

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2014

Promoting construction offsite



*Richard Ogden
Chairman*

In my last article I predicted that 2014 was going to be particularly busy for Buildoffsite and that I am pleased to say is precisely how things are working out.

There have been many positive developments but let's run through just a few of them. During the first few months of this year we have seen a record number of new Members joining Buildoffsite. The details are set out later in this Newsletter but we are talking about some big names – companies who want to do things differently and regard Buildoffsite and our work programme as being highly relevant to their business ambitions. This is absolutely fantastic but I am acutely aware that we need to react to this great opportunity and to listen carefully to what these companies and our Members at large want from us in order to support the drive for a step-change increase in the use of offsite solutions and alongside this to support our Members' commercial ambitions.

Our first Member to Member event of the year takes place on 13 May. This is, of course, a great opportunity for the Membership to come together to discuss developments but on this occasion it will be even more of a positive experience in that Peter Hansford the Government's Construction Adviser has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Peter has a big job to do in pushing the 2025 Construction Strategy and Buildoffsite is well positioned to lend support by demonstrating how in practice the optimisation of the use of offsite construction solutions can play a significant part in reducing

construction time and cost as well as improving sustainability, enhancing the carbon agenda and improving client value. I just hope that Government and the industry at large does not lose sight of these fundamental and achievable targets as the wider economy starts to improve. If as a society we are to get the most out of a return to recovery then it is hugely important that the potential benefits are not frittered away through taking a laissez faire attitude to price inflation and an acceptance of inefficient design and construction practices. I will be really interested to hear what Peter has to say and for his view on how specifically Buildoffsite can contribute to the improvement agenda.

Those who have seen the programme for the Member to Member event will have noted that we have included what we call soapbox sessions. We have not done this before so it represents a bit of an experiment. When you talk to people on a one to one basis what rapidly emerges is the real passion that they feel for their industry and how things would be so much better if only Well that is the raw passion and energy that we want to harness through the soapbox sessions. Five minutes of letting rip and then gonged out. I think that this is going to fire up some really energised discussion.

Some of the developments that have taken place over the last few weeks suggest to me that the offsite tide has turned in our favour. These include the announcement that the UK Commission for Employment and Skills is to launch a funding call for collaborative projects to come up with solutions to skills deficiencies in the offsite construction sector. Yes you read that correctly - a Government backed scheme that is looking specifically at the skills needs of the offsite sector. I could be wrong but I believe that this is the first time that our sector has benefitted from a specific scheme. The funding this time around may be modest but it represents a start and in my book it is something to celebrate. Work that Buildoffsite carried out more than a year ago has helped inform the research that has led to this decision.

Another helpful development is the decision by Oxford Brookes University to fully fund a number of PhDs to carry out work relevant to the development and exploitation of offsite solutions. This is an opportunity that Buildoffsite Members can benefit from and once again the initial details are in this newsletter. Clearly there is some element of slow burn about PHD study but the prospect of some really gifted people with leading edge knowledge of offsite solutions occupying senior positions within our industry in just a few years is just part of the essential long game that we need to address in support of ensuring the future direction for offsite. I see this development as connecting with some work we are doing to establish a future leadership group amongst the Buildoffsite Membership. The vision is simple – securing top talent who whilst still at the start of their careers will no doubt come to occupy the top management places. Having these Young Guns working with us to help shape the future of the Buildoffsite project is something that I believe will pay dividends. I'll be able to say more about this initiative in a month or so.

A development that has emerged over the last few weeks is the opportunity for Buildoffsite to collaborate with Marwood Events to deliver an offsite construction show to take place at the NEC next February. The role of construction industry exhibitions suffered during the recession but with a recovery underway and growing interest in offsite solutions an opportunity to promote and celebrate the industry is something that can be embraced with renewed confidence. We will be working with Marwood to establish what a collaboration might look like and how this would support Buildoffsite ambitions. Although it is early days some basic information on the offsite event is contained in this Newsletter. You will also start to see promotional material in the technical press. Marwood Events are the organisation behind the Concrete Show that has been running at the NEC for some time now and which has been rapidly growing in terms of impact and footfall.

