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**CENTIEL Strengthens Team as UK Expansion Continues**

Leading UPS manufacturer, CENTIEL UK, has further strengthened its team as the company continues to expand in the UK. Aaron Oddy has been appointed as a new sales engineer with responsibility for generating new hardware sales enquiries, plus on-site surveys and the management of key accounts.

Louis McGarry, sales and marketing director, CENTIEL UK commented: “We are delighted to welcome Aaron to our growing team. Aaron’s background in the industrial UPS sector will make him well placed to support our sales and marketing effort here at CENTIEL, as we continue to expand in the UK.”

Aaron Oddy, sales engineer at CENTIEL UK confirmed: “CENTIEL occupies a unique position in the market. It’s industry leading, 4th generation truly modular UPS solutions stand out for their Swiss-built quality and maximum levels of availability and the team are focused on providing trusted advice to clients to ensure critical loads are protected optimally. I’m now looking forward to be able to provide recommendations and solutions that match the needs of clients across the UK as a key member of the CENTIEL team.”

Prior to joining CENTIEL, Aaron worked for Harland Simon UPS Ltd as an industrial sector manager for four years, where he developed his skills and experience in technical sales. As a sector manager, Aaron was responsible for providing key account management and sales support to clients delivering large scale industrial projects.

CENTIEL is a Swiss-based technology company designing, manufacturing and delivering industry-leading power protection solutions for critical facilities. Its three phase true modular UPS, CumulusPowerTM 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, 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.

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

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**New Condair condensing gas-fired humidifier**

Condair is launching a new condensing gas-fired humidifier - the Condair GS. Its condensing system transfers heat from exhaust flue gases into the incoming water supply. This minimises energy consumption by reducing the need to heat the water tank. This feature also improves humidity control, as the water being introduced to the water tank is pre-heated and therefore doesn’t reduce the internal temperature so greatly or the steam output.

Similar to the technology employed in domestic gas boilers, the introduction of condensing technology in gas-fired humidifiers results in lower temperature flue gases and allows the use of PVC flues. This greatly simplifies and reduces the installation cost of the humidification system, as expensive insulated stainless steels flues are not necessary.

Due to the lower cost of gas as an energy source, gas-fired humidifiers offer substantial savings when compared to more traditional electric steam humidifiers. Replacing an electric system with a gas-fired alternative can return on the investment within one to two years with savings thereafter.

The Condair GS is available in outputs from 21 to 246kg/h from a single unit with the smaller 21 and 41kg/h models being very compact wall-mountable units. This makes them ideal replacements for electric steam humidifiers, as these are typically wall-mounted and of a similar output.

The latest touch screen technology is incorporated into the Condair GS’ control panel, offering intuitive control over operation and extensive reporting options. All operating parameters can be seen at a glance with on-screen features offering the user further information on system diagnostics and detailed trouble-shooting suggestions. A USB connection allows performance data to be downloaded into Excel for advanced analysis as well as allowing software updates to be easily carried out. BMS connectivity is included as standard using Modbus, BACnet IP and BACnet MSTP (slave) with options for LonWorks and BTL certified BACnet.

Condair 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. Condair 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.
Transglobal Facilities Management seeks Partner for projects in Qatar

Transglobal Facilities Management

The Qatari company Transglobal Facilities Management has announced an aggressive expansion plan, where it wishes to partner with an international or European FM company to pursue large scale facilities management and property management projects in Qatar.

Transglobal is part of a Qatari conglomerate with interests spanning real estate, oilfield services, manpower services, cleaning, security, defence and real estate consultancy. They have a staff role of around 5,000 based in Qatar.

This would create a straightforward entry into the Qatari market for an international company seeking to expand their Middle East presence, with minimal investment required.

Interested companies should contact Adrian Camps FRICS, adrian.camps@transglobalqatar.com +974 3040 3843.

Global Biorisk Advisory Council Introduces GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation Program

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, today introduced its GBAC STAR™ facility accreditation program on cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention. It is the industry’s only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation. GBAC STAR establishes requirements to assist facilities with work practices, protocols, procedures, and systems to control risks associated with infectious agents, such as SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19. Accreditation criteria and facility applications are now available at www.gbac.org.

“GBAC STAR is the gold standard of safe facilities, providing third-party validation that ensures facilities implement strict protocols for biorisk situations,” said GBAC Executive Director Patricia Olinger. “Accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers, and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to deliver clean and healthy environments that are safe for business.”

