qube magazine

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**CENTIEL Confirms Senior Appointments**

**Centiel**

Leading UPS manufacturer, CENTIEL UK, has confirmed the promotion of Louis McGarry to Sales and Marketing Director with immediate effect. FormerLY CENTIEL’s sales manager, Louis McGarry will now oversee CENTIEL’s UK sales and marketing operation. In addition, Andrew Skelton previously operations manager, has now been named as Operations Director. Andrew Skelton is responsible for the delivery and deployment of CENTIEL’s full range of market leading UPS solutions for projects across the UK.

Mike Elms, managing director, CENTIEL UK confirms: “Since launching the CENTIEL brand in the UK two years ago, the company has grown dramatically requiring additional staff which makes introducing the correct structure and the right people within a senior management team imperative. In addition, our range of UPS solutions has been further extended, so as well as CENTIEL’s true modular UPS system, CumulusPowerTM which offers class-leading “9 nines” availability, the standalone PremiumTowerTM range now has individual ratings up to 250kW. As a technology company, we continue to position CENTIEL as industry experts and trusted advisors to our growing client base in the UK.

“Louis McGarry’s appointment to sales and marketing director recognises his significant contribution to our success so far. He will now have overall responsibility for the continued expansion of our hardware and service sales in the UK. Louis and Andrew’s new roles and our renewed structure will further strengthen our existing team and put CENTIEL in the best place for continued for long-term industry leadership.”

Louis McGarry comments: “I joined CENTIEL to be part of something different. Launching the CENTIEL brand and delivering the latest UPS technology has certainly been different! Being part of a team of experts who have an agile approach and a shared goal has been key to the company’s growth and to our success.

“Taking on the role of sales and marketing director will allow me to continue our expansion and help the company move to the next level. It's an exciting time in this industry to be leading the next generation of UPS experts, delivering the next generation of UPS technology. Who wouldn't want to be part of this!”

Louis McGarry joined CENTIEL at the end of February 2018 as Sales Manager. McGarry has over a decade of experience in the UPS industry working for brands such as Kohler Power (previously UPSL), and Emerson Network Power (Vertiv). His extensive knowledge of products and services including UPS systems and delivery and deployment of CENTIEL’s full range of market leading UPS solutions for projects across the UK.

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**New year signing sees Joules added to The Boulevard’s crown**

**Joules**

Iconic British lifestyle brand to open at designer outlet creating 12 jobs

One of the UK and Ireland’s most loved lifestyle brands, Joules, has been confirmed as The Boulevard’s first retailer signing of 2020, creating 12 jobs initially.

Joules has become renowned for its high-quality clothing and interiors collections. This, along with its strong use of colour, bold prints – all hand-drawn by the talented in-house design team – and unique signature detailing has made the label a well-loved brand with families everywhere. The brand will open the doors of its 2,100 sq ft unit later this year, making it the ninth new retailer to set its sights on the designer outlet creating 12 jobs so far.

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It joins the likes of Levi’s, Crew Clothing and Jack and Jones Junior, all recent additions to The Boulevard as well as the scheme’s long-established brands such as Nike, Adidas, Hugo Boss, Jack Wills, Timberland and GAP.

Tom Joule, Joules Founder and Chief Brand Officer said: “We’re thrilled to be opening a new Joules store at The Boulevard. We’re really looking forward to bringing our unique personality and style to shoppers later in the year. We’re initially creating 12 full-time and part-time roles so are keen to hear from people who love fashion and are as passionate as we are about the Joules’ brand.”

Chris Nelmes, Retail Director at The Boulevard, said: “After our best year in 2019, we’ve started 2020 with a bang. Joules is a fantastic addition to The Boulevard’s retail portfolio – womenswear is one of our consistently strong categories and we’ve worked hard over the year to really bolster our offering with standout brands.

“We’ve just come out of our strongest Christmas trading period ever with footfall up by 4% on the year thanks to the strength of our brands, the discounts and savings and a busy onsite events calendar that’s helping increase dwell time and boost spend per head by 5%.”

For further information please see: www.centiel.co.uk
Humidity keeps the spiders healthy at London Zoo

Condair has supplied a Condair CP3 Mini steam humidifier for the “spider nursery” at ZSL London Zoo. The compact wall-mounted humidifier provides up to 4 kg of steam per hour to the atmosphere, with its built-in fan unit. This is sufficient to maintain the ideal air humidity of 70% RH, as the arachnids would have enjoyed in their indigenous habitats from around the world.

Dave Clarke, ZSL’s Head of Invertebrates, comments, “Most of our spider species come from tropical forest, where the humidity is naturally high. If the atmosphere is too dry in their holding area, they would be unhealthy, unlikely to breed, and have particular difficulty in moulting their exoskeletons.”

“Our spiders include the cosmopolitan Huntsman spider, Mexican red-kneed spider (one of the large bird-eating, or so-called “tarantula” spiders), rare Desertas wolf spiders and Peacock Parachute spiders. The latter two are part of European Breeding Programmes, so the humidification system is playing an important role in helping us protect these threatened species.” Dave continues.

“Having worked with Condair since 2008, we now rely on their steam humidifiers, which we find both efficient and easy to use. They are particularly important for our irreplaceable populations of endangered species, for example our Polynesian tree snails, many of which are now sadly extinct in the wild.” Dave concludes.

The Condair CP3 Mini is ideal for small areas such as London Zoo’s spider nursery, due to its built-in fan unit and user-friendly design. The humidifier has a discrete fan incorporated into the top of its cabinet to disperse the steam into a room. This makes the humidifier very compact and is unlike most other humidifiers of its type, which are supplied with an additional bolt-on fan unit element.

The CP3 Mini installed at the Spider Nursery has exposed drain and electrical connections, but it can be installed with rear entering services, to avoid visible pipes and cables. This makes the system ideal for public areas or offices, which want an attractive and discrete humidity control solution.

ZSL London Zoo is the world’s oldest scientific zoo, having been formed in 1828 for scientific study and then opened to the public in 1847. The zoo has the UK’s first ever walk-through spider exhibit, where visitors can even pose for a pic with golden orb spiders, in their one metre webs, with the help of a “Spider Selfie” mirror. The zoo also operates a very successful arachnophobia curing programme, where spider-haters can be turned into spider-lovers, leaving the zoo with a new-found appreciation for arachnids.

The Condair Group is the world’s leading specialist in humidity control and evaporative cooling, with energy efficient, hygienic and innovative technologies for commercial, industrial and heritage applications. The company offers system design, manufacture, supply, installation, commissioning, maintenance and spares. You can find out more by visiting the company’s website at www.condair.co.uk.

Corps Security’s commitment reconfirmed

Corps Security’s commitment to quality, sustainable management and health & safety is reconfirmed with ISO accreditations

Specialist security services provider, Corps Security, has achieved ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22301 and OHSAS 18001 renewal accreditations, reaffirming its commitment to the highest standards of management, sustainability, business continuity and occupational health and safety.

ISO 9001, the internationally recognised Quality Management System (QMS) standard, demonstrates the continuous improvement and streamlining of operations within Corps to reduce costs whilst raising standards.