Two final thoughts. By the time you read this I will have returned from a trip to Australia and New

Zealand to take part as a guest speaker in the launch of the first overseas Chapter of Buildoffsite.

To be known as Buildoffsite Australasia the Chapter will be run locally to meet the needs for quality and innovative offsite solutions in the Australian and New Zealand construction markets. I suspect that this organisation will also quickly build links into the wider Asian construction markets. Buildoffsite Australasia will be affiliated as a Member of Buildoffsite and we will provide them with the support they need to develop their own identity and role. A number of Buildoffsite Members will also be taking part in this launch event. We have always said that Buildoffsite can be most effective if our horizon and our collaboration extends internationally. To best support the role of offsite solutions in the UK it seems important that the market can access the most innovative products that a global supply chain can deliver. In turn international acceptability of offsite solutions and access to a global market can benefit UK suppliers in a way that may be much less certain for those engaged in traditional forms of construction. The nurturing of self-sufficient Chapters of Buildoffsite connected to the Mother Ship seems like a reasonable plan in support of this wider ambition.

Finally I want through this piece to pay tribute to Ray O'Rourke – one of my modern day construction heroes. I won't elaborate but I recommend that you spend just 8 minutes watching a video of Ray being interviewed by Angela Brady. What comes over loud and clear is how through sheer professional and vision Ray has created a business and a Team that is at the very cutting edge of our industry. I may be somewhat swayed by Ray's mantra that the future will involve buildings being assembled on site and that the industry will move from trades on site to technicians on site. Congratulations to Enterprise Ireland for producing this video. You can view it through: <http://tinyurl.com/ogast2f>.

I think you will be impressed with both the vision, the energy and the achievement. Ray is a true leader – we need more leaders of his calibre in order to inspire others to come forward to demonstrate the same resolve and support for the direction of travel.

New Appointment to the Buildoffsite Executive Group

We are delighted to announce that Nirmal Kotecha has agreed to join the Buildoffsite Executive Group

Nirmal is the Executive Director responsible for Capital Programme and Procurement at UK Power Networks. UK Power Networks is one of the UK's leading energy businesses providing electricity to 8 million customers across London, the South East and the East of England. UK Power Networks is a major construction client.



Nirmal Kotecha

Prior to joining UK Power Networks, Nirmal was a Main Board Director at the Highways Agency with responsibility for delivering the Agency's £9 Billion Roads Programme. Previously Nirmal spent over eight years with Anglian Water Services where he headed up the Supply Chain Management function and developed Anglian Water's collaborative @One alliance model for delivering its 2005-2015 Capital Programme.

Nirmal will formally join the Executive Group in May.

A big thank you and best wishes to Giles Price

Giles Price has moved on from Heathrow Ltd to take up a CEO position outside of the industry. Giles has been a fantastic contributor to the work of the Buildoffsite Executive Group informed by his extensive experience of driving innovation for one of the UK's leading construction clients.



Giles Price

We wish Giles every success in his new role.

Buildoffsite Yearbook 2014 – 2015

The Buildoffsite Yearbook has now been published and hard copies have been distributed to the Membership. The Yearbook is also downloadable from the Buildoffsite website: www.buildoffsite.com.



The Yearbook is an important document in that it presents Buildoffsite to the Membership and also to the wider construction community. The latest edition provides a broad overview of the Buildoffsite work-programme and also gives an outline of the developing areas of new work. The latter includes the development of a specific programme to promote the benefits of offsite solutions to support a more productive house building industry better able to deliver increased numbers of quality homes in ways that are much closer to the ways in which modern advanced manufacturing industries go about their business. This programme of work is being led by Dennis Seal of Kier Residential Investments. In addition the developing programme also includes a precursor effort to establish a Hub to promote the increased take up of offsite solutions to deliver efficiencies within the water sector. This may well provide a model for Buildoffsite to promote the offsite agenda working in collaboration with other client groupings.