Ideal for facilities like offices, restaurants, hotels, airports, convention centers, stadiums, and other public venues of all sizes, the GBAC STAR program assesses a facility’s preparedness and provides staff with training for biorisk prevention and containment. The program also establishes a framework for communication and awareness best practices.

Accreditation Criteria & Process

The performance-based GBAC STAR program enables facilities to create and maintain an effective cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention program. To achieve GBAC STAR accreditation, facilities must demonstrate compliance with the program’s 20 elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment strategies to personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response measures. Facilities will apply online and provide all documentation and supporting evidence with their application. The GBAC STAR Accreditation Council determines the status of all GBAC STAR facilities.

“In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the GBAC STAR accreditation program is exactly what facilities need to confidently reopen and keep staff, customers, and communities safe,” said ISSA Executive Director John Barrett. “The way the world views cleaning has changed overnight. To effectively recover from this crisis and prepare for the next, it’s essential that businesses take these necessary steps and we’re thrilled to have a stable of top organizations that have already committed to the program.”

GBAC STAR Commitments

Several leading organizations have already committed to achieve GBAC STAR accreditation in their facilities. This first wave of leaders planning to pursue facility accreditation includes:

• Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, home to the NFL’s Miami Dolphins
• Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
• VisitDallas, the Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District, Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas and Dallas city-owned arts and cultural institutions
• McCormick Place in Chicago
• Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority – Las Vegas Convention Center
• Harry Caray’s Restaurant Group.

Additionally, these prominent industry organizations are among the first to commit their support for GBAC STAR with their thousands of constituents:

• International Association of Venue Managers and its 7,000 member facilities globally
• International Facility Management Association and its 23,000 members worldwide
• Global Market Development Center, the premier global trade association for the retail industry, and its 400-plus members
• Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association and its 400 hotels in the state of Illinois
• Informa Markets and its 500 brands and expositions.
• International Association of Exhibitions and Events and its 12,000 members in 50 countries
• Professional Beauty Association and its 100,000 members
• Media Edge Communications and its portfolio of media products, trade shows and conferences with association partners in Canada
• Trade Show Executive Media
• Go LIVE Together, a coalition of leaders from the live events industry that represent more than 4,000 companies with U.S. operations and 112 other countries.

To learn more about becoming a GBAC STAR accredited facility and submit your application, visit www.gbac.org.

e-mail your news to shirley@qubeonline.co.uk
CENTIEL Achieves ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System Accreditation

Leading UPS manufacturer, CENTIEL UK has announced it has been awarded ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System accreditation by the BSI. ISO 14001 Environmental Management is the world’s most recognized environmental management system and CENTIEL UK now adds this to its BSI accredited ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System and its BSI accredited OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management System certifications.

David Bond, chairman, CENTIEL UK explains: “We are now one of the very few companies in the UPS industry in the UK to hold all three of these key BSI accreditations, enabling us to deliver more than regulatory compliance and the ability to meet supplier requirements.

“BSI has received the official UK accreditation status from UKAS, which means it has been assessed against internationally recognised standards. This status also means that the certificates issued by the BSI, are both credible and impartial.

“The BSI route was challenging but we wanted to provide the highest level of certification to complement our commitment to product and service quality. The accreditation process required a great deal of investment in terms of both time and resource. However, as Theodore Roosevelt once said, “nothing worth having comes easy”, therefore, we are delighted to gain the ISO 14001 Environmental Management accreditation which completes our BSI “tick & crown collection.”

Karen Rough, service and compliance manager, CENTIEL UK confirms: “Our ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certification needs us to consider and document multiple aspects of our business in relation to the environment. This included recording processes about how we purchase, manage, store and dispose of certain products such as batteries for example, and how we work to reduce our impact on the environment on a company-wide basis. BSI attended our offices to survey our systems and will continue to do so every year. We needed to show working examples of our processes and records and how all staff adhere to the detailed management system we have in place.

“For tenders and proposals, the BSI accreditations we now hold tick many boxes, but they also serve as reassurance to our valued customer base that our “Swiss quality” approach to best practice runs right throughout our organization. As well as underlining our continued commitment to providing the best possible service and inspiring trust, it offers our customers complete peace of mind and we anticipate the certification will help us attract new clients and expand further within the UPS marketplace.”

