of the Bank of Lithuania, and effective regulatory systems."

Apart from the reasons mentioned, the country has established a sandbox environment which allows fintech companies to test their products in a real marketplace without looming regulatory sanctions during the first year of operation. Additionally, it takes only three months to get e-money or payments license in Lithuania, approximately two to three times faster than in other EU jurisdictions.

Monese visited Vilnius as participants of the Workation Vilnius program. Launched in 2018, the program gives businesses the opportunity to spend a week in Vilnius, network, and learn about the local business ecosystem.

New visualisation, VR & AR innovations to be showcased

Digital Construction Week 2019

From the latest software integrating BIM with virtual reality headsets, to hand-held augmented reality systems for visualising designs on-site, exhibitors are preparing to show off the latest in visualisation, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) tech for the built environment at Digital Construction Week.

Taking place on 16-17 October at London ExCeL, it’s set to be a showcase of some seriously impressive products revolutionising the construction industry. Here’s a preview of just some of the new innovations that will be on display:

KOREC is introducing Trimble SiteVision, a high-accuracy augmented reality system that can be held in the hand. Users can visualise geospatial data, such as new designs and underground utilities, in the field. Walk around the model and view from various perspectives or click on the model for attribute information.

Fulcro is announcing the FULmax and Revizto partnership to deliver Digital Collaboration for teams using Immersive VR at the show. Visitors will have the opportunity to explore the benefits that can be realised using Revizto and FULmax together: to aid their team’s project engagement, design reviews and defect tracking, while standing inside live project data at life-size.

Fuzor is exhibiting a next generation VDC tool offering solutions for design review, design analysis, BIM validation, real-time collaboration, stunning 4D output, 5D with VR and AR support. Fuzor 2020 is designed to help AEC professionals to stay competitive, reduce cost, improve safety and win more business.

Vectorworks UK is promoting Vectorworks Architect 2020, a leading modelling, drafting and documentation solution from sketch to BIM. New developments include Live Data Visualisation, Walkthrough Animations, enhancements to the data tag tool and model sectioning for documentation, as well as a Vectorworks Graphics Module that offers faster file navigation and more responsive models.

Plus many more ...

To see the full programme for the Visualisation Theatre please visit www.digitalconstructionweek.com/visualisation.

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Ian Todd CEO of the SIA meets Magenta to discuss future of security industry

Magenta Security MD Abbey Petkar met with SIA Chief Executive Ian Todd and Tony Holyland (SIA Head of Quality & Standards) at Magenta HQ last month to discuss concerns about the lack of business licences in the security industry. They also considered other topics focused on making the security industry more professional and more robust in the face of unscrupulous players in the market. This included how the ACS could be made more available to the 80% of the industry, which represents approximately 40% of licence holders, yet to join the voluntary scheme.

“It was obvious from the outset that Ian understood the issues the security industry faces and that Ian and Tony want to do more for the Industry. Ian is keen to push through changes that would enhance the whole of the security market, however he needs to convince the Home Office that the changes are needed; and more importantly wanted by stakeholders across the whole of the security sector,” comments Abbey Petkar, managing director of Magenta Security. “In response to the objections I have raised over the SIA’s handling of business licensing they made it clear that it is still something they wish to explore and achieve but the political landscape means it is currently unfeasible, however they will continue to lobby the Home Office as and when appropriate.”

Despite not being able to push forward with business licensing, the SIA representatives did however confirm their desire to approach the challenge from a different angle as explained further by Abbey. “Though they are struggling in terms of business licences, the SIA is focusing instead on the end clients, educating them on the types of security companies they should consider using to ensure they avoid cowboy firms with poor standards across a number of areas.”

The conversation also considered the importance of paying guards a decent living wage – to avoid modern day slavery; customer service levels and environmental issues, all of which are fundamental to Magenta’s business practices and ethos.

It was agreed that Tony Holyland would attend the next SBN (Small Business Network) meeting at Abbey’s invitation. Tony commented that he believes that of all the organisations set up to help the security industry understand the implementation of the Security Act, the SBN is the only one to remain in existence, and that he looked forward to attending the meeting.

Abbey concludes: “The meeting provides a real foundation for future dialog and commitment to positive change. The SIA has a lot of work to do. However, under the leadership of Ian Todd I am convinced that the outlook for the future of the industry is in safe hands.”

Sodexo’s Sara Stephenson wins at the Women in Security Awards

Sara Stephenson, portering and security manager for Sodexo’s healthcare business, was presented with the Frontline award at the 2019 Women in Security (WIS) Awards held on the 12 September 2019.

Sara is Sodexo’s portering and security manager for Queen’s Hospital, Romford. She joined Sodexo in 2013 as a portering supervisor, quickly progressing to deputy portering and security manager within one year.

Through Sara’s innovative ways of working, she has implemented multiple improvements to the service. Examples include the introduction of covert stab vests and awareness training, encouraged engagement with the NHS Trust’s teams, and the enhancement of her team’s performance by championing diversity. Sara plays a vital role at Queen’s Hospital, with her quick actions and leadership skills used in the prevention of death and serious injury across multiple incidents.

On her win, Sara commented: “After I fell into security, I quickly sunk my teeth into the service. Since managing both the portering and security services at Queen’s Hospital, the team has employed seven female security officers and 10 female porters to reduce the perception that these roles are ‘male jobs’. I have also helped to introduce a caring, reactive and compassionate approach over a hard security image; this has really helped to support the needs of the hospital’s vulnerable patients.