The Yearbook includes a set of featured Case Studies that illustrate a wide range of offsite solutions and the tangible business and project that have been delivered. These Case Studies along with those on the Buildoffsite website provide a robust evidence base for the use of offsite solutions to deliver increased value for clients and projects that are simply better.

Finally the Yearbook provides a Directory of the Membership including promotional material.

The Yearbook belongs to the Membership and we hope that it will be actively deployed by the Membership to encourage current and prospective

customers of the value of encouraging an approach to construction that recognises the potential project and process benefits of being open to the use of offsite solutions to simplify and to take waste out of the construction process, to deliver assured levels of quality and, as appropriate, to take advantage of the potential to achieve much faster construction. We would very much like to hear from the Membership how they are using the yearbook to promote the case for offsite solutions amongst potential clients and customers.

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Launch of Buildoffsite Australasia



Although the Buildoffsite Membership includes quite a number of internationally based businesses the prime focus for Buildoffsite activities has always been the UK market place.

However, the Buildoffsite “model” is readily transportable to other parts of the globe and as Buildoffsite has developed and gained recognition and traction in the UK the case for setting up autonomous Chapters of Buildoffsite to push the case for offsite solutions in other Countries and Territories has also grown. We do not believe that it is sensible for the UK to seek to operate a network of what might be regarded as out-stations. Local ownership by local stakeholders is absolutely essential in order to engage effectively with the needs of the local industry and the local economy and to operate in ways that make sense given local geography, geology, demographics and local technical and contractual provisions. The only arrangement that makes sense is one based on “localism”.

We are absolutely delighted that Buildoffsite Australasia has now been formally established to make the case for the increased use of quality offsite construction solutions in Australia and New Zealand.

Buildoffsite Australasia was launched at parallel conferences held on 2 May in Auckland NZ and on 5 May in Sydney. Richard Ogden along with a

number of Members of Buildoffsite UK were guests at the inaugural conferences.

Buildoffsite Australasia will establish a work programme that best connects with the business and project needs of local clients and the supplier communities.

Arrangements have been made to maintain a strong working relationship with the “Old Country”. Terms of Agreement have been prepared that provide for the sharing of information and mutual collaboration. Buildoffsite Australasia will become a Member of Buildoffsite UK.

There is, of course, no impediment to Australian and New Zealand organisations who whilst being locally based wish to become Members of Buildoffsite UK in order to support their business activities in the UK.

We see this as a great “coming of age” development for the Buildoffsite project and we look forward to additional Chapters being established in the not too distant future.

A full update on Buildoffsite Australasia will be provided in the next issue of this Newsletter.

For further information contact Buildoffsite@HowickLtd.com, NZ 021484761.

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Great Irish in Great Britain

Without doubt there are some people who have made and indeed continue to make an incredible contribution to the development of the construction industry at home and in overseas markets and who have a restless energy to do things better – so much better.



Ray O'Rourke

One of the “giants” of the construction industry is **Ray O'Rourke** who with passion, energy and determination has developed Laing O'Rourke into one of the most innovative and successful construction businesses. A company

that in many ways has set the “gold standard” that other companies aspire to.

A profile of Ray O’Rourke has been prepared by Enterprise Ireland. Entitled “Great Irish in Great Britain” this 8 minute film introduced by Angela Brady (former RIBA President) tells something of Ray’s background and the early development of his business and culminates with the landmark building at 122 Leadenhall Street.

What comes through loud and clear is Ray’s vision for the future of an industry where assembly of factory made components on site is the norm, where investing in the skills of the workforce is paramount and where the industry has transformed itself to the point where there has been a permanent transition from trades to technicians on site.

This inspirational film can be viewed by visiting: <http://tinyurl.com/ogast2f>

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Offsite Exhibition 2015



In association with
buildoffsite

Buildoffsite Member Marwood Events are to launch an offsite exhibition which will take place at the ExCeL on 14-15 October 2015.