The international standard for environmental management systems, ISO 14001, facilitates management of business at the highest environmental standard, going beyond compliance obligations to enhance environmental performance.

ISO 22301 for Business Continuity Management offers tools for an organisation to best understand, prioritise, and manage any possible threats which may interrupt business continuity.

Corps’ existing BS OHSAS 18001 accreditation has also successfully been migrated over to the new ISO 45001 international standard for occupational health and safety. This accreditation ensures the security services provider’s increased organisational resilience through proactive risk prevention, innovation, and continual improvement of standards within the organisation.

To achieve recertification in ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22301 and OHSAS 18001 (now ISO 45001) Corps Security underwent an extensive company-wide audit that included a series of systems developments, audits, assessments and reviews.

Mike Bullock, CEO at Corps Security said: “We are delighted to have these accreditations renewed once again. They highlight the fantastic work our staff carry out in the day-to-day management of the organisation, and the continual improvement and innovation we seek in our safety, sustainability and management standards at Corps Security.”

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**CENTIEL to Show Industry Leading Agile UPS Solutions at DCW 2020**

Leading UPS manufacturer, CENTIEL UK Ltd has announced it will demonstrate its agility by showing its industry leading, flexible UPS solutions at Data Centre World this year on booth D810. DCW will be held 11-12 March 2020 at Excel in London.

Louis McGarry, sales and marketing director, CENTIEL confirms: “With real-estate prices at a premium, plus the high costs of power consumption and the cost to maintain oversized UPS systems, the need to constantly right-size appropriate to the load has never been more important. For datacentres looking to minimise running costs and maximise returns, an agile approach to system design is key. At DCW this year, we will demonstrate how to achieve a flexible approach through the use of true modular UPS systems.

“We will be showcasing a 600 kW CumulusPowerTM UPS frame populated with our 4th generation, high-availability, high-efficiency, hot switchable 60 kW modules offering 540 N+1 in a single footprint. We will also demonstrate one of our most popular frames, which maximises availability, achieving 75kW N+1 within a single footprint of just 0.59 m². With up to 320 battery blocks internally, this solution offers a great option for facilities with limited space.

“An innovative design also allows the larger CumulusPowerTM UPS systems to be connected from either high or low level, without the requirement for a separate cable entry enclosure,” continues McGarry. “This enables a more adaptable layout within comms rooms and data centres, accommodating the best use of space and potentially reducing installation costs too.”

CumulusPowerTM is known for its “9 nines” (99.9999999%) system availability and low total cost of ownership through its Maximum Efficiency Management (MEM) and low losses of energy. CumulusPowerTM has now been installed in datacenters and comms rooms in over 60 countries across five continents. More than 50 MW of critical power loads are now protected with CumulusPowerTM in locations across the world including: the UK, Singapore, Australia, Germany, Spain, the Czech Republic and the Channel Islands.

McGarry continues: “CumulusPowerTM is both a scalable and flexible UPS system that combines class leading availability and efficiency that makes it perfect for use in small, medium and large datacenters. However, not every application requires a modular UPS so we will also showcase PremiumTowerTM, our standalone UPS ideally suited to applications where facilities don’t want to compromise on quality while minimizing total cost of ownership is a significant factor. With PremiumTowerTM, the fans are located at the top of the UPS rather than the back, maximising the use of space: “zero clearance”.

“A flexible and agile approach is more important than ever when it comes to UPS design. True modular UPS systems can be easily right-sized allowing datacentres to ‘pay-as-they grow’. In addition, ongoing running costs are minimized with a correctly sized system and initial CapEx is reduced too.”

“At CENTIEL our design team has worked with data centres across the world for many years and we are at the forefront of technological development. We are the trusted advisors to some of the world’s leading institutions in this field. At DCW this year, our team and our UPS experts will be pleased to share their combined knowledge and discuss how to configure the most appropriate and resilient UPS system possible, to minimise both risk and budgets in order to protect the power to datacentres and their valued client base.”

For further information please visit us at DCW or see: www.centiel.co.uk

**New year, new Managing Director**

The IPG, the largest and fastest-growing membership group for independent plumbing, heating and bathroom specialists, has today announced the appointment of its new Managing Director, Glenn Fisher.

Glenn will be taking over the helm from current Founder and Chairman Robin Beal, who founded The IPG on a passion for supporting small, independent businesses. Since its creation, The IPG has gone from strength to strength and is now working with an extensive supplier network and has over 200 member locations nationwide.

Glenn, who has held various senior positions and is also a qualified accountant, brings a wealth of knowledge to the role, having worked with several owner-managed businesses. He is passionate in supporting independent companies and is keen to “Not just level the playing field, but reshape it in favour of our members, by creating an environment where they can thrive!”

When he isn’t working, the married father of two young sons is a keen lover of the outdoors: taking the opportunity to travel and camp with his family whenever he can.

The latest appointment, follows shortly on the heels of the announcement of David Cairns, as the selling groups’ Head of Supplier & Commercial Strategy and sets the wheels in motion for an extremely exciting year for the group, following on from the phenomenal opening of not one, but three, flagship stores in 2019.

Robin Beal Founder and Chairman at The IPG, said: “I am pleased with Glenn’s rapid promotion within The IPG family. Glenn brings a wealth of experience and most importantly a passion for independent businesses. I am confident that Glenn’s experience and determined nature will be instrumental in leading The IPG forward in our strategy for 2020.”

For more information please visit: https://www.the-ipg.co.uk/
Halton Group, which focuses on indoor air systems for demanding indoor environments, has opened new research and development premises, a Halton Innovation Hub, connected to its German factory in Reit im Winkl. The new hub focuses on testing and measurements of ventilation and air flow in professional kitchens, with a view to strengthening the company’s position in the market.

Testing and validating the functionality of systems tailored for demanding customer environments is essential to Halton’s way of operating and of serving customers. The Innovation Hub is bringing new scope and accuracy to the company’s testing methods.

“The new Innovation Hub will use ultrasound technology to examine airflow patterns, rather than using only traditional methods such as orifice plates. This will help to reduce the margin of error in measurements to as low as to 1%,” says Heinz Ritzer, Director of Halton’s German operations.

“An Innovation Hub in Germany will enable the major acceleration of product and solution development in the related unit. The new hub will increase the unit’s impact on our business and strengthen our local presence, which is important to customers in the region,” he says.

Besides the testing area, the factory hosts a new show kitchen environment presenting the company’s unique ventilated ceilings and kitchen hood solutions, which also come with an integrated lighting system that adapts to the human circadian cycle. These ventilated ceilings and integrated lighting solutions were largely developed in Halton’s German factory.

The show kitchen also operates Halton’s patented, demand-based ventilation system, Halton M.A.R.V.E.L., which enables reductions in the energy consumption of professional kitchens by over half, depending on the composition and use of the kitchen.

All installations in the new premises were completed in December 2019 and are now operational.

Amey announces two new appointments to its Executive Team

Amey has today announced the appointment of two new Managing Directors to its Executive Team, following the appointment of its new CEO, Amanda Fisher, in December 2019.

Andy Halsall replaces David McLoughlin as Managing Director for Utilities, while Craig McGilvray replaces Amanda Fisher as Managing Director of Facilities Management, Defence and Justice business.