“I was ecstatic to hear my name called out after working in a male dominated environment for so long. I am very grateful for the nomination and to those who took time to vote and organise the WIS Awards ceremony.”
Bufalo announces Terastation™ 3020 NAS for small and medium enterprises

Successor to TeraStation 3010 series features upgraded CPU, faster network port, and higher storage options

Buffalo EU B.V., a global provider of network attached storage (NAS), USB storage, wired and wireless networking solutions, introduces the TeraStation™ 3020 network attached storage series. This successor to the TeraStation 3010 series offers more computing power thanks to a 1.4GHz quad-core processor, a faster 2.5 GbE network port, and higher capacity options (up to 32 TB). The TeraStation 3020 is available in two-bay and four-bay desktop models, with a four-bay rackmount model completing the product lineup. A partially populated version is available for the 4-bay desktop and rackmount NAS with two 8TB drives, while all other versions come fully populated. The TeraStation 3020 NAS series is designed to meet the needs of small offices, agencies, freelancers, and any small and medium businesses that require fast data transfer, reliable hardware, and secure storage at a cost-effective price.

Powerful and reliable hardware

Thanks to a 1.4GHz Annapurna Labs Alpine AL214 quad-core CPU, TeraStation 3020 models are up to 1.7 times faster than their predecessors. Assuming the NAS is installed in a compatible network environment with at least 2.5 GbE (NBASE-T or IEE 802.3bz), backup times can be reduced significantly. Additionally, the ethernet ports (1x 2.5 GbE, 1x 1 GbE) support trunking for faster response times. The TeraStation 3020 series does not just feature faster computing and network components, but also higher storage options. While the previous model used NAS-grade hard drives with up to 4 terabytes of storage each, the new TeraStation 3020 product range adds storage options with up to four 8TB drives for a total maximum storage of 32 terabytes. All models are equipped with pre-tested, ready-to-use NAS-grade hard drives, configured in a RAID array, making the setup process as easy as possible and reducing the chance of drive errors. The setup of the NAS does not require any prior registration, which reduces the configuration time further.

Modern firmware with hybrid cloud support

TeraStation 3020 supports synchronisation with the most popular cloud storage services, like Amazon S3, Dropbox, OneDrive and Azure. Synchronisation intervals can be configured for selected folders in the intuitive admin panel, to give users full control which data is uploaded to the cloud as well as stored locally. The user-friendly interface also allows to set up iSCSI targets and to schedule backup services.

State-of-the-art security

With support for RAID levels 0, 1, 5, 6, 10 and JBOD, hard drive hot-swap, as well as rsync and replication, the NAS models offer advanced features to prevent data loss. If the firmware is corrupted the NAS will boot from a duplex firmware and in the rare case of a hard drive failure, Buffalo offers a fast replacement service as part of its VIP service program (free for the first three years and extendable to up to five years). All data on the drives can be encrypted to prevent theft and TeraStation 3020 users can also enable the ‘boot authentication’ feature, which makes sure that data is only accessible on authorised networks. On top of that, the operating system is closed and does not allow installation of unauthorized software, making the device more secure against malicious software. The front panel door of the NAS device is locked with a key and an anti-theft security slot allows the device to be secured with a cable.

The TeraStation 3020 series is available in fully populated desktop models with two hard drives, partially or fully populated desktop models with four drive slots, and as a partially or fully populated server rack mounted model with four hard drive slots.

Shocking survey reveals the UK fails its boilers every day

The UK’s lack of knowledge on heating systems highlights dangers ahead of upcoming Gas Safety Week and winter months ...

Worcester Bosch reveals the lack of regular maintenance and servicing by much of the nation with their boilers. The alarming survey reveals that half of the nation has never asked for the service history of a boiler upon moving into a new house, with 18% believing that servicing is unnecessary until a boiler breaks down.

Ahead of the upcoming Gas Safety Week, Worcester Bosch highlights that this could be a huge mistake as many Brits that have recently moved to a new house could have a boiler that has not been serviced for well over the recommended time of one year and some perhaps never. The survey also reveals that over 10% of the population have never had their boiler serviced, and a further 20% haven’t had their boiler serviced for over 12 months.

As we approach the beginning of the colder months and the most common time for boilers to break down, the lack of understanding in boiler maintenance has concerned Worcester Bosch. Often, a boiler’s warranty is voided if it is not serviced at least once a year, meaning that a significant number of UK homes may have lost this opportunity.

This could cause problems for much of the population, particularly millennials, of whom over a third said they would wait for their boiler to break down before servicing it. This fails to consider that when a boiler breaks down, the home is left without any hot water or heating until the boiler is fixed.

It’s clear that the UK population don’t realise the risks of ignoring their boiler, with one fifth of men and nearly one sixth of women in the nation believing that their money could be spent better elsewhere.
**False alarms - Getting the level of alert right**

Safety alerts elicit an urgent response with good reason; the cost of not responding in time is potentially astronomical. Fire, for example, can destroy equipment and entire buildings and have catastrophic human cost. Businesses are naturally committed to keeping their staff, property and livelihoods safe, so install fire alarms and other critical alerts to ensure this. But this isn’t the only crucial risk for businesses; in working environments ranging from hotels, production plants and large offices, false alarms can be an expensive inconvenience.