Concessions for Buildoffsite Members who wish to exhibit are being developed.

The opportunity for Buildoffsite to collaborate more formally with Marwood to deliver an event that promotes the case for offsite solutions is currently being considered.

For more information on this new exhibition, contact:
Paul Shelley
Sales Director
Tel: 0203 086 9296 ext 3
Mob: 07872 489790

Launch of Collaborative Research Scheme for the offsite sector

For the first time public funding to support research aimed at addressing the skills deficiencies in the offsite construction sector have been announced by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 18 June.



This Scheme is the first to be announced under the UK futures Programme underlining official recognition of the importance of the offsite sector in driving innovation and growth within the wider construction economy.

The amount of money that has been made available is likely to be enough to fund up to four projects. We hope that there will be a positive response from the industry.

The full details of the Scheme will be promoted by Buildoffsite just as soon as these become available.

A promotional note produced by UKCES is set out below:

Businesses in the off-site construction industry invited to bid for up to £600,000 for skills R&D

The UK’s offsite construction industry has significant growth potential, but research shows this growth may be hampered by a lack of skills. To help address this, the government-backed UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) today launched the first competition through the “UK Futures Programme”; the competition will focus on addressing skills deficiencies in the Offsite Construction sector.

UKCES are offering to invest up to £180,000 per successful proposal, with a total investment pot of up to £600,000 available, presenting a real opportunity for employers of all sizes across the UK to design and create innovative solutions which tackle their workforce and skills development issues.

Over the last year, UKCES undertook a programme of background research which Buildoffsite and a number of its Member organisations contributed to.

The research concluded that the sector has the potential to change the way the construction industry builds and operates. With opportunities reaching beyond the sector and through the supply chain, as well as leading to jobs and growth in manufacturing, offsite construction provides real opportunities for the UK to compete globally in a buoyant international arena.

However, given the massive potential, it was also no surprise to find that pressing implications for skills need, supply and use also exist. Bill McGinnis CBE, a UKCES Commissioner and Chairman of McAvooy Group (offsite solutions), who will be leading the competition for UKCES, said:

“The offsite sector urgently needs to exploit new technologies and the links with manufacturing if it is to meet the demands being put on it – particularly the low-carbon agenda and the pressure to build more low-cost housing. We hope that by making this money available, businesses and training providers can be encouraged to collaborate to design and develop high-quality training and qualifications which will be recognised and adopted right across the sector.

“There is no magic bullet to the skills needs of offsite construction, but we want to find out what works by encouraging employers to experiment with bold solutions, taking risks and innovating.”

Offsite construction – a summary of critical skill needs:

- Greater collaboration between professions.
- Better project management skills.
- Design and IT skills.
- Marketing and business development.

Off-site construction competition – Key Dates:

- Competition announced – 30 April
- Webinar briefing – 3 June
- Deadline for online applications – 18 June
- Interviews for shortlisted proposals – 24, 25, 28 July
- Winners announced – by 15 August
- Successful projects to start – September 2014

Of the wider UK Futures Programme, Scott Waddington, UKCES Commissioner and Chief Executive of Cardiff-based brewers S A Brain & Co., said:

“The purpose of the Futures Programme is to encourage experimentation, learning and a culture of continuous improvement. Developing innovative products and services and testing the market is the life-blood of business. We intend to apply that approach to the broader challenge of entrenched skills and employment problems.

“The Futures Programme is above all about learning what does and does not work. We’re therefore inviting employers to be bold and innovative in their search for solutions. This is an opportunity for businesses to truly experiment, and I look forward to seeing the ideas that they come up with.”

To find out more about the UK Futures Programme, the following documents are available on the UKCES website:

- UK Futures Programme: an introduction
- Guidance for Applicants
- Application Form

www.ukces.org.uk

Funded PHD Opportunities at Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes University celebrates its 150th Anniversary next year.