Andy Halsall is a former Business Improvement Director at Mitie who has extensive experience in large business improvement projects. Commenting on his appointment, he said: “I’m delighted to be joining Amey at a time when the business and wider sector are showing signs of enormous potential. I look forward to using my wealth of cross-sector experience to bring a fresh perspective and added strength to the utilities operations.”

Craig McGilvray is a former Managing Director at Balfour Beatty who brings with him two decades of executive level experience in the construction and engineering sectors. In a statement he said: “I am delighted to have been appointed Managing Director of our Facilities Management, Defence and Justice business. I am assuming the leadership of an already successful business and look forward to growing the business further. I will be focused on working closely with our customers to deliver their outcomes which will enable us to continue with the current strong performance into 2020.

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MPA Cement Sustainable Development report highlights its contribution to the circular economy

MPA Cement has published its 2019 Sustainable Development Report, based on data provided by MPA Cement’s five member companies who together supplied 78% of the cement consumed in the UK in 2018. Aligned with the seven MPA strategic priorities, the report highlights activity in Health and Safety, Communicating Industry Value, People, Resource Use, Climate Change and Energy, the Natural Environment and the Built Environment.

Highlights include:
• The Health and Safety Lost Time Frequency Rate is 71% lower since 2005.
• CO₂ emissions reduced 25% from 1998.
• Zero process waste was sent to landfill.
• 1.4 million tonnes of waste and by-products from other sectors were recycled by the UK cement industry, resulting in a recycled content of cement of almost 10%.
• Waste derived fuels replaced 43% of the fossil fuel energy demand.
• Cement continues to be a key contributor to the £152 billion construction industry.
• Domestic cement sales have increased 29% since 2012 but 2018 sales were 1% lower than 2017.

Of significance, is positive performance in the area of climate change and energy where in 2018 CO₂ emissions reduced 25% from 1998, largely due to the UK cement industry’s success in improving its carbon footprint by increasing energy efficiency, using alternative fuels instead of traditional fossil fuels, and utilising renewable energy sources. In 2018, MPA actively engaged with Defra on development of its Clean Air Strategy for England and the UK-wide National Air Pollution Control Programme, building on the industry’s investment in cleaner processes.

Recycling and resource use were equally positive in 2018, with 1.4 million tonnes of waste and by-products from other industries being co-processed in cement production. Recycled content of cement was shown to be almost 10% due to the cement production process’s unique capability to recycle minerals and recover heat simultaneously (known as co-processing). Additionally, zero process waste was sent to landfill.

Dr Richard Leese, Director, MPA Cement welcomed the report saying: “UK cement producers continue the long-term trend to improve their environment, health and safety performance whilst facing increased international competition and a recently challenging market.”

Over a third of UK property investors plan to sell properties in 2020

MPA Cement

61% selling in response to increasing regulation and taxes

New research commissioned by property development firm Accumulate Capital has revealed how tougher taxes and tighter regulations are driving investors out of the buy-to-let market. The survey of 750 UK property investors found:
• 37% of UK property investors are planning on selling one or more of the residential properties they own in 2020. Of those:
  o 61% said this was in response to the increasing regulations and taxes
  o 21% will instead focus on alternative property investment opportunities, like debt and development finance
• 72% believe current tax and regulation measures are unfairly weighted against landlords
• 69% say the costs of managing their property portfolio has risen “considerably” in the past five years
• 53% said they would not have purchased their properties in the first place if they had known how regulated the Private Rented Sector (PRS) was to become.

Over a third of UK property investors are looking to sell properties in 2020 due to higher taxes and greater regulation, new research by Accumulate Capital has revealed.

The property development firm commissioned an independent survey of more than 750 UK property investors – all of whom own three or more residential properties – about their sentiment towards the country’s buy-to-let (BTL) market.

It found that 37% of UK property investors are planning on selling one or more of the residential properties they own in 2020. Of those planning to sell, 61% said this was in response to the greater regulation and higher taxes they now face as BTL investors.

A fifth (21%) said they will instead focus on alternative property investment opportunities, like debt investment and development finance.

Accumulate Capital’s study showed that 72% of property investors consider current taxes and regulations to be unfairly weighted against landlords.

Over three fifths (63%) said they are not considering new buy-to-let purchases as a result of reforms to the private rented sector (PRS) that will be introduced from 6th April 2020. These include mortgage interest tax relief reforms and changes to private residence relief.

The vast majority (69%) of those surveyed said the costs of managing their property portfolios had increased “considerably” over the last five years. Over half (54%) added that they are prepared to sell properties if further PRS regulation is introduced in the 2020 Budget, scheduled for 11th March.

Overall, 53% of property investors said they would not have purchased their properties in the first place if they had known how regulated the PRS was to become.

Paul Howells, CEO of Accumulate Capital, said: “Property investors are clearly frustrated by how much red tape there now is within the private rental sector and buy-to-let market. Yes, there is a need for regulatory measures to protect the interests of all parties involved in the property market, but as our research shows, some landlords feel the current system is unfairly weighted against them.

“What we might see as a result, is investors selling properties and downsizing their portfolios. Indeed, a considerable number of investors are now looking to alternative real estate investment options instead, such as development finance – these provide ways to access bricks and mortar investment opportunities without the complications or costs of actually purchasing the asset.”
**Ground-breaking at Central London’s largest Premier Inn**

Rockwell has begun construction on the scheme at 82 West India Dock Road which will include London’s largest and tallest Premier Inn hotel, alongside new homes, adjacent to Westferry DLR station. The £151m project will mark Westferry as a destination and rejuvenate the formerly derelict site.

The new mixed-use scheme, which sits between West India Dock and Limehouse Causeway, was granted planning permission in October 2018 by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. John Sisk & Son are the appointed contractors for the development, which is scheduled for completion in early 2022.

Rockwell will create the landmark scheme at Canary Wharf which will also include a restaurant, café, gym facilities and a landscaped pocket park, alongside communal gardens for new residents. Designed by architects SimpsonHaugh, the 30-storey mixed-use development is a gateway to Canary Wharf’s central cluster.

A marker for the area, the scheme will create significant employment opportunities in the hospitality and leisure industry and will create 66 new residential properties, of which 18 will be affordable homes, located within the same building - responding to the growing demand for affordable housing in the borough.

Donal Mulryan, Founder of Rockwell commented: “We are immensely proud to break ground on this landmark building which will be an important asset for the area, providing significant benefits for the local community with the creation of numerous jobs for local people, enhanced public realm and much needed new homes. We look forward to working with our contractors John Sisk & Son to deliver this high-quality scheme, and look forward to delivering similar high-quality schemes in the future.”

Ajaz Shafi, Regional Managing Director at John Sisk & Son added: “We are delighted to be working with the Rockwell team on this exceptional project. We have used smart thinking and an innovative approach to the design, planning and delivery of this high rise building on a tight footprint in London. Sisk works in close collaboration with all the key stakeholders to ensure we deliver quality projects, safely, which meet the needs of the community and our client. Our track record in this type of project and our strong supply chain partnerships in the region are key to the successful delivery of this development.”