CENTIEL is known for its 4th generation, true modular UPS CumulusPowerTM which benefits from “9 nines” (99.9999999%) system availability and 97% efficiency at low loads. 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.

CENTIEL’s additional certifications include: Safe Contractor status; CIPS Sustainability Index and Constructionline gold level

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

Condair supports WHO humidity petition

Condair is supporting Dr Stephanie Taylor, in her petition to have the World Health Organization review the evidence related to indoor humidity and health, and set guidelines on a minimum lower limit for public buildings. Dr Stephanie Taylor is an infection control consultant at Harvard Medical School, a member of the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Group and her petition is at www.40to60RH.com.

Tim Scott, head of sales at Condair plc, comments, “We are delighted to see Dr Stephanie Taylor take the message directly to the World Health Organization that we need a minimum lower limit of indoor humidity. In order for real improvements on indoor air quality standards, we need official guidelines to reflect what the scientific and healthcare communities are telling us.

“The COVID-19 crisis shows us just how vital it is that we place management of the built environment at the very centre of disease control. Many scientific studies have demonstrated that the ideal indoor humidity level of between 40-60%RH will reduce the spread of respiratory infections. Yet no regulations exist in the UK that make this level a necessity for air treatment systems in buildings where people congregate or work.

“Even in healthcare facilities, such as hospitals, care homes and GP surgeries, where infectious people come together with the most vulnerable, there is no requirement to maintain air humidity at a level that has been shown to be an effective infection control mechanism.”

Tim continues.

“Condair is committed to making interiors a safer place and we have been exploring and sharing the science behind the health benefits of 40-60%RH for years. I hope Dr Taylor’s petition gets the attention it deserves at the WHO and that they produce an IAQ guideline on a minimum lower limit of humidity. This would encourage regulators around the world to review and update their currently inadequate IAQ standards. A simple change that could reduce the burden on society from seasonal respiratory illnesses, such as the flu, save lives, reduce absenteeism, and hugely benefit our economy and our nation’s health.

“I’ve signed this petition and I encourage everyone else to do the same.” Tim concludes.

The petition is available to be signed at www.40to60RH.com and has also been supported by leading figures in the scientific and healthcare community. This includes a leading immunobiologist from Yale University, Prof Dr Akiko Iwasaki, and Professor and Director of the Institute of Neuropathology at the University of Zurich, Prof Dr Adriano Aguzzi.

The Condair Group is the world’s leading specialist in humidification and evaporative cooling, with energy efficient, hygienic and innovative technologies for commercial, industrial and heritage applications. Condair is represented in the UK by Condair plc, which 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.
WPS continues to support essential workers in critical sectors

WPS, the award-winning parking solutions provider, is continuing to deliver essential maintenance and installation work for customers within key sectors such as healthcare and utilities to ensure 24-hour availability of essential parking infrastructure.

Simon Jarvis, Managing Director of WPS in the UK, says that while some other parking system providers have ceased operations, WPS is working with clients on a case-by-case basis: “Where our support is needed, and when appropriate planning and safety measures are in place, we are continuing to work with our clients to keep their infrastructure efficiently operational,” he says.

“As well as social distancing and providing PPE equipment, we are cordonning off working areas, and putting up signage as appropriate to inform the public where we are there. For more involved works, we are also providing welfare stations meaning engineers have their own separate washing and toilet facilities,” he explains.

Erik Dijkstraan, CEO of WPS Group, stresses that different clients across the world are taking a varied approach to the current crisis, and ‘one size fits all’ doesn’t apply: “There is a wide diversity of opinion amongst our clients as to how they can best support local priorities and we can support them in achieving this,” Erik explains, “and there is no ‘right or wrong’ way of managing our way through the current crisis.

“It is our job to be as agile and flexible as possible, and I am immensely proud of how our field teams have worked safely and gone above and beyond to ensure our customers’ needs are properly and carefully supported through this genuinely uncharted time.”

The range of car parks that are operational is varied. In the UK, while some shopping centre car parks have closed, others remain open to accommodate supermarket shoppers. There are town centre car parks that have opened their barriers while others are keeping their barriers down to both help discourage people from coming into town, and to ensure there are ample spaces available for the people that genuinely need them. Different hospitals are also having to meet the challenges of parking at this time in diverse ways according to their location and situation.