To recognise the University's high profile in the area of offsite construction and the strong relationship with Buildoffsite the University has proposed to offer five co-branded University 150th Anniversary PhD studentships to the membership of Buildoffsite.

The awards are intended for 3 year full time research programmes leading to a PhD degree. Oxford Brookes will cover the full fees for the three year programme and in addition provide a bursary of up to £7000 per annum to the individual for the three years (£21000 total). It is anticipated that the Buildoffsite companies placing students may wish to top up the award to whatever extent they feel necessary to attract or support the right level of candidate.

It is critical to a successful outcome of a PhD

studentship (for all stakeholders) that candidates are of the right calibre. Oxford Brookes has a good record for high quality research and for supporting its students.

It is hoped that the programme will help deliver a cohort of highly skilled PhDs who will enjoy rapid career progression and whose influence in the industry will be significant.

Applications or expressions of interest for studentships starting September 2014 or January 2015 are to be submitted preferably by 30 May 2014.

Initially please contact Anna Whiting of Buildoffsite to register interest Anna.whiting@buildoffsite.com.

This is a special opportunity and numbers to be funded under this scheme are limited.

LHC Seeks Companies to Tender for Its First New Homes Framework for Offsite Systems

Public sector procurement consortium LHC is seeking companies involved in the design, manufacture, supply and erection of offsite building systems for social house building to tender for its New Homes (NH1) framework arrangement that it will launch this summer.



The framework will be available via two workstreams, one for volumetric build and the other for panelised systems. This will provide customers with choices that consider the flexibility of design, transportation, site access, projects in planning and integration with existing build programmes.

The frameworks will be available through eight lots across England, Wales and Scotland reflecting expected social housing building volumes.

The tender will be weighted 70% on quality and 30% on price and will consider project management, product quality and compliance with the requirements of relevant funding bodies and technical regulation. The framework is not material specific.

John Skivington, Director, LHC commented, "We are very excited about this new framework opportunity which will significantly increase our framework portfolio for social housing landlords. We believe that with our experience in the social housing construction sector, we will be able to attract companies who can offer social landlords high quality best value options for quick and efficient housing constructing."

Companies can register their interest through the LHC website <http://www.lhc.gov.uk/Tendering-for-LHC-Frameworks/LHC-E-Tendering/> and follow the link to the e-tendering portal.

Buildoffsite is delighted to note this initiative from LHC which represents another step in the journey to mainstream offsite housing solutions as a construction method of choice for the delivery of social housing.

New Members

Barlows

Barlows is a main contractor / programme management Company that specialises in the delivery of 'Lean' site delivery for fit out & new build projects in;

- Retail
- Hospitality
- Leisure
- Transport



We are a family owned company, trading in Sheffield since 1875. Recognised by 'Best companies' we believe our people are central to business success and we work hard to create an environment and culture where everyone enjoys coming to work. Our mission is to 'Change the face of construction' by reducing:

- Fit out times
- Waste
- Cost
- Conflict
- Defects
- Accidents



MacDonalld's

Improving:

- Offsite manufacture
- Trading times
- Efficiency
- Productivity
- Collaboration
- Quality and consistency

The proof?

- Long standing partnerships with existing customers
- Significant gain in new customers
- Reductions in site programmes by up to 50%
- Annual costs savings of up to 12% year on year
- Significant improvement in Health, Safety and Quality results

For further information, take a look at our website www.barlowgroup.co.uk.

GRAHAM Group

With records that trace back to 1798, the GRAHAM Group represents a nationwide business providing Construction (both Building and Civil Engineering), Asset Management and Project Investment services through a network of local regional offices. Our Construction arm operates across a wide spectrum of sectors including Education, Healthcare, Leisure, Heritage, Transport, Defence, Nuclear, Water and Waste Water, Renewables and Interior Fitout.



The business was incorporated as a limited company in 1955 and since then has successfully completed numerous landmark projects and commissions across the UK and Ireland. Whilst remaining a wholly family owned company, steeped in traditional skills and values we operate a business model designed to achieve excellence in delivery, customer service and a “true” value for money offering.