Louise Woodruff, Property Acquisitions Manager - Outer London, Whitbread Hotels & Restaurants explained: “This is a landmark hotel for us as it will be the tallest Premier Inn in the UK and, aside from our hotels at Gatwick and Heathrow Airports, it will also be our largest in London at 400 bedrooms. It’s great to see construction begin on such a fantastic development which will make a positive contribution to Tower Hamlets by creating local jobs alongside new public areas and affordable homes.”

**Titan moves to Bostik Roll as safer, more environmentally friendly adhesive**

Bostik

Following a series of on-site trials, Titan Interior Solutions has opted to use Bostik’s solvent-free adhesive tape, Bostik Roll, for the installation of capping strips, cove formers and skirting on all future projects with long-term client, Wates Group, in recognition of the product’s health, safety and environmental benefits.

An effective alternative to water and solvent-based adhesives, Bostik Roll is supplied as ready-to-use, dry adhesive rolls in widths of 25mm, 50mm or 85mm. Its low volatile organic compounds (VOC) enable it to gain the benchmark A+ and E1 Plus ratings from LEED, as well as BS EN 13999:2007 from BREEAM, resulting in improved health and safety for flooring installers and a reduced impact on the environment.

The decision to use Bostik Roll follows the successful completion of a series of trials that saw Titan – part of the Horbury Group of integrated construction companies – work closely with Wates Group, as David Loforte, Regional Director at Titan Interior Solutions, explains:

“We take the health, safety and environmental aspects of our trade extremely seriously, and work tirelessly with our suppliers and clients to find new ways to improve both,” says David.

“As the Horbury Group of companies is larger than 50 percent of our clients, we feel this is our responsibility – so when a product comes onto the market which could possibly achieve both, we sit up and take notice.

“Bostik Roll is such a product. The trials we ran with it exceeded our expectations, and we are convinced that it both reduces our environmental impact and offers immense health and safety benefits for the flooring industry.”

**Long-life bond**

With an immediate, extra-strong grip and long-life bond, Bostik Roll also offers excellent resistance to plasticiser migration, making it particularly suited for use with PVC products.

As the adhesive is dry, there’s no curing time required, which speeds up the installation and ensures the area remains free from any overspill.

“The quality of Bostik Roll is excellent,” comments David. “Installers love it because it speeds up the job and it shows them that we are taking their health and safety seriously. “Sometimes it’s hard to step outside of the ‘If it’s not broken, don’t fix it’ mindset, but as companies, we are responsible for the health and safety of everyone who works for us, as well as for our impact on the environment.

“That’s why we hope and believe that Bostik Roll will become the norm for the industry. This is a game-changer for professional flooring. To any companies reading this who are yet to use Bostik Roll, I strongly urge you to try it.”

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Meesons Rev 190 revolving door first in the world to achieve LPS 1175

Meesons, the leading provider of anti-tailgating entrance control solutions, has introduced Rev 190, the world’s first revolving door to achieve certification to Loss Prevention Standard (LPS) 1175: Issue 8 up to C5 (SR3).

By introducing the world’s first LPS 1175 approved Revolving Door, Meesons has raised the bar in terms of security for prestigious buildings and entrance ways where retaining aesthetics is a priority.

LPCB certification of the Rev 190 Revolving Door to LPS 1175 provides independent verification that it will deliver the significant levels of resistance to forced entry by hostile actors, be they burglars, terrorists or protesters. The LPS 1175 standard reflects a broad range of threat scenarios including tool attacks by intruders acting without fear of attracting attention to their actions by using tools and entry techniques likely to generate sustained levels of noise. This is a threat that is not necessarily covered by other security standards, such as EN 1627, as explained in BRE’s Specifiers Guide to Façade Security Standards.

Being independently tested to LPS 1175 in standard operation means that Meesons’ Rev 190 Security Revolving Door meets the highest standards against physical attack at all times, whilst providing specifiers with an entrance control solution that offers high architectural appeal.

Meesons’ LPS 1175 Issue 8 Revolving Door is in a permanent state of attack-readiness, meaning it requires no user intervention, or secondary layer of defence, to stop criminals who are prepared to use force. The Rev 190 Security Revolving Door is a high security, fully automatic 4-wing, bi-directional Revolving Door that remains as secure during the day as it does at night, preventing forced attack 24/7. At the same time, its sleek, stylish design creates a welcoming and non-intimidating aesthetic for legitimate building users. This makes it highly suitable for prestigious projects in the commercial, office, R&D and retail sectors.

While other revolving doors may rely on a secondary barrier, such as a night shutter, to provide forced entry protection, the Rev 190 Revolving Door is a fully attack ready solution that combines functionality and forced entry protection into a single product.

Meesons introduced the Rev 190 following demand from customers for a revolving door that enables a high frequency of users to transit, whilst preventing unauthorised entry. In doing so, the Rev 190 Security Revolving Door addresses the need for aesthetically pleasing, robust physical security at the entrance.

Legitimate building users can present their ID card or biometric data in order to traverse Rev 190 Security Revolving Door. When specified with anti-tailgating detection the single-person authentication prevents unauthorised individuals from piggybacking their way into the facility by closely following the person in front.

The Rev 190 features a range of transit modes that can be operational day/night. These allow building managers to choose between free-flow, single person authenticated access control or lock down modes, depending on their requirements.

“Our new Rev 190 Security Revolving Door is a ground-breaking addition to the revolving door sector,” said Iain Entwistle, Product Marketing Manager at Meesons. “It makes a step change in terms of security by being the first to achieve LPS 1175 Issue 8 up to C5 (SR3) and is in a permanent attack-ready state 24/7. That gives architects and security specifiers an ability to achieve their aesthetic aspirations whilst providing their client with full controllability of who is entering the facility.”

Richard Flint, BRE’s Physical Security Technical and Business Development Manager, commented “Meesons has again demonstrated their willingness to listen to the needs of risk managers and their ability to develop products capable of delivering the high levels of resistance to forced entry required to achieve LPCB certification to LPS 1175. We expect the Rev 190 Security Revolving Door to generate high levels of interest as it is the first to be certified to LPS 1175, a standard of protection sought by a growing number of specifiers around the world wishing to mitigate the threat of forced entry into the facilities they are responsible for.”

Having been certified by LPCB to LPS 1175, the Rev 190 is compliant with the design of secure doorsets as set out in The Building Regulations Approved Document Q. This makes Rev 190 the only Revolving Door to be full complaint in accordance with Document Q.

The product has also been accredited by Secured by Design (SBD) and becomes the only Revolving Door accredited by SBD. SBD is the national police crime prevention initiative for meeting its Police Preferred Specification for its robust qualities to deter and reduce crime. SBD is the only way for companies to achieve Police Preferred Specification for security-related products in the UK.

The Rev 190 Revolving Door is a further addition to the extensive range of LPS 1175 certified products that are recognised by SBD, which already includes 11 Security Portal models.
Traka debuts at UKAA Expo with a dedicated high-capacity key management solution for property management

Traka is launching a new electronic High-Capacity (HC) cabinet range at the UK Apartment Association (UKAA) Expo, designed to offer property management companies better security, management and visibility of critical keys.