“Hospital car parks are of course critical because NHS staff need to be able to park close to their work and patients also need to be able to depend on the same infrastructure,” adds Simon. “It is an extremely stressful time for both groups and it is important that parking provision is not compromised and does not add to their anxieties.”

To further support key worker parking provision, WPS is working with JustPark in the BPA NHS Car Park Finder initiative to provide key workers with free parking nationwide. Using the integration capabilities recently recognised with a 2020 Parking Technology Award, JustPark and WPS are working together with WPS customers’ sites that use ANPR technology.

To further support key worker parking provision, WPS is working with JustPark which has collaborated with other members of the British Parking Association to launch www.nhs-freeparking.co.uk and help NHS staff and critical care workers find free parking nationwide. Using the integration capabilities recently recognised with a 2020 Parking Technology Award, JustPark and WPS are working together with WPS customers’ sites that use ANPR technology:

“By collating key worker car number plates and integrating those into the systems of ANPR-equipped car parks, we can provide a system where barriers automatically open to allow key workers to park for free.”

“It’s not business as usual,” says Simon. “But we are doing a significant amount of usual business to support customers who need us.”

Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) need better data and harmonisation to catalyse “renovation wave” of EU building stock

Energy Performance Certificate (EPCs) are one of the best available sources of information on Europe’s building stock, however major improvements are still needed in order to increase trust in and uptake of energy saving measures, according to a study published by the H2020 project X-tendo. To catalyse energy renovation, the tool must provide a more reliable, standardised service, tailored for end-users.

Introduced by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) in 2002, EPCs are a rating scheme that summarise the energy efficiency of buildings in the European Union. The building is given a rating between A (Very efficient), and G (Inefficient), and includes tips on the most cost-effective ways to improve a building’s energy rating.

According to the X-tendo report, different implementation approaches across European countries have hampered the potential of EPCs to increase trust in energy saving measures and accelerate market growth across the EU. The result has been a diverse set of instruments, varying in terms of scope and available information which leads to limited reliability, lack of compliance, and low market penetration and end-user acceptance. A collection of different survey results shows that end-users tend not to trust EPCs in countries where the system is not well-developed, such as Bulgaria and Poland. However, the story is different for countries like Portugal where the system is better designed: the large majority of Portuguese respondents admitted to trusting EPCs for advice on energy renovation.

Jonathan Volt, author of the report and Project Manager at BPIE, the Buildings Performance Institute Europe, says, “Good practices from all over Europe have shown that an EPC can become more than just an informative tool - it is already accelerating uptake of building renovations in countries such as the UK, Denmark, Portugal and Belgium, thanks to increased consumer and investor trust in energy saving measures. However, to trigger a “renovation wave” in Europe and truly scale up building renovations, we need better quality data, better implementation processes, a harmonised understanding of EPC, and comparability across countries.”

The report suggests a number of innovative approaches to handling EPC data, and to maximising their value for building owners and other end-users. Information on financial support alongside EPC recommendations, for example, can help persuade building users to undertake energy saving measures. In Scotland, homeowners can access an interest-free loan for energy improvements if they apply for improvements recommended in an EPC.

e-mail your news to shirley@qubeonline.co.uk
Climate change. Can anyone really argue with the volume of research and data that proves that the global warming effects are being caused by humans? That industry, infrastructure and the needs of humans are causing changing tides, seasons and generally, rising temperatures across the planet?

We find ourselves needing to take more measures to manage the way we live. To maintain the living standards that we've become accustomed to.

Air conditioning is a relatively new invention that is becoming required more and more to manage the temperature in buildings. We all know that we're spending increasing amounts of time indoors, avoiding the elements, and whilst we do, the fact is, we're damaging those elements.

One question that I've asked myself and my peers many a time, is why are we not building better, to accommodate the effects of the elements? The answer is always a wide range of justifications to the fact that we are. My argument in response is that in a lot of cases, we're avoiding the obvious. To build with the effect of the elements in mind, we're utilising technology in cooling that does quite the opposite.

Hospitals and hospices are the biggest contradiction. In a healthcare environment the occupants need daylight more than ever. I don't need to harp on about the benefits. A connection to the outdoors and having access to natural light helps patients heal faster, making for a shorter hospital stay, and in general, the therapeutic environment that is strived for.