Keith Patrick

With over 1500 colleagues and a track record of sustained growth during the past number of years (with turnover rising from approx. £40m in 1996 to over £380m 2014), we are extremely proud to be ranked among some of the largest construction and service businesses in UK and Ireland.

We believe our continued success is a direct result of doing things the “GRAHAM way”, that is to say... keeping business simple, listening to our Clients, being efficient and effective in all that we do, keeping our people safe, remaining committed to the protection of our environment and working with local communities and businesses to generate long lasting and sustainable economic benefits.

We see the continued and growing focus on off-site manufactured construction as vital to the healthy growth of both our business and the industry as a whole and look forward to having our thinking challenged through Buildoffsite and developing long term business relationships with other members.

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 GRAHAM Construction, Ballygowan Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6HX

Stewart Milne

Stewart Milne Timber Systems is the UK’s leading provider of precision engineered timber solutions. Our success is based on our consultative approach, working with clients across the UK. From initial project pre start meetings through to handover, our unrivalled expertise in design and construction enables our teams to value engineer projects. And of course we manufacture products that meet stringent performance and quality standards, with call offs to suit clients build programmes.



We lead the market for many reasons, but the key benefits to our clients are that we design and manufacture innovative, cost effective solutions, and work with you to deliver high quality projects on time and to budget. Our services cover concept design information and technical guidance, full design service, manufacture, delivery and construction on site. We offer alternative solutions to meet varying regulatory requirements (such as acoustic and thermal performance), specifications and finishes (windows, doors, cladding etc) and we offer tailored solutions for different sectors. We can also act as a single supply source for joinery, windows, plasterboard and insulation.

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World Building Systems

Limited Liability Company World Building Systems is a part of a construction holding, which includes:

- engineering company (design, construction supervision and commissioning of the residential buildings)
- construction company (construction of residential buildings)
- reinforced concrete structure production plant
- concrete plant
- aluminum profile window production plant
- facility for mining and processing of the construction materials (aggregates)
- managing company running and servicing the erected buildings of the total area of one million sqm.



Currently the holding is already executing two social projects on residential construction in the volumes of 50,000sqm and 200,000sqm. Planned time of commissioning is 2014–2015. In 2013 we built two hotels and a school, which currently belong to the holding.

Russia is currently facing a very serious problem related to the need for social and residential buildings, such as schools, kindergardens, hospitals and economy class residential buildings. As a result, the management of the holding has created a team of professionals and a new entity (World Building Systems) in order to examine the world experience and implement the most modern world technologies related to the rapid construction of buildings with low cost and high quality.

For the last two years WBS has been examining the modern experiences in construction of countries in Europe and Asia (Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, the UK, UAE, China etc). The analysis of the

existing technologies of construction revealed the high demand and social importance of the production of factory made modular buildings, which include multi-storey residential houses (nine storeys and higher), as well as kindergardens, schools and hospitals. The interest of our company in the use of this technology and its adaptation to suit the needs of the Russian market is very high. Implementation of such technology will reduce the cost of construction and maintain quality control at each stage of the production cycle. It will also show a valuable new approach to construction (low price, high quality and high speed of construction).

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Member case studies

Portakabin delivers interim sixth form centre in just six weeks



Portakabin, the UK's leading modular building specialist, has delivered an interim sixth form centre in just six weeks at a school in Cheshire after structural defects to an existing building meant alternative accommodation was urgently required.

Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School needed high quality facilities to be fitted out over the school holidays and ready to use for 220 students by the start of the new term. The sixth form centre had to be completed in less than two months and this meant that the speed of the Portakabin hire solution was critical to ensure there was no disruption to teaching.

Portakabin configured 15 steel-framed modules to meet the school's exact requirements, which were installed to form three single-storey buildings. A spacious, open-plan sixth form study centre was constructed featuring a full-height glazed wall across the front elevation creating a bright and inspirational education environment.