Visitors to the dedicated residential sector event, taking place on 13 February, will be the first to see live demonstrations of Traka’s powerful HC key management solutions. Presenting capability for control over a high volume of keys in a small footprint, the electronic cabinets present audit trail capability of every user and item transaction.

Featuring an intuitive touchscreen interface, integrated into the front door panel for a fast and easy experience, authentication to operate Traka’s HC cabinets can be selected between fingerprint, PIN and access badge technology. An integrated camera can capture check-in / out attempts for additional security and accountability.

The cabinets operate with unlabelled SmartFob technology and can be specified to achieve bespoke operational requirements, being paired with a comprehensive suite of administrative tools and detailed reporting via Traka’s specialist browser-based software.

Lee Payne, Market Development Manager for Traka, says: “Property managers face unique challenges in managing a high volume of keys for housing units, facilities control and common areas. A single misplaced or stolen key puts property, staff and residents at considerable risk.

“UKAA is a really exciting opportunity for Traka to demonstrate our ability to understand these issues and introduce our intelligent key management solution that can better secure, manage and audit the keys that are critical to everyday operations in residential housing. We’re looking forward to meeting visitors on our stand and discussing requirements for a total solution for the property management industry.”

Traka’s HC Cabinets are available in three different sizes, with a capability to manage over 500 keys in a single cabinet.

For more information on Traka, or to learn more about its product range dedicated to property management, please visit their stand at UKAA 2020, taking place on 13 February at the Business Design Centre in London.

Further details can be found at www.traka.com
Workplace Design

Data driven design: the workplace of the future

It’s time to embrace a fact-based approach to office design

The impact of your workplace decisions is far reaching and can often have substantial financial implications. Getting your workspace right can be a gamechanger for any business, no matter the scale. But how do you know what style will stand the test of time? What will the workplace of the future look like? And how can you ensure you stay ahead of the design curve?

Murray Hibbert, Sales Director at Habit Action - the office and design build company creating awesome workspaces with science – delves into how data-driven design looks set to change the face of the office.

Workspaces, like life and business itself, naturally evolve over time. Just think back to the Mad Men era (1960s) where office workers could expect teak veneers, Knoll-style couches, ashtrays, and old-fashioned telephones - not to mention the pervasive fug of cigarette smoke. If you were the boss, you could also expect a large office to yourself complete with geometric wallpaper, a drinks trolley and blinds to shut out the rest of the office.

Fast forward, through the grey cubical farms of the 80s and 90s, to today, and it’s clear that office design has shifted much more towards user-friendliness. Advances in technology have precipitated a new, more flexible way of working and design is increasingly evolving to accommodate this shift. Spaces tailored to suit different needs, such as coworking, collaboration, private phone calls and quiet working, are becoming more of a design priority than ever before.

So, what’s next for the future of the office? Have we taken user-friendly design as far as it can go? Far from it. In fact, one thing we can certainly expect to see is science playing a bigger role in influencing design decisions, as savvy companies increasingly harness the power of technology to help them make more intelligent, user-friendly, use of space.

Evidence-based design, where decisions are made using a data-driven approach, looks set to become the next big influential factor and is likely to change the face of office design for good.

An evidence-based office design scheme takes data from an organisation's working styles and patterns and converts it into a tangible workspace design scheme. The data, often gathered via an app, can give insights into how employees feel about...
their current workspace, provide a “heat map” of what areas are being used the most and when, and detail precisely what activities each space is being used for.

So how exactly does such a process work? Firstly, a set of tailored statements are put forward, including an agree/disagree scale, which allow the app to capture how staff feel about the workplace's current design. Next, temporary sensors are placed throughout the space, which pick up signals from people's phones to create a heatmap of which areas are being used the most. Finally, the app includes an activity calendar, which employees fill in to give a clear picture of what activities are taking place in the office, and at what time.

By giving decision makers a comprehensive picture of how their workspace is used, data-driven design allows any new design and space plan to integrate seamlessly with employee requirements. This could mean creating special workstations or even removing them altogether for a more flexible approach. Alternatively, it could mean the introduction of innovative furniture, specially designed breakout areas, or new technology. Crucially, data-driven design takes the guess work out of office decoration, instead allowing decisions to be made based on facts.
From looking at layout, the conversation looks set to move on further, to encompass all the elements of an interior that make a positive difference to employee performance - and that aren’t currently being optimised.

The right lighting for example, both in terms of illumination and colour temperature, has been shown to help combat fatigue and enhance wellbeing, so is one area that will be prioritised. The right acoustics are also important, helping people concentrate and produce their best work. According to research, just 30 per cent of office occupants are currently happy with the noise levels in their workplace, so it is clear there is plenty of scope for improvement.

Perhaps most surprisingly, the power of scent will also increasingly be harnessed to improve staff experience and stimulate particular behaviours. For example, citrus scents are known to stimulate creativity, whereas rosemary can be used to encourage mental clarity-ideal for accomplishing difficult tasks.

The future workspace will be smart, taking into account usage and culture. Crucially, its design will be inspired by data insight, rather than emotions and individual opinion, and will be very much led by the diverse and continuously changing needs of the 21st century worker.

We know from our customers that there is already an appetite amongst forward-thinking companies for tackling office design holistically, putting thought into how every element can benefit employee performance. In future, we can expect increasing numbers of firms to look beyond aesthetics, as they switch on the productivity benefits of employee-focussed design.

By using a data-driven research approach, businesses can get a better understanding of how well their processes suit the space in which they work, which could prove invaluable for the future. Is it time to embrace a fact-based approach to office redesign? Our experience suggests it could make a real difference.

For more information about Habit Action, visit www.habitaction.com
There is growing evidence that respiratory problems among children may be exacerbated by indoor air pollution in homes, schools and nurseries, according to a joint report by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians.

The report, informed by a RCPCH commissioned systematic review of 221 studies, presents evidence linking indoor air pollution to a range of childhood health problems including asthma, wheezing, conjunctivitis, dermatitis, and eczema. Sources of indoor air pollution include smoking, damp, the burning of fossil fuels and wood, dust, chemicals from building materials and furnishings, aerosol sprays, and cleaning products.

The authors warn that indoor air quality tends to be poorer in low quality housing where ventilation may be inadequate or insufficient.

The report recommends that local authorities should have the power to require improvements where air quality fails to meet minimum standards in local authority schools and houses. This should be extended, according to the authors, beyond damp and mould (where powers already exist) to include other pollutants. The report recommends:

• Legally binding performance standards for indoor air quality to include ventilation rates, maximum concentration levels for specific pollutants, labelling of materials, and testing of appliances
• Air quality tests when local authority construction is complete and before the building is signed off
• Compliance tests after construction stages and assessment of buildings once occupied – this may require ring-fenced resources for local authorities to take enforcement action

The report recommends local authorities should follow the NICE guidelines for ‘Indoor air quality at home’. It warns “exposure to indoor air pollution from cookers, damp, cleaning products and fires can irritate the lungs and exacerbate asthma symptoms.” It encourages people to ensure rooms are well ventilated by opening windows or using extractor fans, especially when cooking, drying clothes inside, or using sprays, solvents, and paints.