So, whilst one would assume methodology for optimising daylight was applied in the initial phases of the building design, what were the architect's/client's overriding decision factors for the final design? Because there's always a compromise. Was it high levels of daylight alone? Energy efficiency? Or a combination of both?

But what about managing the heat that the daylight also provides? Mitigating glare? Always a secondary factor in my experience. All too often disregarded, or at least deprioritised and found to be a problem after the building is occupied – by those who most need visual and thermal comfort, and those who are trying to care for them, in uncomfortable temperatures. And so, the Facilities Manager takes on the burden.
Back in 2018 a UK heatwave saw NHS trusts bulk-buying mobile air-conditioning units, fans and bottled water to help beat the negative effect of temperatures, which climbed to up to 40°C inside wards. It’s a widespread problem, only expected to get worse. 2020 is predicted to be the warmest year in UK history when we are also dealing with a global Coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic brings this building cooling issue to the forefront. Cibse guidance is clear, we should wherever possible, enable the natural ventilation of buildings by opening windows and not use methods of cooling air by recirculation.

Hospitals are complex builds to deliver, no-one would deny that. So, is that why solar shading isn’t prioritised? Or is it the cost of cooling? Or the effect on the environment that overrides? After all, installation of air conditioning uses large amounts of energy and contributes to climate change. Ventilation is needed, especially whilst dealing with the pandemic, but so is heat and light control.

Worse still, healthcare trusts who don’t have imminent budgets for new buildings are seeing their running costs rise, year after year, in order to manage temperatures in buildings built when these levels of temperatures weren’t even a consideration.

The Committee on Climate Change (the government’s official climate change advisors) stated in a recent report that the types of hospital ward that are vulnerable to overheating currently make up 90% of the total stock (by floorspace). A recent Cambridge University report found that some £17.5bn of upgrades could be needed to make UK hospitals resilient to the heat through new shading measures and improved ventilation. Overheating in hospitals is a serious issue.

The general design guidance for healthcare premises as defined by the Department of Health isn’t prescriptive when it comes to solar gain and glare. It simply states that it should be controlled and suggests examples of providing control being through louvres and blinds. Internal or external, it doesn’t say. Furthermore, it suggests that thermal comfort conditions are ‘issues to consider’. Where are the standards? The minimum heat gain and glare, the temperatures acceptable at any given point in the day? Recuperating patients require a lot of sleep, which is interrupted at just 26°C, and that’s just the start.

And so, the management of heat and glare is left to shading solutions that at best, remove only some of the problems, or at worst, also remove the benefits of the glazing and/or the daylight.

Internal blind systems remove visibility and a connection with the outside world and only protect the room from a minimal amount of heat gain. External shading systems do work but are expensive to install and maintain as well as reducing the quality of daylight. Even the most recent advances in glazing technology reduce the view out.

So, what is the answer? How do you get optimum daylight distribution, visibility to the outside world, protection from glare AND the opportunity for ventilation?  

You stop the heat and light before it hits the glass, with a metal fabric, with micro fine louvres woven in to dissipate the sun’s heat and energy but not block natural daylight, natural ventilation or vision out.

This solution works totally differently from traditional external and internal blinds, which reflect, distort and restrict vision and light, MicroLouvre™ fabric simply and invisibly neutralises solar heat gain and glare before they even reach the window, working non-stop like a heat exchanger dissipating the sun’s heat and energy into the atmosphere.

It doesn’t diffuse daylight, it provides all the benefits but not the negative impact of excessive heat gain and glare. The louvres are micro fine, and angled at a level to ensure optimum light in, and visibility out, whilst protecting the building occupants from the heat, glare and even external viewing in. It’s known as angular selective technology.

The performance of this fabric has been tested, time and time again by standards agencies, scientists, and researchers, including the BRE. It’s not a fly-by-night product either. It’s been around since the 1940’s but in recent years, it’s been honed, and the production process improved, so that it remains the best solution for solar shading I’ve seen in my 45(ish) years in the business.

Andrew Cooper is Managing Director of Smartlouvre Technology Limited, manufacturers of the world’s thinnest and lightest metal louvre fabrics.
Deploying digital solutions for preventative pest control

Paul Blackhurst, Head of Technical Academy, Rentokil Pest Control

There are numerous reports of rodents changing their behaviour as a result of the lockdown period. National Geographic has even suggested that rats are becoming bolder and are increasingly seen in daylight. This has led to commercial businesses and public sector premises having to re-think their preventative pest control strategies, whether they are vacant or remain partially or fully operational.