Modern fire alarm systems, for example, will display an alert on the fire panel when a single smoke or heat detector is triggered. This can reduce the impact of false alarms by allowing an internal response team a short period of time, often 5 minutes, to investigate and cancel the alarm, if necessary. However, many organisations find it a challenge to notice the alarm and alert the internal response team to investigate within the designated time. Not only this, but false fire alarms can place an unnecessary burden on the fire service, with Fire Services charges for time wasting creating further cost and inconvenience for businesses.

In manufacturing, unplanned downtime from false alarms can have serious financial implications. In a sector where every minute or even every second counts, the time lost while equipment is switched off and staff evacuated could be very costly indeed. No manufacturer would want to stop production while their employees are forced to leave the premises, only to realise the alarm was triggered by a faulty smoke detector. While staff are being evacuated and equipment is switched off and rebooted, the financial clock is ticking. Ensuring that the level of response is appropriate should therefore be high on the priority list of any manufacturing organisations.

In the hospitality industry, false fire alarms could mean the mass evacuation of all guests staying in a hotel, many of which would be understandably upset about being forced to leave their rooms. Very few of us would trade places with the hotel manager who must explain to 500 disgruntled guests why they have been dragged from their hotel rooms at 3am in the morning. Imagine the business cost if these customers demanded compensation. Instead of evacuating the premises, a more appropriate reaction might be for internal response teams to use modern technology to pinpoint the source of the potential fire and investigate. Once the source has been identified and the level of risk has been assessed, then most appropriate response could be determined and the alarm raised only if necessary, saving management teams costly and unnecessary embarrassment.

The way in which alerts are distributed to teams can be another barrier to getting the level of response right. Paging equipment was historically used to push messages out to response teams; these days it’s typically smartphones. But while the technology has updated, the system has not. This kind of alert is often pushed out to a response team of ten with no mechanism in place to determine whether all ten investigate or no-one attends the scene. In industries where teams respond to multiple alerts, such as hospital wards, alarm fatigue can also come into play. Complacency can set in, leaving the potential for no-one to attend a critical alarm as they assume that a colleague will. The lack of oversight on who is picking up the alarms and how long it takes to deal with things makes it tricky for those managing response teams to know if they are working effectively, how the team is working or whether it needs to expand. A system of alarm acknowledgement would be a more effective method. As well as providing a clear update on who has acknowledged the alert and who will be attending the scene, this would enable management teams to complete an audit trail for ongoing review and to monitor how effectively a team is responding to alarms.

The consequences of not responding appropriately to alarms could be incredibly costly for businesses; the trick is to ensure the appropriate level of response. An automatic alert can allow a business the time to make the internal investigations necessary to ascertain the appropriate level of response. The technology is available to enable businesses to adopt the right approach to alarm management. Isn’t it time all businesses woke up to better alarm management?

Klaus Allion, Managing Director, ANT Telecom
Preparing for Brexit in Construction

Preparing for the unknown: how the construction sector will be affected by Brexit

Des Duddy, Director at Protrade Ltd discusses the challenges and opportunities that the construction sector with face with Brexit in mind.

It is undeniable that construction industry, in much the same way as the nation as a whole, will be faced with both challenges and opportunities in a post-Brexit Britain. With that being said, it is currently difficult for any business leader to put themselves in a position to precisely take advantage of any opportunities which present themselves, due to the lack of clarity coming from central government.

The only thing C-suites in the construction industry can do is make a number of assumptions and provisions based on the comments and posturing of our Prime Minister. However, it’s difficult to know whether certain comments and news are an expectation of reality, which is causing political uncertainty. Unfortunately, this puts everyone in the position of having to prepare for multiple scenarios and essentially preparing for the unknown. From material manufacturers to housebuilders, no segment of the industry will come out unscathed.

One of the most concerning possibilities construction professionals should be considering, is that in the advent of the cessation of freedom of movement, the UK could lose around 200,000 skilled, willing and able construction workers. This will cause a knock-on effect as the industry is already facing a problematic skills shortage, despite making movements to create a more diverse sector. With an ageing workforce, a lack of interest from young people, and uncertainty about the outcome of Brexit, the construction industry looks certain to face a skills crisis in the next decade, with 1 in 5 roles currently left unfilled in the sector.

Investment will need to be made in training the workers of the future, and to make construction a more appealing industry in order to tempt school leavers. In addition to promoting the opportunities of a career in construction to school leavers - with plenty of them offering progression - the importance of promoting career diversity is pivotal, too. Making young girls aware of the benefits and opportunities within these roles is important, and by 2020, it is predicted that 26% of positions in the industry are expected to be filled by women.

In the immediate short term, the loss of EU workers will drive up the costs of construction as employers will be fighting for workers from a smaller pool of people, who will all be in high demand. The outcome of Brexit could have the potential to destroy a cost-effective and competitively priced workforce, resulting in established businesses having to relocate their HQ to a location that offers a more comprehensive and effective solution to both their employment and infrastructure needs. The availability and choice of business development land and premises are both essential factors when it comes to maintaining local and regional business competitiveness.

Another way to overcome staff shortages is to ensure efficiency and encourage the streamlining of work. For example; if construction companies can assist in making tasks 20% more efficient across 5 workers, that will effectively create one additional person. Companies should look to adopt web-based solutions that will provide accurate and timely project costing and multisite consolidation reporting. These cloud-based solutions can help track plant and equipment, manage maintenance contracts renewal dates, schedule engineer visits, respond to reactive calls and help workers with back-office tasks such as timesheets and expenses, freeing up more time for them to carry out their core tasks.