Professor Jonathan Grigg, Paediatric Respiratory Consultant from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) said: “We’re finally paying attention to the quality of our outdoor air and this is long overdue. It’s harder to get population level data on the quality of indoor air but the evidence in this report paints a worrying picture. Children in the UK spend most of their time indoors, with just 68 minutes spent outside on an average day. Too many of our homes and schools are damp and poorly ventilated – this is adversely affecting the health of children.”

The report says local authorities should provide free indoor air testing for residents. It recommends a national fund to support improvements for low income residents who report issues with ventilation and air quality.

Professor Stephen Holgate, Special Advisor for the Royal College of Physicians said: “Poorer households have fewer choices about where to live and where to go to school. More than three million families live in poor quality housing in the UK. Most will not have enough money to make improvements and have no option but to make do with damp, under-ventilated environments. We need to offer support at local authority level – likewise with schools. If we ask our children to spend their childhood days in unhealthy spaces, then we’re storing up problems for future health.”

The report ‘The Inside Story: Health effects of indoor air quality on children and young people’ makes further recommendations:

• A cross-governmental committee to co-ordinate working in health, environment, education and homes for indoor air quality
• Advice for the public about the risks of, and how to prevent, poor indoor air quality
• Investment in high quality research and evidence to support decision making

The Inside Story: Health effects of indoor air quality on children and young people is jointly published by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the Royal College of Physicians (RCP). It is funded by Allergy UK, Airtopia, Asthma UK, British Heart Foundation, British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Dyson, and the Greater London Authority.
Recent climate change demonstrations and government declarations make one thing clear; we must all come together to take action against the climate change challenges we are facing. Put simply, without collaboration, we will fail.

Against this backdrop, Futurebuild 2020 (03–05 March, ExCeL London) will inspire visitors to join fellow industry leaders and innovators to be the catalyst for change that is so urgently needed to help deliver a more sustainable built environment.

Setting the agenda

Futurebuild’s highly-regarded Arena programme is returning for 2020, bigger and better than ever before. Following a three-day progression, the sessions, led by politicians, academics and industry shapers, will focus on solving the current climate and ecological crisis.

On day one (03 March) the UK climate policy will be scrutinised during the session titled ‘Who’s in charge of the climate crisis?’. Led by Aldersgate Group Chair Joan Walley, this will explore the fundamental transformation that is needed to alleviate the climate crisis and will invite input from the audience. Another unmissable session is: ‘Carbon neutral cities of the future’ which will feature a panel including London Mayoral Candidate Rory Stewart on day two (04 March). It will explore the pathway to healthier, more resilient cities.

While discussions in the Arena will focus on the biggest issues facing the built environment at a macro level, six Keynote Stages located across the event will look at the specific challenges impacting Buildings, Offsite, Energy, Interiors, Resourceful Materials and Critical Infrastructure. This programme of solution-driven sessions will share the latest thinking and research, to educate, inform and inspire visitors to make a positive change. Each day, the six stages will host a focused keynote presentation by a recognised expert in their field.

Sessions not to be missed by facilities, building and estates managers include the opening discussion on day one (03 March) in the Buildings section. Titled ‘Understanding standards and updated building regulations for new homes’ it will highlight the updates to the Government’s Building Parts L and F of Building Regulations in 2020. Chaired by Emma Clancy of Clancy Consulting it will also ask what the updates to building regulations and the planned Future Homes Standard 2025 will mean in terms of energy efficiency in the context of the Government’s net zero targets.

On day three (05 March) in the Energy section, Active Building Centre’s Ahsan Khan will chair the session ‘Active buildings: optimising energy reduction and interaction with energy infrastructure’. Discussions will focus on establishing a unified framework to reduce energy consumption in new and existing buildings to lower levels of carbon emissions and network stress.

Beyond the stages

Around each Keynote Stage will be an exhibition of innovative brands, offering unique solutions to the challenges discussed in the companion knowledge programme. It will feature some of the largest headline brands in the sector, alongside SMEs and start-up organisations, creating a dedicated platform to connect these companies with forward-thinking specifiers and buyers.

Brands and organisations that are leading the charge when it comes to innovation will be recognised through a dedicated Innovation Trail. A guided route will take visitors on a journey through the event enabling them to learn more about the
The latest thinking from Futurebuild's Innovation Partners, including Aereco, Renson, Smart Systems, Forterra Building Products, and Fisher and Paykel in partnership with Kochwerk.

The game changers are back

Championing innovation is the central purpose of Futurebuild and the 2020 event sees the return of the Big Innovation Pitch. Hosted across the event, in conjunction with BRE as technical partner, the competition will be the industry's largest call-out for innovation to date and will identify and celebrate novel new approaches to tackle of the biggest challenges facing us all.

Entrants will present their ground-breaking ideas on each of the six Keynote Stages on day one, before shortlisted entries go head-to-head in the Arena on day two. A panel of renowned judges will determine the overall winning idea, which will be incorporated into BRE Academy Training and showcased in the BRE Innovation Park.

Martin Hurn, Event Director of Futurebuild, said: “The responsibility for tackling the climate emergency lies in all of our hands and we must collaborate in order to find solutions to secure our future. Futurebuild 2020 provides the perfect platform for forward-thinking decision makers across the built environment to come together and play a key part in driving positive change.

“Innovation to us is more than just futuristic concepts, it’s about sharing the latest thinking and ideas, processes and solutions, products and materials. All of these things coming together under one roof at Futurebuild 2020 will inspire people to do things differently and create real change.”

For more information about Futurebuild 2020, the home of innovation, visit www.futurebuild.co.uk.

Futurebuild is the built environment event that unites the most forward-thinking companies and organisations with industry mobilisers who hold significant decision-making power and are committed to driving positive change in their sector, and beyond.

As the industry's catalyst for change, Futurebuild fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing and innovation to enable the industry to do things differently.

Brands of all sizes from across the built environment attend Futurebuild to meet and share technical innovations and radical new approaches with over 27,000 industry influencers and shapers who visit the event.

At Futurebuild 2020, innovation is elevated beyond a concept and brought to life across the whole event, from the Innovation Trail featuring the most forward-thinking brands, to showcases and features, the Big Innovation Pitch and keynote stages.

Beyond its extensive exhibitor list, visitors are also drawn to Futurebuild for its industry leading knowledge programme which is dedicated to driving change and encouraging innovation through learning. The sessions on the keynote stages will share the latest thinking and research, while the conference will provide an opportunity to discuss and debate the biggest issues facing the built environment from the climate emergency, to the future of digital construction.

By changing one thing, we can change the future.

Learn more at www.futurebuild.co.uk
New research highlights the severe impact of noise on the UK workforce

- Companies’ bottom lines are under threat as three-quarters (74%) of Brits say noise stops them from doing a good job
- Over half (54%) say their employer has not done enough to take action
- Breakdown in workplace relationships as 29% of us have snapped at a colleague (including 11% at a superior) and a fifth (19%) have poor relationships with co-workers due to work-related clamour
- Employees’ health could be in danger as 90% don’t realise excessive noise can cause heart attacks and strokes

Today, UK acoustics specialists Oscar Acoustics has released findings from its research into noise pollution in the workplace. Exploring the views of UK employees across a range of different sectors, the research reveals some surprising and concerning effects of noise pollution, a worrying lack of action taken against it and a dearth of knowledge about the associated health issues.