Coronavirus has created an unpredictable and challenging environment for businesses to operate in, but there are now conversations happening in government and around boardroom tables to determine how people might be able to slowly return to work. Firms such as Aston Martin, B&Q and Taylor Wimpy are among a number of UK firms making plans to reopen and get staff back to work.

As more businesses strategise how to resume operations, social distancing and hygiene in their premises will need to be prioritised. Facilities managers, particularly those responsible for hygiene and maintenance in office buildings that have been vacant for the past few months, will want to ensure pests haven't moved in while their occupants have been working from home.

Rodents are opportunistic and will always be attracted to buildings as they typically provide shelter and an abundance of water and food. Fortunately, there are steps businesses can take to prevent rats and mice from taking up residence. Although providing access to buildings might be seen as an obstacle by facilities managers with the current restrictions, there are digital pest control solutions available, such as PestConnect, that allow for the remote 24/7 monitoring and control of rodents, with no need for unnecessary visits as a technician only needs to attend when a rodent has been captured and an alert is triggered.

Using technology to fight rodent infestations remotely

Rentokil's PestConnect is an innovative digital pest management system, providing 24/7 monitoring, rapid response and effective elimination of rodents. This connected and fully integrated pest control solution acts like a rodent burglar alarm, providing more insight into rodent activity than ever before. Connected devices send an alert via SMS immediately when a rodent is detected, so it's known exactly where in the building, and when, a pest has triggered an alarm. A professional technician can then visit the premises to dispose of the pest and address the root cause of the pest problem.

With PestConnect operating as the eyes and ears on the ground, technicians can minimise visits to premises, only visiting when it is a necessity. During lockdown, PestConnect also allows businesses to keep tabs on rodent activity remotely, preventing a pest infestation from becoming a serious issue and ensuring premises are ready for some employees to return.

Unprecedented information on pest behaviour

Rodents are nocturnal and will come out of their hiding places at night in search of food and water. When the trigger
information from over 7,000 PestConnect systems deployed across the country was analysed, we discovered the most common time that a rodent is active in an office setting is 0.36am.

While it’s useful to know when rats and mice are most active in the office, PestConnect can also tell you where in the building they are located. This can help facilities managers to be really targeted with their pest prevention strategies, finding hidden entrances and hiding places that may not otherwise be discovered. For example, analysis of our data found that 30% of infestations in warehouses and distribution centres originate in the loading bay area, where building entrances are frequently open.

Once rodents gain access to premises they are very difficult to control. A mouse can survive on as little as three grams of food per day and can eat from up to 70 different sources of food within 24 hours. PestConnect helps to control these populations, while at the same time limiting the use of toxic pesticides. It uses three versions of ‘connected’ traps – ‘AutoGate’ which uses infrared sensors to detect rodents outside the premises, RADAR for those mice that manage to find their way indoors and Rat Riddance Connect, a ‘smart trap’ used to monitor for and control rat activity inside.

The system is completely compliant with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Code. Its RADAR traps kill rodents using carbon dioxide, a faster and more humane method of elimination, without using rodenticide. Rat Riddance is a connected mechanical trap and AutoGate is a device with a barrier between bait and the environment, which only opens during an active rodent infestation.

Harnessing the latest technological breakthroughs and innovation, digital pest management solutions can help businesses to manage and prevent infestations without causing harm to the environment, and with a level of efficiency and visibility not possible without connected solutions.

Final thoughts

With many businesses closed, pest control can be difficult to maintain. However, rodent prevention is always better than a cure. A proactive, digital pest management strategy will mean that costly infestations are much less likely to disrupt your business when you begin to think about how your customers and employees might be able to return. PestConnect provides an unprecedented level of insight for technicians, so they can create a highly effective pest management strategy that complies with all health and safety legislation, minimises technician call outs, and reduces a business's environmental impact.

For more information, please visit: https://www.rentokil.co.uk/?utm_source=PR
Data protection regulations are clear and have been for some time now. So why are organisations still tripping up? Mark Harper of HSM investigates how a lack of company culture may be affecting their approach to data protection.

The term ‘organisational culture’ was first coined back in 1951 by Dr Elliot Jaques. In its essence, Jacques described it as “a factory’s traditional way of thinking and doing things”. Since then, key thought leaders have continued to develop its meaning and apply it to modern business.