Another issue that should be considered and prepared for is the fact that at least 25% (approximately £0.2bn of materials) of all materials, tools and fixings used in construction in the UK are imported. Whether that be from the EU or from third-countries, it is expected that tariffs of some sort will be applied which, combined with a weaker sterling, will drive costs up further as well as slow down the supply chain.

Delivery time of materials will also be delayed, so it is essential to include this in forward planning and ensure you have a sustainable supply to carry out relevant work. Some - but not all - construction merchants can mitigate for these extra costs by buying in large quantities and while tariffs can’t be avoided, additional costs like shipping and profit margin can be negotiated with greater ease. Things like long-term agreements with the supply chain, which guarantees prices for 12 months will help in being able to forward plan with greater accuracy. Another consideration to account for is the possibility of paying VAT upfront, which will certainly have an instant impact on cash flow and revenue.

Despite the negatives, light is being shed on opportunities within the sector. The government has pledged to invest in infrastructure projects up and down the country, investing £600 billion in infrastructure development in the next decade, providing a welcome stimulus to the industry. Infrastructure investment is typically more resilient and will likely become a key part of the market as the government attempts to smooth out peaks and troughs of demand in the near and medium term future.

Work has already been started on transforming the M26 in Kent into a potential lorry park, whilst the Department for Transport is developing plans to handle the massive queues of trucks likely to appear in the event that freight be unable to progress swiftly through the ports when the UK leaves the EU.

Furthermore, various sectors of the construction industry could see particular growth. For example, off-site construction is an area which is gaining a strong foothold already. In addition to investing billions into infrastructure development, the government has also been outlining proposals to use offsite manufacturing to modernise construction processes. Both of these initiatives will make a huge difference to productivity across the industry, with circa 700 other projects, programmes and investments in the pipeline.

With the Government making plans to modernise construction within the UK and invest within areas such as transport, energy, social and digital infrastructure and flood and coastal erosion, the future may still be bright for the construction sector, no matter what the outcome of Brexit may be.
Out of 145 entries submitted in 2019, 91 National Landscape Awards have been bestowed on 63 members of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI), with several members winning an Award in multiple categories.

Since the event was brought back in-house in 2018, numerous records have been achieved including the most entries received in the past 10 years as well as the highest number of entries from first-time entrants at 51, 35% of the total entries and an incredible record of 34 international entries.

Notable wins include five Awards for Registered Contractors Nurture Landscapes, four Awards for Garden Club London and three Awards for Rosemary Coldstream MBALI of Rosemary Coldstream Garden Design. Registered Contractor Sky Garden, who recently joined BALI also took home an Award for its scheme ‘One Bayshill Road’ in the ‘Soft Landscaping Construction (non-domestic) - Under £500K’ category whilst Bridgman & Bridgman, another new member, won an Award for its roof garden at IKEA Greenwich.

The BALI National Landscape Awards’ expert Adjudication Panel, led by John Melmoe was joined by BALI Chief Executive Wayne Grills, Operations Manager Kirsty Wood and Events Project Manager Leah Brookes for a three-day deliberation marathon in late August where each of the 145 entries were scrutinised.

Reflecting on this year’s tough deliberations, John said: “The meeting was extremely heated at times, with in-depth discussion on each and every scheme submitted. This is a very healthy process with a blend of good humour thrown in. The complexity of some projects entered is always interesting and shows the diverse nature of the industry in which we are involved. The majority of categories were well supported, but we noted a very strong presence from the domestic categories. The quality of both the presentation and precision of execution within this sector were extremely high. The commercial sectors have some serious competition coming through.

Each year the range of projects submitted continues to grow and we need to portray the industries’ capabilities to a wider audience within the construction industry and beyond. The Awards provides the platform for showcasing the industries’ skills and has increased in stature to become the leading event in the landscaping calendar. I cannot wait to gauge the anticipation of the members at this year’s ceremony.”

Leah, who is managing the event from BALI Landscape House, said: “This is my first BALI National Landscape Awards event and I have been so impressed with the high standards achieved by members. With a record number of entries since 2009, it proves that the Awards remain the largest landscaping Awards event in Europe, celebrating and rewarding schemes in the UK and internationally. I personally had the pleasure of joining some of the Adjudicators on their site visits this year, to get a firm understanding of the process. It’s true what they say, they really do leave no stone unturned when judging is underway.”

Wayne added: “Looking at the results this year, it’s clear our
members are some of the world's most talented, highly skilled landscape professionals, with projects that continue to set the benchmark in quality standards. Using cutting-edge technology and incorporating state-of-the-art materials helps to define these schemes and sets them on pedestals that are in a league of their own. Members have also demonstrated ways they have invested heavily in training and attaining industry-recognised accreditations, an exemplary achievement considering budget restraints and fluid economic market conditions. Congratulations to each and every one of you and I look forward to seeing you displaying your achievements on your own website and marketing materials."

With the ceremony fast approaching, it has been confirmed that sport and lifestyle presenter Mark Durden-Smith is the host for 2019 and tickets are now on sale and expected to sell-out quickly upon the release of this year’s winners. The ceremony will be held on Friday 6 December at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London with Headline Sponsor and BALI Registered Affiliate Green-tech. For more information and for tickets visit baliawards.co.uk.