Noise pollution appears to be pervasive across all industries with 59% of UK workers saying they work in a loud environment. 36% of those report their workspace is very noisy. Only 22% say their workplace is very well designed, with the remainders’ responses ranging from somewhat satisfied to not at all.

The effects of poor acoustics are extensive and could be hurting companies’ bottom lines. 44% of respondents say they can’t concentrate when it’s noisy at work and 50% believe it negatively impacts productivity.

Not only this, but the research has also shown evidence that incessant din is shredding people’s ability to work as a team. A fifth of employees (19%) state it’s the reason they’ve had a breakdown in a relationship with a co-worker. 29% have even snapped at colleagues, including 11% at a superior.

Alarmingly, 6% have even resorted to physical violence, rising to 16% of millennials.

The most common way people avoid the racket at work is wearing headphones (25%). However one in five of participants in the survey say they’ve known someone to ignore their boss and have missed phone calls due to headphones usage.

Given the inimical effect noise has on employee productivity and team morale (as well as workers’ respect for their boss) you’d be forgiven for thinking that employers are pulling out all the stops to fix this problem. Unfortunately over half of respondents (54%) said their employer has taken no action to combat it and 42% said they don’t even take the issue seriously. »»
It’s somewhat concerning, given the problem impacts not just profit margins but also people’s health. 30% of us have been stressed and 19% have had poor sleep due to work-related noise. Excessive noise is proven to increase the risk of hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, heart attacks and strokes. However the research shows that people are worryingly unaware of these risks. 90% of survey respondents do not realise noise can cause heart attacks and strokes, both of which can be deadly. If threats to profit margins don’t motivate companies to take action, perhaps employee safety will.

Ben Hancock, managing director, Oscar Acoustics says, “We’ve always known about the dangers of noise pollution, and hopefully this research will drive it home to others too. It highlights that it’s harder and harder to avoid excessive noise in any workplace as the UK has become a ‘sonic battleground’. Companies need to act now if they want to protect their business interests, and more importantly the health of their employees.”
Noise Pollution - Health risks

Noise Pollution - Health risks

Pollution kills - and not just the kind that can be seen hanging over the city in a soupy fog. Here Peter Wilson, technical director of Echo Barrier, explains why a not-so-silent killer is also causing tens of thousands of premature deaths.

The World Health Organisation has calculated that at least one million healthy life-years are lost every year in western European countries because of environmental noise.

Cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, sleeping disorders, cognitive impairment, tinnitus and deafness are all diseases directly related to the problem and noise exposure has also been linked with cognitive impairment and behavioural issues in children.

It is thought that noise triggers the release of the stress hormone cortisol, which damages blood vessels over time.

“There's consistent evidence that road traffic noise leads to heart attacks,” says Dr Yutong Samuel Cai, an epidemiologist at Imperial College London.

He recently analysed the health of 365,000 people in Britain and Norway and found that long-term exposure to traffic noise affects our blood biochemistry – more so than the effects of exhaust fumes.

“Noise and air pollution usually co-exist, but we can adjust our statistical model to factor out the air pollution. Noise seems to have its own effect on the cardiovascular system,” he said.

Road traffic is cited as causing the most disturbance, followed closely by construction projects.

Both of these issues have led to noise mitigation becoming a hot topic for people working in the built environment sector.

When it goes wrong

In 2002 Tony Blair opened the Bexley Academy in south-east London and the Foster and Partners-designed scheme was declared revolutionary.

The structure was designed to block out the noise of road traffic using sound absorbing materials for its outer shell.

However, inside, the school was entirely open-plan.
The idea was that this would encourage interaction, promote transparency and allow working space to be flooded with natural light thanks to three central atriums.

But just six years after it was unveiled the 1,350-pupil school was deemed to be “failing” because the noise inside the building made teaching impossible and pupils unproductive.

A recent study of British primary school children showed that an increase in transport noise outside their classrooms led to a two-month reading delay.

While another German study recently found that higher levels of road traffic noise were associated with hyperactivity, inattention, and emotional problems.

No wonder Bexley students were struggling.

Sound solutions

Noise pollution is recognised by the Chief Medical Officer in England to be second only to air pollution for damaging public health.

On publishing research into the effects that noise pollution has on health, the Chief Medical Officer said: “Pollution is like junk food – it doesn’t hit you on the day, but it can accumulate and do you harm.”

As a result of understanding the detrimental impact of noise, a lot of architects focus on how to include acoustic measures into the design of buildings.

This is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework which includes provisions on noise, stipulating that local planning policies should protect against noise giving rise to ‘significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life’.

Building regulations add to this with specific requirements in place for new buildings as well as conversions.

However, as well as finding ways to improve building acoustics, we have to look at the impact of building creation. After all, along with the noise of traffic, construction work is pinpointed as a lead culprit in adding to noise pollution.

As a rule, noise upwards of 85 decibels is deemed harmful.

Construction sites are usually emitting noise in excess of this – which can cause a lot of distress to people living and working in the vicinity of a site.

On top of this, construction workers are at serious risk because the equipment they use regularly is above this limit. Forklifts emit sounds of 90 dBA, while hammer drills reach 120 dBA.

The amount of harm done by this depends on several factors, including how long you’re exposed to the noise for, how often, and whether you are wearing any kind of hearing protection.

Protection for all

We have to accept that building work is often noisy, and many jobs cannot get done without some crashing and banging. However, this does not mean you have permission to annoy neighbours at all hours of the day and night.

The Control of Pollution Act 1974 gives the council powers to control noise on construction sites; most normal building, refurbishment, renovation/alteration, maintenance, repair, decoration or demolition work will be covered by these powers.

The hours of work can be restricted, and conditions imposed such as what machinery can be used, how it should be used and where it should be located.

On top of this, acoustic barriers – like the ones we supply – can be implemented.

These work by providing a sound barrier between a construction site and the local community. They can also be used as enclosures to isolate ongoing loud sounds from work crews on sites.

Implementing a temporary sound control solution is a simple way to minimise the adverse impact we make on the public and environment around us.

The final word

Construction in close proximity to residential areas is always a delicate affair. It’s a balancing act between finishing the project on time and maintaining amicable relations with the community. That’s why it’s important to be on top of any threats of disturbance, particularly that of noise.

Echo Barrier came about as a result of the demand for community members and contractors to both be able to go about what they do in relative peace and quiet.

In construction environments, these noise-attenuating acoustic barriers help prevent a delicate situation from becoming a time-consuming public relations matter.

But they also go a long way to protecting the public from the detrimental effects of the not-so-silent killer.

Noise is often dismissed as nuisance compared to well-documented health risks such as air pollution.

But it’s a real – and very damaging problem – so a robust sound management needs to be incorporated into the core design of any development and used throughout the process of construction.

For more information visit www.echobarrier.com
Packaging: Becoming greener through innovation

By James Woollard, Managing Director of Polythene UK

Wherever you look in the news, environmentalism is present. Flicking through the pages of a print newspaper or scanning online news outlets reveals daily stories looking at the environmental crisis and the ongoing changes to the planet.