With that, the term more commonly recognised as ‘company culture’ evolved. Defining the personalities of businesses both small and large, culture paints a picture of an organisation, from workplace environment to ethics and values. Something considered even more important in modern times, especially as Millennial and Gen Z employees continue to push higher ethical expectations in areas such as corporate social responsibility.

Yet, as the UK Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) postpones substantial data compliance fines for the likes of British Airways and Marriott, it seems organisations are neglecting a key element of company culture. Put simply, the handling of sensitive data (particularly customer data) falls under business ethics. In fact, ethics were a driving force for the changes that came under 2018’s GDPR laws. But even now, with new leaks circulating, should we question whether a lack of the right company culture is to blame for instances of data protection negligence?

Untouched Culture

Back in May 2018, GDPR came as a culture shock to many. But in reality, it never should have been like that. Despite organisations claiming that sensitive and confidential customer information was being used in the right way, it wasn’t. The benchmark was raised. Many businesses had become too complacent and the blurred lines of what was the
right and wrong way of processing sensitive data had suddenly been made a lot clearer.

Although business leaders began to seek alternatives, was culture at the forefront of decisions? Possibly not. Instead, data procurement methods were sought after in the hope that businesses would not lose complete control of their data handling. In many cases the security of data was an afterthought, as quick and convenient off-site methods were trusted to comply with new legislation.

For some, their methods and ideologies didn’t change much, meaning internal culture towards data protection remained the same. But as new data protection cases continue to make the headlines, it’s clear that outdated methods and cultures simply won’t cut it anymore.

From the top

UK Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham once stated the importance of introducing data protection as part of the cultural fabric of an organisation. In fact, it was only a year ago that Denham, speaking at the Data Protection Practitioners’ Conference, admitted “I don’t see that change in practice yet”.

With data security experts continually reminding businesses to move away from a ‘tick box’ mentality, how should organisations force that change? Well, aside from data protection officers, the responsibility falls under directors and upper management. Company culture needs to be driven from the top and developed throughout.

Education plays a huge role in the success of this. Although we can’t expect each individual to understand the ins and outs of data protection, courses and expert guidance is now (and has been for some time) readily available. For example, key to sensitive data destruction are appropriate levels of security.

Under GDPR, strip cut shredding levels P-1 and P-2 simply can’t be considered to provide an adequate protection for personal data. And while tailored advice on how to remain compliant is available, most organisations should consider a minimum standard of P-4 crosscut or P-5 micro cut levels of security. By sharing that guidance, both individuals and larger departments can understand the responsibilities of the business, accountability and how to approach their role throughout the process of data destruction.

In addition, business leaders must set aside budget for robust data destruction methods. Without it, cheaper alternatives are sought, which can bring with them unsightly and highly expensive results. As most security experts agree, for confidential paper documents, the most secure method of destroying data is using an internal shredder at the correct security level. For larger departments, this may mean multiple shredders are needed to ensure each individual can complete their role effectively.

And while the approach to methods may differ depending on factors such as facility size or information processes, there are best practices that can be ingrained into almost any company culture. For example, many security experts promote a ‘shred little and often’ approach to ensure paper documents don’t build up and are subsequently at risk of loss or theft.

By implementing these small, but positive changes to sensitive data destruction procedures, - that are enthusiastically backed by senior management - an organisation can feel comfortable in knowing that they have done everything they can to apply a positive data protection culture.

Time for a change

So, as we approach a new era of GDPR, organisations need to truly reflect on whether they themselves must enter a new era of internal data protection culture.

All departments, from top to bottom, should be proactive in deciding whether their sensitive document destruction procedure is appropriate to their real requirements. Only when businesses have a holistic approach to data protection culture can they be sure that they’re tackling document security correctly.
The feel-good factor from simple daily contact with nature can last for months, once initiated, according to a new review from The Wildlife Trusts. The review is based on surveys completed by people taking part in 30 Days Wild – the UK’s biggest nature challenge which is run by The Wildlife Trusts and inspires daily acts of nature engagement every day during June.

Building on three peer-reviewed papers, the University of Derby has evaluated survey responses from more than 1,000 people over five years and discovered the enduring effects on wellbeing from participation in 30 Days Wild – the positive effects are still felt two months after the challenge is over.