### Award Winners

#### Domestic Garden Construction - Under 30k - Sponsored by Derbyshire Aggregates
- LDC for A Private Residence in Leytonstone
- Boast About The Garden for Outdoor Kitchen & Seating Area
- Garden Club London for Private Residence in Teddington
- Langlea Garden Design & Construction for Line Domestic Garden Construction - Between £30k - £60k - Sponsored by Palmstead Nurseries
- J & S Scapes for Private Residence in Weedon
- Garden Club London for Private Residence in Middlesex
- Garden Club London for Private Residence in London
- Landscape Associates for Private Residence in Peckham
- Domestic Garden Construction - Between £60k - £100k - Sponsored by Johnsons of Whixley
- HG Landscapes for ECS
- Isola Garden Design for Family Lifestyle Garden
- Graduate Gardeners for Private Residence, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire
- Baikie Landscape Construction for Private Residence in Burghclere
- PWP Landscape Design for Private Residence in Harrogate
- Domestic Garden Construction - Between £100k - £250k - Sponsored by Van den Berk Nurseries
- Verde Landscapes for Private Residence in Kent
- J & S Scapes for Private Residence in Wingrave
- The Outdoor Room for Ribbon Wheel Garden
- Living Landscapes for Private Residence in Surrey
- Outdoor Options for Belvoir House
- Greenhaven Group for Pendlehaven
- Landscape Associates for Private Residence in Wandsworth
- Domestic Garden Construction - Over £250k - Sponsored by Europlants UK
- LDC for Private Residence in Esher
National Landscape Awards

**National Landscape Awards 2019**

- Inscape for Private Residence in Old Windsor Soft Landscaping Construction (non-domestic) - Under £50k
- Bowles & Wyer for Newham College
- Sky Garden for One Bayswater Road Soft Landscaping Construction (non-domestic) - Over £50k - Sponsored by Bourne Amenity
- NT Killingley for University of Northampton, Waterside Campus
- idverde for Sauchiehall Street Avenue, Glasgow Hard Landscaping Construction (non-domestic) - Over £500K
- Blakedown Landscapes (SE) for Cannon Park Memorial Garden
- NAO Landscapes for Bedford House
- PC Landscapes for Exbury Centenary Garden Hard Landscaping Construction (non-domestic) - Over £500k - Sponsored by Brickworks Yande Moortel
- Maylim for Coal Drops Yard
- Elite Landscapes for One Blackfriars
- Blakedown Landscapes (SE) for RHS Wisley
- Wright Landscapes for Manchester Science Park
- Ground Control for Children’s Garden, Kew Gardens
- Frosts Landscape Construction for 2-6 Cannon Street Community and Schools Development
- Carrier Landscapes for College Square
- LockWood Landscapes for Playground Development
- HOS Landscapes for The Quad
- Talbot Farm Landscapes for Icknield Port Loop
- Ground Control for Children’s Garden, Kew Gardens
- Bowles & Wyer for NHS 70 Garden Regeneration Scheme - Over £500k - Sponsored by MCM
- Blakedown Landscapes (SE) for Venetian Waterways
- Talbot Farm Landscapes for Icknield Port Loop Grounds Maintenance (to include Green Roof Maintenance) - Free Public Access - Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen
- Gavin Jones for Pottersfields
- idverde for The Regent’s Park Grounds Maintenance (to include Green Roof Maintenance) - Limited Public Access - Sponsored by Reesink Turfcare UK
- Nurture Landscapes for Snowhill
- Scotscape Landscaping for Vista Development, Berkeley Homes
- Grounds Maintenance (to include Green Roof Maintenance) - Private - Sponsored by ICL Specialty Fertilizers
- Nurture Landscapes for Private Business in Waltham on the Wolds
- Gavin Jones for St. John’s School
- Bowles & Wyer for Private Roof Garden in London Registered Designer & Registered Contractor Joint Submission - Sponsored by Easygrass
- Sue Townsend MBALI & Oak View Landscapes for Private Residence in Essex
- Rosemary Coldstream MBALI & Landform Consultants for Hampstead Modern Garden
- Tony Woods MBALI & Garden Club London for Private Residence in Middlesex Interior Landscape - Installation Only
- Nurture Landscapes for Kimpton Fitzroy Hotel Interior Landscape - Maintenance Only
- Nurture Landscapes for Smarts Real Gardens / Living Wall Installations - Sponsored by Green-tree Topsoil
- Bridgman and Bridgman for IKEA Greenwich
- Goddards (Landscape Contractors) for Private Roof Garden, WC1
- Nurture Landscapes for Private Roof Garden in Kensington
- Biotecture for Wimbledon No 1 Court
- Frosts Landscape Construction for 10 Fenchurch St
- Scotscape Landscaping for The Royal Lancaster Hotel Living Wall
- Greenside Landscapes for Private Roof Garden, EC1 Design Excellence Award - Overall Scheme Under £50k - Sponsored by Ground Control
- Patricia Fox MBALI for Hertfordshire Walled Garden
- Rosemary Coldstream MBALI for Modern Garden, Hampstead International Award - Sponsored by CED Stone Group
- Beijing Bellin Landscape Architecture Institute for Landscape Design Project, The First Rainwater-Harvesting Park in Qin’an
- DDON Planning and Design for Sloping Word
- Shimao Group for Loong Palace
- Atelier DVJG for Renewal of Xiamen Zhongshan Park
- Atelier DVJG for Quarry Gardens of Nanning Garden Expo
- U.P.Space (Beijing) Landscape Architecture Design Consultants for Xiong’an Yanke Rainwater Neighbourhood
- DDON Planning and Design for Jiangyin Chengjiang Garden
- Xiamen Urban Environment Design Engineering Co. for Xiamen Old Theatre Cultural Park
- Beijing Tsinghui Tongheng Urban Planning and Design Institute for Wetland Paradise on a Giant Rooftop—The Wetland Park in Huaifang Reclaimed-Water Plant
- Beijing Tsinghui Tongheng Urban Planning and Design Institute for Maya Mountain Park, Oasis on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
- China Construction Engineering Design Group Corporation for Qingdao Fushan Ecological Park Landscape Enhancement Project
- Beijing Bellin Landscape Architecture Institute for Jinhong Baicaopo Forest Botanic Garden
- Ecoland Planning and Design Corp. for Zhonghai Tianyu Garden, Shenyang
- Beijing Bellin Landscape Architecture Institute for Landscape Greening Project of Jiahe Ecological Country Park
- Shanghai Edging A&LA CO. for Landscape Design of Rose Garden of Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Shanghai Edging A&LA CO. for Renewal Design of Shanghai Zuibaichi Park
- Affile Exceptional Service Award - Sponsored by idverde
- Platipus Anchors
- SAIGE Longlife Decking
- Dorset Soils and Aggregates
- MCM
- Mobilane UK Employer Excellence Award - Turnover Over £2.5m - Sponsored by Fresh Horticultural Careers
- Gavin Jones
- Green-tech
- The CGM Group (East Anglia)
- Benchmark Grounds Maintenance