For instance, as an indicator of the growing emphasis on climate change, Time person of the year for 2019 was 16-year-old Greta Thunberg; the youthful face of the campaign to combat the climate emergency – a state of affairs that’s been highlighted by such luminaries as Sir David Attenborough.

Previous Time persons of the year have included several US presidents, two popes...and Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler. Time then, certainly isn’t afraid to court controversy in its choice, with Donald Trump a recent provocative figure for the magazine’s 2016 edition.

Greta Thunberg though, whilst inevitably regarded as controversial by some, really shouldn’t be. The fact is that the world is changing – whether that be from man-made global warming or a natural cycle in the earth’s temperature. Whatever stance you believe to be true, and economic argument aside, the inescapable fact is that we should be looking to use greener, cleaner alternatives to promote a healthier, cleaner world – be that by reducing greenhouse gases, reducing landfill waste or simply being more considerate of resources and the natural world.

As plastic producers, we have a particular responsibility to do what we can to facilitate a more environmentally friendly approach to our endeavours. Plastic packaging accounts for 44 per cent of the plastic used in the UK for instance, yet 67 per cent of the waste – evidence that there is considerable work to be done.

At Polythene UK, we’ve taken the initiative on innovation and invested in multiple forms of environmentally friendly packaging products that help to reduce the huge amount of waste heading for landfill.

According to statistics, the UK adds more household waste to landfill than any other EU state. With a no-deal Brexit now a real possibility, voices in the waste management industry have expressed concern that disruption to the millions of tonnes of waste we send to EU facilities could see more heading to UK landfill sites in the short term – something that isn’t going to help our environmental targets.

Despite Britain leaving the EU, the UK government has maintained that it will respect the EU’s “Circular Economy Package” which looks to limit the amount of household waste heading to landfill to just 10% by 2035. An ambitious target, and a welcome one, but one
Packaging: Becoming Greener

that needs serious change to achieve.

While much of it depends on individuals adjusting their behaviours, we can help this by creating products and engineering equipment that makes the process easier.

A prime example of this is our Polycomp™, a starch-based compostable polythene that's designed to break down naturally after use, offering an innovative packing solution that doesn't need to be recycled – helping facilitate the achievement of the landfill target without relying on behavioural change in the user.

Being 100 per cent compostable, Polycomp is designed to break down within 10 days in the right environment, while remaining strong and effective during use. In addition, it contains no Genetically Modified Organisms, having been produced free from GMO materials.

Other sustainable packaging alternatives include Polyair™, one of the only 100 per cent recyclable, carbon neutral materials currently available on the UK market. The product has been designed to improve businesses' green credentials and dramatically reduce their carbon footprint, while also providing a commercially viable alternative to standard polythene.

A bio-based material, it's made from sugar cane waste, while it’s the process of photosynthesis as the plant grows that makes the product carbon neutral, meaning the raw material will remain 100 per cent recyclable. What's more, the sugar cane actively captures CO2 from the atmosphere, while at the same time releasing oxygen – making the material not just green, but proactively green. This allows for businesses to meet legislative requirements and deliver improved environmental solutions.

Able to be used for pallet covers, top sheets, bags, wraps and liners, in terms of practical use, the material is identical to alternatives made from fossil fuels, except being fully recyclable. Another product, Polylite™, is an extremely tough, lightweight polythene material that offers substantial cost savings compared to alternative polythene packaging materials. Typically, by delivering the same strength from a thinner multi-layered product, the material can reduce the weight of a company's polythene consumption by 20 per cent, another way of reducing the amount of plastic waste going into landfill.

By utilising environmentally friendly products to support their wider processes, UK businesses are able to take steps towards a greener alternative with relative ease and – importantly – cost effectiveness thanks to their growing availability. But while relying on the innovation of others will undoubtedly play a part in achieving wider targets, all businesses should be looking to take an innovative approach to their way of working, doing what they can to help the UK achieve its environmental responsibilities.

James Woollard is the managing director of Polythene UK, the UK leader in eco-friendly plastic packaging. The Witney-based firm specialises in offering sustainable alternatives to harmful plastics, including its leading eco-friendly products; Polycomp, Polyair and Polylite. For more information on Polythene UK, or if you would like to talk to James directly, call 08456431601.
With the National Audit Office discovering that “the best estimate of treating healthcare infections remains at least £1 billion”, increasing hygiene precautions in hospitals and care homes is essential in reducing the catastrophic effects of healthcare infections. In addition to costing the NHS an estimated average of £4,300 for each avoidable healthcare infection, these outbreaks can endanger the lives of those in hospitals with weakened immune systems. Read on to discover the changes you can make to your healthcare centre facilities to increase hygiene.

**Building handwashing facilities**

Whilst healthcare professionals often have good hand hygiene practice in place, hand hygiene in patients is less strictly enforced. Studies show that the transfer of micro-organisms between hands within hospitals is a huge contributor to the spread of disease. Installing wash basins and hand sanitisers in hospitals, and encouraging people to use them, can help reduce the transfer of bacteria from hand-to-hand-contact. These facilities should be placed strategically, in entrances and in waiting rooms, to ensure they get the most traffic possible. Putting up posters and videos on waiting room TVs about the importance of using these facilities is also important in order to educate people on the importance of using these facilities. Make sure these messages can be understood quickly and convey the vital information about why these facilities are important and where they are located; people moving through the hospital will not have time to read lengthy messages.

**Protecting your building from damage**

Regular cleaning can cause damage to a building over time, and so specialist coatings have been developed for walls to ensure they can withstand everyday scrubbing for years on end. A representative of Bagnalls, a painting and decorating contractor for the NHS, commented that these products must “withstand daily cleaning for many years without staining or discolouration”, a difficult task given the strain they are placed under. If you choose these hygienic coatings for your hospital, care home or other healthcare facility, ensure they are manufactured to high specifications by a reputable manufacturer and are installed by a company familiar with both the process of installing these products and the needs of working in a hospital environment.

**Creating anti-bacterial interior design**

There are currently two main anti-bacterial options available
to boost the hygiene of your interior design. The specialist coatings designed for everyday cleaning in these environments often come with antibacterial properties, containing ingredients such as silver ions to prohibit the growth of bacteria and E-Coli. There are also protection panelling options available for walls and doors in hospitals, which often are made from materials such as PVCu which can help keep hygiene in check. A representative of Yeoman Shield Wall and Door Protection described PVCu as a “rigid” material which therefore “does not support the growth of bacteria or mould.” Either of these options provides additional protection to healthcare centres from healthcare infections and can be installed throughout a building.

Making these changes to your healthcare facilities can go a long way towards reducing the impact of healthcare infections. Whilst the above steps can help create a more hygienic environment in hospitals and other healthcare centres, they do not replace the need for thorough cleaning and following normal hygiene regulations.

Bagnalls provide expert installation of hygiene coatings to the NHS and other hospitals. We specialise in providing our services with minimal disruption to healthcare environments, completing our work within the time specified. Visit our website or call 01274 714 800 for more information.
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