30 Days Wild participants are provided with ideas, wallcharts and activity sheets that give everyone easy ways of enjoying nature whatever their location. These ‘random acts of wildness’ range from walking barefoot on grass, to sitting beneath a tree or watching birds on a feeder.

Key findings:

30 Days Wild – a five-year review is a summary of 1,105 people’s responses. The results show that taking part in 30 Days Wild not only significantly increases people’s wellbeing and heightened sense of nature – but that these positive increases are sustained beyond the life of the challenge – for a minimum of two months after it is over. The people who benefit most are those who have a relatively weak connection with nature at the start.

- 30 Days Wild resulted in very significant increases in nature connectedness for those who began with a weak connection to nature – their nature connectedness rose by 56%
- 30 Days Wild boosted the health of participants by an average of 30%
- 30 Days Wild made people, particularly those who started with a relatively weak connection to nature, significantly happier
- 30 Days Wild inspired significant increases in pro-nature behaviour

Other important findings include:

- People were asked to rate their health, nature connectedness, happiness and pro-nature behaviour before beginning the challenge, again at the beginning of July when the challenge had finished, and then for a third time in...
September, two months after the challenge had finished. All positive increases were maintained both immediately after the challenge and also two months later.

- Overall, those participants with the lowest connection to nature before doing the 30 Days Wild challenge gained the greatest benefits by taking part in the challenge.

Professor Miles Richardson, Professor of Human Factors and Nature Connectedness at the University of Derby, says:

“This five-year evaluation of 30 Days Wild has produced remarkable results – it shows the positive power of simple engagement with nature. We were thrilled to see that the significant increases in people's health and happiness were still felt even two months after the 30 Days Wild challenge was over.

“The Wildlife Trusts have shown the importance of doing simple things to enjoy everyday nature and that it can bring considerable benefits. What really stood out was how the people who didn't feel a connection with nature at the outset were the ones who benefitted most from taking part in 30 Days Wild.”

Over a million people have taken part in 30 Days Wild during the last five years. Last year, 2019, was the most successful so far, attracting 400,000 participants. This June, The Wildlife Trusts believe the challenge will prove more popular than ever as the UK battles with social restrictions and people are looking for ways to keep spirits up and entertain young families. Whilst time spent outside may be limited, daily nature activities – even at home – can open a door to a world of sensory delights, from listening to birdsong or growing a pot of wildflowers on a windowsill.

People of all ages can sign-up and download fun ideas, wallcharts, activity sheets and inspiration for going wild in nature during June. This year the campaign is 100% digital and everyone can download materials for FREE.

Dom Higgins, head of health and education at The Wildlife Trusts, says:

“Every June, The Wildlife Trusts get very excited to see people becoming closer to nature in their daily lives. With 30 Days Wild there’s so much fun, enchantment and inspiration to be had. Connecting with nature every day, in an easy way, is a must have for our own wellbeing. That’s why The Wildlife Trusts are campaigning for better, wilder places near to where we all live and work so that everyone, everywhere, can enjoy nature on the doorstep.

“Dare to be wild this June! We want to encourage people who are least likely to spend time in nature in their daily lives to take part in the 30 Days Wild challenge and give it a go – those people who do not feel much of a connection to nature because we know that they’re the ones who will benefit most from doing it.

“Our lives have been changed by coronavirus and this is giving people a reason to reflect on our relationship with nature, the way we live our lives and how we spend our free time. Precious moments outside on a daily walk help us to relax and feel happier. Even watching wildlife from a window, or on a webcam, connects us to that sense of being a part of nature, not apart from it.”

30 Days Wild has attracted well-known supporters: TV presenters Ellie Harrison, Monty Don and Dr Amir Khan, The Vamps’ James McVey, fitness blogger Zanna van Dijk, and Birdgirl – Mya-Rose Craig, have lent their support to The Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild challenge – please see quotes in the Editors’ notes.

The 2020 challenge has brand new downloads to enjoy, including:

- Wildlife gardening tips from Monty Don
- Beginner's guide to wildlife photography from award-winning George Stoyle
- Wild fitness ideas from Zanna Van Dijk

Our Big Wild Weekend events will focus on nature at home – on Saturday 20th June everyone’s invited to camp in their back garden or create a wild and beautiful nature den indoors!

30 Days Wild – a five-year review can be downloaded here. Sign-up, download the inspiration and get ready to share your daily #30DaysWild now!

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