bali.org.uk
Evidence continues to pile up about continued fire door failures in residential and commercial property, according to Trident Building Consultancy.

As Fire Door Safety Week takes place this week, two of Trident's building surveyors have catalogued the most common fire door defects they find when undertaking inspections.

Since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Trident has been working on a number of projects where buildings have required replacement cladding and updated fire risk assessments. This work has also revealed hundreds of failing fire doors.

One project included multiple residential tower blocks. An intrusive survey was carried out on a sample of seven fire doors per each block. Architraves were removed to expose the detailing between the door frame and structural opening to allow the surveyor to cross check it with requirements of the fire test evidence. The survey found that the door frame installations were not compliant with the relevant test evidence and wouldn't provide the required period of fire resistance. This defect, among others found, resulted in all of the fire doors and frames needing to be replaced.

Christian Watkins, an assistant building surveyor at Trident who worked on the project, said:

"It was shocking to see that every single one of the sample fire doors we inspected was non-compliant. Once the architrave was removed, we could see the back of the door frame was packed with pink foam. This wasn't going to act as any sort of barrier and clearly wasn't in accordance with the test evidence for the fire doors. These buildings were only refurbished in 2015."

Further failings that Christian Watkins and Trident executive director, Matt Clare, have recorded on a regular basis included:

- Lack of maintenance records.
- Missing or painted intumescent seals, which compromises fire resistance.
- Fanlight windows above doors being replaced with plywood, which doesn't offer the fire resistance needed.
Fire Doors

- Integrated ventilation grills without any fire resisting properties.
- Gaps between the door and the door frame are often excessive.
- Missing or incorrect fire escape signage.
- Locked fire doors.
- Additional untested ironmongery installations.
- Door closers not performing as intended.

Matt Clare, one of the specialist advisers on the Steering Group on Competence for Building a Safer Future and its working group looking at the skills and training requirements for fire risk assessments, said:

"Design and build is partly to blame. It is absolutely clear to me that such contracts and procurement routes, where risk in construction contracts is being shifted onto the contractors, has driven the wrong behaviours when it comes to building safety.

"I think that the loss of the clerk of works from construction is another factor. There are things being done that you would never have got away with in a traditionally procured contract because the clerk of works would have told you to take it down and do it again. That doesn't happen anymore.

"But there's also an overall decline in standards of workmanship and care and pride when it comes to our buildings. And that's the very pernicious attitude we need to change fastest, across all trades and professions."

Trident responded to the interim Hackitt Report last year, calling for clerks of works to be reinstated as the norm. It referenced one of its recent projects – a new build care home in Scarborough – and praised how the clerk of works on that site oversaw the installation of fire doors:

Christian Watkins said: "I inspected the development during the plastering stage when the fire doors were also being installed. It was interesting to note that the carpenters were fitting the doors extremely tight into the frame. This was to allow for the timber shrinkage that occurs when heating is applied to the building and the plaster finishes dry out. Once the moisture levels had stabilised, final adjustments were made to the doors. This approach ensured that gaps between the door, frame and threshold didn't shrink and then exceeded the maximum acceptable standards. I've never seen that method being used before and it prevented anyone having to go back and rectify the doors post-build."

In addition to having a clerk of works on new build projects, Trident has given its strongest support to the idea of a compulsory competency register for fire door installers, in line with the recommendations in the Raising the Bar report. Trident recommends to all its clients that only complete fire door sets are specified, tested through a third-party certification scheme such as BWF-CERTIFIRE, which provides full traceability.

