

23/1/09

## **YORKON WINS STRING OF AWARDS FOR DESIGN AND INNOVATION**

**Off-site construction specialist and Portakabin subsidiary, Yorkon, has won a string of new awards and commendations in recognition of its commitment to excellence in modular building design and innovation.**

Yorkon has won the Best Healthcare Project Award at the Off-site Construction Awards, for the new Emergency Assessment Unit (EAU) at the University Hospital of North Tees in Stockton-on-Tees. Yorkon was commended in the Best Education Project category for Bewdley School and in the Best Retail/Commercial Project category for an extension to a Sainsbury's superstore in Norfolk.

The North Tees hospital project was also highly commended in the Best Healthcare Construction Product category at the Building Better Healthcare Awards.

The latest innovation from Yorkon – its new high performance floor – has won the inaugural Building Products Innovative Products Award. This award showcases the best in British building innovation.

Commenting on these latest award successes, David Johnson, Director and General Manager of Yorkon, said, "We are absolutely delighted with these awards and the recognition they give to our commitment to design and innovation. They are all fantastic accolades for both our project and our R&D teams."

"Completing a building of the complexity of the North Tees EAU and to the required quality standards, in the timescale, was a major challenge. This was also a very busy hospital site and minimising disruption to patient care for the duration of the contract was a critical issue. We are delighted that the achievements of the Trust, our client – Interserve, and Yorkon – and the success of the off-site approach – have been recognised with these award commendations."

"The new high performance floor is a major development for the Yorkon modular building system and follows a two-year development and testing programme."

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“The demand for off-site construction continues to increase year on year and this latest design option will allow the approach to be applied to an even wider range of building uses, including high traffic areas and applications requiring the placement of heavy plant or equipment.”

[www.yorkon.info](http://www.yorkon.info)

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### Editor's Notes

#### **1. North Tees Hospital Project**

This 1,710sqm single-storey building was constructed off site and fitted out by Yorkon for Interserve Project Services **just over six months after start on site** and has successfully expanded the number of assessment beds on the Stockton site as part of the Government's drive to reduce waiting times for emergency cases.

Since its completion, the Trust has achieved the highest level of activity in the EAU of any ward accommodation in the hospital. It is treating around 30,000 patients each year.

The new 42-bed Emergency Assessment Unit provides a range of facilities for acute emergency surgical care, including four-bed wards, single en-suite bedrooms, isolation ward, and high dependency beds.

#### **2. The New Yorkon High Performance Floor**

The new high performance floor option has been developed by Yorkon for high traffic areas and heavy, variable loads. With a point loading of 7kN and a uniformly distributed load of up to 9kN/m<sup>2</sup>, the factory-installed concrete floor is believed to be **the highest performing floor for a modular building**.

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It offers a range of benefits for steel-framed modular buildings with areas of high footfall or heavy point loading – from retail superstores and convenience stores to education and airport buildings, chemical and pharmaceutical applications such as laboratories and process areas, and buildings where specialist flooring is a requirement.

3. The advantages of off-site construction include:

- programme times reduced by up to 50 per cent, allowing earlier completion
- reduced disruption during construction
- more sustainable construction and less material wastage
- improved thermal efficiency for lower running costs and reduced carbon emissions
- fewer vehicle movements to site
- safer, quieter and cleaner
- improved quality and reduced future maintenance
- a high level of design flexibility internally and externally
- buildings can be expanded without decanting
- greater cost control
- delivery on time and on budget.

4. If you wish to publish a telephone number for further information, the number for Yorkon is **01904 610990**. Please do not print the agency's number.