Two large double classroom buildings were sited adjacent to the study centre and the facilities include

two multi-purpose classrooms and toilets, an art room, and café. A climate control system was also installed in each building to ensure a comfortable working environment for the staff and students.



Portakabin provided a dedicated project manager for the scheme, and undertook all planning permissions, services and fitting out for the school. Site constraints meant that careful preparation was required in order to protect a shallow soak-away drain when the buildings were delivered. Despite the challenges, the project was delivered on time, on budget and to a tight timescale, providing the school with teaching and study facilities of the highest standard for use until the permanent building is repaired.

Commenting on the project, Tony Halsall, Director of Business Services at the school, said, *“At first it seemed an impossible task because we needed extensive high quality teaching and study facilities in a matter of weeks. Nevertheless, we approached several modular building suppliers to see what they could do.”*

“From the very beginning, Portakabin gave us complete confidence that they could deliver exactly what we needed within our short timeframe. They seemed undaunted by the challenges of our project, and we knew their buildings offered the high standards we were looking for.”

“This project was a genuine collaborative effort. Portakabin pulled out all the stops to get the buildings delivered and installed on schedule – they handled all planning and building control applications, ensuring everything was approved quickly. The teachers and students absolutely love the accommodation and would be happy to keep the buildings permanently!”

Interim education facilities provided by Portakabin are designed and constructed to permanent

standards and in line with the latest Department for Education guidelines for teaching and learning. The buildings incorporate design best practice, current thinking on anti-bullying strategies and generously-sized, light, modern classrooms. They can be configured as learning clusters, standalone teaching blocks and even single classroom buildings to meet a school's precise requirements.



Portakabin buildings for hire can be fitted out as classrooms, offices, toilets and changing rooms and for more specialist applications such as dance studios, dining rooms, domestic science and general science laboratories. Its in-house services also include full project management, ground works, planning, health and safety, landscaping and commissioning, ensuring the project is completely hassle-free. There is also now the option for buildings to be clad to create a more permanent appearance and to help integrate the facilities on an existing school site.

Interim teaching facilities give schools, colleges and local authorities the flexibility to increase school places to maintain the highest standards of teaching during major construction or refurbishment work or to meet a short-term surge in pupil numbers.



Portakabin has also recently launched a new Planning and Building Control Service to manage the Building Regulations and planning process for the supply of interim modular buildings. This service offers a complete time-saving solution to help schools obtain planning permission and building control approval for its accommodation solutions.

For further information about modular school buildings for interim use, visit www.portanews.co.uk, email information@portakabin.co.uk or call 0845 401 0010.

A new accommodation block for 400 returning soldiers at Stafford's Beacon Barracks by Premier Interlink (Waco UK Ltd) is just part of a £100 million contract

Premier Interlink (Waco UK Ltd) is a leading modular building manufacturer in the UK with over 55 years' experience in off-site construction - a proven, high quality method of construction in the defence sector.

Working with Lend Lease, the integrated property and infrastructure group, Premier Interlink have been successful in securing a new project build for MOD base Beacon Barracks in Staffordshire which will house over 400 soldiers on their return home from Germany.

The 6 modular, steel framed, accommodation blocks, built off-site at Premier Interlink's factory in East Yorkshire, will provide high quality living accommodation for single living, Junior Ranks.



Each of the 6 blocks will be 3 storeys high, constructed from 45 modular bays and provide communal areas and 72 bedrooms - equating to a total of 432 bedrooms and 270 modular bays for the entire project.

On-site installation for each building will only take two weeks, demonstrating that modular construction is able to provide a rapid accommodation solution by delivering bedrooms at a rate of 20+ per week.

This volumetric building approach enables factory efficiencies to be factored into the programme, providing additional cost benefits to the client.

The project, for Lend Lease, is part of a wider £100 million accommodation plan for two signal regiments returning from their army bases in Germany, a project Premier Interlink are especially proud to be involved in.