Matt Clare said: "It is our responsibility both as property owners and construction professionals to ensure that we are prioritising fire safety throughout a building's life. Properly specified, fitted and maintained fire doors are a fundamental part of this."

www.tridentbc.com
As winter approaches, many of us are stocking up on coats and woollen accessories ready for the cold and challenging weather. We make a good job of preparing our wardrobes for the upcoming winter season, but how much consideration do we give our homes? Here, Nick Cowley, managing director of PVCu and composite window and door manufacturer Euramax Solutions, explains how your windows and doors can prepare your home for winter.

The extreme weather from the ‘Beast from the East’ that hit the UK in 2018 had severe impacts on many lives. From school and airport closures to traffic accidents, the weather hit before people could prepare themselves. It can be difficult to prepare for the weather on a normal day, but winter is inescapable and offers a harsher set of challenges.

We rely on our windows and doors for more than just accessibility, security and light — and during winter months, we depend on them more than usual. The windows and doors in our homes play a big part in keeping us warm, however, this is often underestimated. For this reason, old or low-quality windows and doors can cause inconveniences in winter and it’s important to evaluate their energy efficiency properties.

A double-glazed winter

The Energy Saving Trust UK found that up to 20 per cent of a home’s heat loss is caused by inefficient windows and doors. Naturally, energy bills rise in the winter due to increased use of central heating. However, ensuring that your windows and doors are highly energy efficient will reduce heat loss, increase the thermal insulation of your home and keep your energy bills low. So, what makes windows and doors energy efficient?

Windows can lose heat in a number of ways: directly through the glazing, frame or the spacer bar between the glass and frame. To avoid this, it’s necessary to evaluate these areas when preparing your home.

Double glazing consists of two or more panes of glass that are fixed into a sealed frame and is an effective way to reduce the amount of lost heat. Double glazed windows are also filled with an inert gas such as argon gas, which has a 34 per cent lower thermal conductivity than air. The thermal resistance and extra pane of glass means that double glazing helps to retain internal heat, while reducing energy bills that peak during winter.

The benefits of double glazing are not only energy efficiency related. Double glazing can also combat noise pollution, which is beneficial in winter when storms or high winds are likely.
Material world

While double glazing offers many benefits, it’s equally important to ensure that the frames around the windows and doors are energy efficient.

PVCu (polychloride vinyl) is an effective and popular choice for window and door frames. This material does not conduct heat, meaning that warm air is retained inside. It is also low maintenance as PVCu is highly durable and will not be damaged or tarnished by severe weather conditions.

An alternative to PVCu is composite, which has become increasingly popular for aesthetic purposes. A composite combines two or more different materials to create one with different properties to its origins, making composites particularly strong. Although composites can have the exterior look and thermal insulation of timber, they are fixed with an aluminium cladding for easy maintenance and durability during the winter.

Sealing solutions

Sealant is often overlooked, but this simple substance adds an extra layer of protection from the outside weather. Sealant is used to secure windows and doors in place and prevents air from escaping around the frame, improving the thermal insulation of your home.

However, over time sealant can become worn and cracks can appear, allowing heat to escape. It’s important to inspect the sealant around your windows and doors for any defects and replace it when necessary. By maintaining the sealant will ensure that the cold winter air remains outside of your home and the heat stays in.

Energy ratings

The fenestration industry has several rating systems to determine energy efficiency quality. For example, The British Fenestration Rating Council (BFRC) rates the energy efficiency performance of windows and doors on a scale from A++, meaning the window or door has a high energy performance, through to E, the lowest rating of energy efficiency quality. With a rating of A or higher, you can be assured that your windows and doors are able to keep your home warm and your energy bills down, increasing energy efficiency.

When selling, renting or building a home, an energy performance certificate (EPC) is required to prove a building’s efficiency. Similarly, this rates energy efficiency from A for high energy efficiency, to G for low efficiency. By obtaining this certificate you can rest assured that your building is energy efficient.

Furthermore, the overall thermal performance of glazing and framing is called a U-value, which measures the amount of heat that passes through a glazed unit. The lower the U-value, the more energy efficient the glazing is. Windows and doors with a low U-value retain more heat, reducing energy bills and keep your home warm.

Draught proofing

For optimal energy efficiency during the winter, draught proofing your home can greatly improve its warmth. Draught proofing is one of the cheapest ways to save energy and money and can be carried out as a mini DIY project or by a professional.

By covering holes, gaps or spaces in or around your windows and doors, the method eliminates cold air getting in your home and warm air from escaping. Items such as draught excluders are used to stop air evading from the bottom of door frames, whereas self-adhesive foam strips can be used to cover key holes and edges of window frames.

Regardless of whether winter conditions are as severe as Beast of the East or mild snowfall, it’s vital to prepare your home for the colder months. By ensuring the windows and doors installed in your home are reliable, energy efficient and capable of withstanding winter weather, you’ll be able to increase the warmth in your home and keep your energy bills low throughout winter.
Ensure your workplace hygiene is up to scratch this Global Handwashing Day

Jamie Woodhall, Technical & Innovations Manager, Initial Washroom Hygiene

Global Handwashing Day is right around the corner (15th October). Aimed at encouraging people to regularly and effectively wash their hands, the initiative serves as a timely reminder for businesses to ensure their own workplace hygiene standards and facilities are up to scratch.

