

30/10/09

OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION TEAM WINS TWO AWARDS FOR GROUND-BREAKING HEALTHCARE PROJECT

The team responsible for the off-site construction of the new Acute Admissions Unit (AAU) at Watford General Hospital – the UK’s largest AAU and now one of the best-performing emergency care services in the country – has won two industry awards.

ProCure21 partner and main contractor MedicinQ Osborne, and off-site specialist and Portakabin subsidiary, Yorkon, have been awarded the Building for Health Award at the Builder and Engineer Awards, and Best Off-site Health Project at the Off-site Construction Awards.

Constructed as part of a £29m ProCure21 contract awarded to MedicinQ Osborne, the new building for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust was manufactured and substantially fitted out off site by Yorkon in a £12m contract. This reduced the build programme by around six months and minimised disruption to patient care on a very busy hospital site.

Designed by Murphy Philipps Architects, the AAU is pioneering a new model of care for emergency cases, with rapid assessment and consultant-led diagnosis. It is now among the best-performing emergency care services, with one of the lowest re-admission rates in the country.

Commenting on the awards, David Johnson, Director and General Manager of Yorkon, said, “This project successfully demonstrates how an innovative approach to construction can help main contractors deliver quality buildings on time and on budget, to the benefit of the client. Yorkon and MedicinQ Osborne had a genuine collaborative partnership with openness and transparency throughout. To complete a project of this scale and complexity in the timescale and on such a challenging site was a huge achievement for the team, which we are absolutely delighted has been recognised with these two industry awards.”

Steve Cottrell, Regional Manager of MedicinQ Osborne said, “The new AAU in Watford has made a huge difference to people in the area already.”

/continued...

-2-

“These awards are testament not only to the innovation shown throughout this project, but to the whole team involved with the Delivering a Healthy Future project at Watford General Hospital, from early concept to completion, handover and opening of the new unit. This includes clinicians, patients and their families, as well as the Trust project managers, local authority, and Yorkon and Medicinq Osborne’s construction teams.”

The off-site approach enabled manufacturing and fitting out to begin before demolition works had been carried out on site. This parallel working reduced the programme by around 50 per cent and allowed a postgraduate teaching facility located on the site of the AAU to remain in use for much longer.

The building was craned into position at the rate of ten 14m-long modules per day in less than four weeks for the final stages of fitting out and commissioning.

The unit provides 120 beds for emergency admissions, two cardiac catheterisation laboratories, diagnostics including x-ray, ultrasound and CT scanning; a new hospital pharmacy with robotic dispensing, and a roof-top plant room. The building is finished in wedgewood blue with contrasting white render and grey aluminium cladding for a contemporary appearance.

www.yorkon.info
www.osborne.co.uk
www.medicinq.co.uk

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information, please contact:

Y/09/178a

Joanne Bridges – PRO Yorkon
Bridges Communications
Tel: 01489 570898 Fax: 01489 570888
jbridges@bridgescommunications.co.uk

Laura Torrance – PRO Medicinq Osborne
The Holistic Group
Tel: 07595 276254
Laura.torrance@holisticgroup.co.uk

/continued...

Editor's Notes

1. The advantages of off-site construction for healthcare projects include:
 - programme times reduced by up to 50 per cent, allowing earlier completion with a positive impact on patient care
 - reduced disruption to patients, staff and the local community during construction
 - 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
 - improved thermal efficiency for lower running costs and reduced carbon emissions
 - greater cost control and reduced material wastage
 - consistent delivery on time and on budget.

2. Off-site construction involves the manufacture of steel-framed modules in a controlled factory environment, using production line technology, whilst the foundation works are completed on site. The modules are delivered to site by road where they are craned into position in just a few days ready for the final stages of fitting out.

3. *About Osborne:*
Osborne is one of the UK's leading family-owned construction, civil engineering and property services business, with expertise in delivering projects for clients in affordable and social housing, civic buildings and amenities, commercial property, education, healthcare and transport (including airports, highways and rail). Founded in 1966 by civil engineer Geoffrey Osborne, it employs over 900 people, has eight offices in the southern half of the UK and an annual turnover of £334 million.