The outstanding project for Premier Interlink follows on from the successful delivery of other SLAM (Single Living Accommodation Modernisation)

projects at RAF Benson, RAF Coningsby, RAF Wyton and a defect-free handover at RAF Chicksands - for which we recently negotiated a further phase project.

This is a high risk activity for construction of this type and Lend Lease had previously raised this issue with their sub-contractors as an area of major concern and are therefore delighted with the innovative solution provided by Premier Interlink.

The safety carousel sits on top of the modules with the lifting frame and equipment carrying out the main lift. The carousel has safety access gates and once the module is in place the operatives can access the module roof and carousel and carry out key activities without the need to be reliant on safety harnesses at all times.



For further information visit www.waco.co.uk, email terby@answermarketing.co.uk or call 0113 258 1791.

Contract award for a Yorkon off-site solution at the University of Warwick

The Yorkon solution from the Portakabin Group has been selected for a state-of-the-art research facility for the new International Institute for Nanocomposite Manufacturing at WMG at the University of Warwick.

The new Institute, the first of its kind in the world, will develop innovative manufacturing technologies to enable industry to make large scale nanocomposite parts for products in sectors such as telecommunications, electronics, pharmaceuticals, aerospace, automotive, security and medicine.

The use of a Yorkon off-site solution for the Institute's high tech research facility will radically reduce the programme time for the project to just four months, which is several months shorter than originally envisaged.

Designed by Cullinan Studio, the two-storey £2.3m scheme will house advanced R&D facilities, including laboratories, a processing hall, offices and open plan research space. A team of 50 researchers will work from the building on research projects with other academic groups and partners from industry, both in the UK and internationally.



Due for completion late spring 2014, the building was manufactured off site at the Portakabin Group's production centre in York and craned into position as 28 steel-framed modules. Internal rooms include laboratories with factory-installed high-performance concrete floors and full height UPVC hygienic wall linings.

For further information about Yorkon off-site building solutions, call 0845 2000 123, email contact@yorkon.co.uk or see www.yorkon.info/newsystem.

Events

BOPAS Breakfast Briefing

21 May 2014 | Lloyd's Register EMEA, Hiramford, Middlemarch Office Village, Siskin Drive, Coventry CV3 4FJ

Time: 08:30-10:00

Context: The Buildoffsite Property Assurance Scheme (BOPAS) has been developed by Lloyd's Register, Building LifePlans and Buildoffsite, The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and in conjunction with the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Building Societies Association, to provide third party endorsement to innovative forms of construction to provide assurance to developers that such accredited innovative, or non-traditional construction systems, will readily attract mortgage finance.

BOPAS certification is available to manufacturers and will provide confirmation that new homes built using innovative forms of construction will be

sufficiently durable to support loans over a period of not less than 60 years. The BOPAS certification is increasingly demanded by Lenders as a recognised means to manage financial and construction risk and is likely to be of particular interest to private purchasers requiring a mortgage, institutional investors in new public and private sector housing developments, and client groups including RSLs and Las.

This Breakfast Briefing will provide an overview of BOPAS Certification and its role in supporting innovative forms of house-building.

Programme:

08.30am: Welcome and introduction
Brian Horton, Buildoffsite

08.40am: The BOPAS Scheme:

Overview of the Scheme
Terry Mundy, Lloyd's Register
Durability Assessment
Paul Wornell, BLP

09.15am: Q&A and Discussion

10.00am: End

To register please email anna.whiting@buildoffsite.com

Buildoffsite Direction Group Meeting and launch of Nottingham House

25 June 2014 | Department of Architecture & Built Environment, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

Time: 10:30-16:15

(Registration and networking from 09:30)



The next Buildoffsite Direction Group meeting takes place on 25 June at Nottingham University. This meeting is open only to Members of Buildoffsite and to invited guests. An agenda for this meeting including details of invited speakers will be circulated as soon as possible.

After this meeting those attending the Direction Group will be able to attend the event to officially launch the Nottingham House, which has been sponsored by Saint-Gobain.

To register please email anna.whiting@buildoffsite.com