Handwashing plays a vital role in preventing illness from spreading throughout the workplace. Approximately 80% of viruses can be transmitted through physical contact, and most can live on hard surfaces for up to 24 hours. With 32% of the UK workforce hotdesking, and 49% eating lunch regularly at their desks, there is potential for germs and illnesses to spread rapidly amongst workers in the office through cross contamination as they touch various surfaces as they go about their working day.

Research from Initial Washroom Hygiene has found some alarming hygiene trends relating to the workplace washroom.

Some things need to stay out of the washroom

More than one in 10 (12%) of office workers said they take food or drink into the washroom with them, a habit that could facilitate the rapid transfer of bacteria directly from the washroom onto an item that is going to be consumed.

On top of that, our research reveals 40% of workers admitted to using their smartphone while on the toilet and 30% said they spend longer in washrooms since acquiring a smartphone. While using your phone may seem innocent enough, only 22% of workers clean their phone after using it in the washroom.

This is particularly worrying when you consider that we interact with our phones 120 times per day, on average, and bring it close to our mouths when we make calls.

Standards decline when time is tight

The simple act of washing your hands can significantly reduce the level of bacteria present, and therefore reduce the risk of cross contamination. Encouragingly, most people (84%) wash their hands after visiting the washroom. However, a third admitted that if they were in a rush, they would forego washing their hands.

Hand hygiene tips for the workplace

Illnesses such as flu and Norovirus can spread quickly, particularly in a large office environment and we tend to be more at risk during the colder months when we spend more time indoors and less time outside.

The good news is that there's plenty that can be done to ensure your workplace is a hand hygiene haven:

• With reasons for not washing hands ranging from a lack of provisions like soap or towels to being put off by an unclean handwashing area, employers must ensure their washrooms have the right number of facilities for the expected footfall, and that they are cleaned regularly (at least daily). Consider installing no touch soap dispensers and sanitisers too, which help to promote hand hygiene by eliminating the need for contact and – subsequently – the spread of germs.
Workplace Hygiene

• Education cannot be underestimated. Putting reminders near sinks and basins in kitchens and washrooms, that encourage workers to wash, dry, and sanitise their hands properly, will help. Discouraging the use of smartphones or the presence of food or drink in the washroom should make a difference too.

• With 16% of people saying a bad smell would prevent them from washing their hands, investing in the correct air care solutions will help neutralise any unpleasant odours, fragrance the air throughout the washroom and encourage handwashing.

• Simple steps like loading up desk spaces with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitising gels can all generate a marked improvement in hygiene practices amongst employees.

• Ensuring regular, thorough cleaning takes places in all communal office areas, such as the kitchen and washroom, is essential. A specialist deep clean to more comprehensively disinfect those areas that are hard to reach, or cleaned less frequently is advised twice a year, especially in advance of peak flu season.

Given 61% of office workers want cleaner washrooms, investing in these steps will show employees your commitment to ensuring workplace hygiene is front of mind.

Final thoughts

As we enter the colder months, let Global Handwashing Day serve as a reminder to check in with your team on their handwashing practices, and ensure that the right hygiene facilities, tools and education are in place. This should create a healthier and happier working environment for all and help prevent illnesses from spreading throughout the workplace.
CP Electronics, the UK’s leader in energy saving lighting controls, has transformed the Bronte Girls’ Academy in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Working closely with G&H Building Services, the company turned the old Bradford Council Offices into a new 600-pupil academy.

Designated as a ‘free school’, Bronte Girls’ Academy is open to pupils aged between 11 and 16 and is managed by Feversham Education Trust. A range of CP Electronics’ lighting control systems and detectors is used throughout the school, including classrooms, staffrooms, office areas, main hall, sports hall, kitchen and external areas such as parking and entry points.

The transformation of the old building makes the academy one of the most energy efficient and modern schools in the country.

Automated for Efficiency

With automation and efficiency a key requirement of the project, CP’s innovative Vitesse Plus system is used as part of the many new energy saving solutions in the academy. The standalone 7-channel system is installed throughout the classrooms and is connected with daylight-dimming presence detectors to help save energy. The detectors will automatically
dim the lights closest to the windows if sufficient natural daylight is available.

Other areas of the school also benefit from CP's energy saving technology. The academy's corridors make use of CP's long-range microwave detectors, and will dim down to a set output, only going back to 100% when movement is detected. Meanwhile, toilets and bathroom lighting are set to switch on or off, based on presence detection; whilst the offices also use dimming technology paired with DALI LED lighting.

Enabling this lighting control is CP’s Vitesse Modular system. The unique benefit of the modular system is its ability to adapt and grow from 4 to 16 way. This gives Bronte Girls' Academy the flexibility of easily changing the lighting set-up when required.

All under one roof

Bronte Girls’ Academy is also set up for different lighting scenes in communal areas, such as the sports halls and dining areas. Utilising scene setting plates, these areas are programmed with five different lighting set ups that can be adjusted to dim or brighten, depending on the activity taking place.

Neil Blunt, Project Manager for G&H, said “G&H Group has a long-established relationship of working with CP Electronics, thanks to their huge range of lighting controls, technical support and knowledge of lighting. Once again, they have delivered with Bronte Girls’ Academy, enabling us to meet the needs of the school and minimising energy usage.”

Ian Dennon, Area Sales Manager for CP Electronics, said “We are delighted to have had the opportunity to help transform the old Bradford council offices into this outstanding new school. It’s a fantastic new facility, and our controls will go a long way to help keep running costs down for years and years to come.”
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