2004 has been a busy year for PROACT with a lot of new projects being taken on. September the 1st 2004 is also the start of our tenth year of trading. In spring we moved to our new premises in Great Oakley allowing us to expand our product range and improve our service to you the customer. We’ve also brought out our new, full colour 2004 catalogue.

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Giving you the feel good factor
Brandon Medical Unveil New Design Studio

Brandon Medical are pleased to announce the completion of their new Design Studio. This new studio has been constructed at Brandon Medical’s main manufacturing facility in Leeds and is the next step in the expansion of this highly ambitious company.

Brandon Medical are experts in medical engineering and manufacture with over 40 years of healthcare experience. The Company have expanded their product catalogue considerably during this time; current ranges include surgical, examination and bed-head lighting as well as operating theatre equipment such as power systems, pendants and control panels.

This new studio provides Brandon Medical with technologically advanced testing and monitoring capabilities. One of the most important functions of this new studio is the mechanical stress testing of models where prototypes can be subjected to a variety of physical pressures to ensure they can survive in the public service environment. Enhanced photometric measurement equipment has been installed as well as instrumentation for thermal and electrical safety testing.

Whilst it is still too early to see any new products emerging from the studio, Brandon are promising some exciting announcements in the near-future. Managing Director, Graeme Hall says – “we have committed a huge amount of resource to new product development in the past few years. This new facility is a major step in accelerating our R & D and increases our ability to develop new technology and innovative products.”

For further information contact:
Brandon Medical Co Ltd, Holm Well Road, Leeds. LS10 4TQ
Tel: 0113 277 7398 Fax: 0113 272 8844
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Tel: 0113 277 7398 Fax: 0113 272 8844
www.brandon-medical.com
AGFA HEALTHCARE PROVIDES DIGITAL IMAGING SOLUTION FOR SWANSEA NHS TRUST'S NEW A&E DEPARTMENT

In order to cope with the ever increasing demands made on the Morriston Hospital, Agfa HealthCare has helped assist with a major redevelopment of the existing trauma centre serving South West Wales, resulting in a new, much larger and totally filmless Accident and Emergency department.

Mr Chris Morris Radiology Services Manager said, “The planned redevelopment and extension of the A&E unit at Morriston was an ideal opportunity for us to move into a film less environment in A&E, ITU and Fracture clinic. It allowed us to upgrade the department from conventional imaging to latest digital radiology equipment. We now have IMPAX, Agfa HealthCare’s PACS, linked to four Agfa HealthCare Computed radiography systems, three of which are housed in the new A&E department and one in ITU.”

Ian Worthing, Project Manager said, “Not only has the new equipment freed up space, which would have been used to store film packets, but it has also played a crucial part in reducing patient turnaround times. Clinicians now benefit from faster availability of images and reports as the burden of administration has been drastically reduced.”

“Having a CR system and workstation in ITU means that Radiographers can carry out examinations on the unit quickly, allowing clinicians to monitor any changes in patient condition quicker thus optimising patient care.”

“The new equipment also saves time since fewer repeats due to exposure errors are needed. There is also greater exposure latitude providing soft tissue and bone detail on a single exposure.”

“All of the radiographic staff should be congratulated on their extremely hard work at ensuring that the project of turning the A&E dept and Fracture clinic film less has been a success,” concluded Ian.

The trust has also implemented Agfa HealthCare’s Web 1000 software, which allows images stored on the PACS to be retrieved from any PC within the hospital.

For further information contact:
Bill Reid, Agfa HealthCare, Tel: 020 8231 4900

NEW RIGEL 322 PULSE OXIMETRY TESTER

Rigel Medical has introduced a new high performance Pulse Oximetry Analyser.

The Rigel 322 is designed for the fast and accurate SpO2 analysis and cuts the time associated with conventional trouble shooting test procedures.

The new tester incorporates a probe analyser, along with a graphic probe continuity test that tests the probe independently and as a result can isolate opens and shorts, including intermittent fault detection.

The Rigel 322 is a universal SpO2 simulator which uses manufacturer approved direct electrical simulation method to provide high level accuracy and reliability.

Other features include automatic data logging, providing closed loop testing, and test data storage that allows results to be printed out immediately or saved internally for printing or uploading at a later stage.

The new instrument extends the range of specialist biomedical testers from Rigel Medical, part of the Seaward Group.

For further information please contact: John Backes, Rigel Medical, Telephone 0191 587 8745 or E-mail: johnb@seaward.co.uk

NEW MAQUET STAND FOR RECORD PRODUCT LAUNCH AT NATN

MAQUET has created a completely new stand for this year’s NATN, providing an eye-catching backdrop for the launch of four new products. Centre stage is a comprehensive range of endoscopy products including cameras, light source, insufflator and a highly versatile mobile work station that can be connected to a ceiling pendant. Two new lights also make their first appearance, the ALM X-TEN and Hanaulux 3000 offering customers even greater choice. Maintaining its premier position in operating tables, MAQUET will also be introducing the new BetaStar mobile table as well as the new 1150 mobile column.

Labcaire adds Four to strengthen Sales Force

Labcaire has reinforced its position as the UK’s premier supplier of carbon and HEPA filtered containment workstations with the appointment of four experienced sales people. Mungo White, Keith Lavelle and Gillian Hopes all join the expanded sales force while Iain Thompson takes up the new position of UK Downflow Product Specialist.

Mungo lives near Glasgow and has several years’ experience of the endoscopy and downflow markets. Keith, who lives in Manchester, and Gillian from Northampton both make the move from positions with other leading laboratory supply companies. Each is solely responsible for sales of all Labcaire products in their territory and together they increase the number of Labcaire representatives to seven. Meanwhile, Iain brings a wealth of downflow market experience to his newly created position.

“We rely on quality people to build and maintain our superior customer support services,” says Mihir Vyas, Labcaire’s Commercial Director. “With their excellent sales experience, industry knowledge and technical backgrounds, Gillian, Iain, Keith and Mungo will be a real asset for all our customers within both hospital and laboratory sectors.”

The expansion of the sales force follows a series of successful product introductions by the company. These include Autozyme, an enzymatic detergent solution for the cleaning of endoscopes and surgical instruments, and Autowipes, a hard surface disinfectant wipe active against bacteria, fungi, viruses and mycobacteria and ideally suited to cleaning laboratory instruments and disinfecting work areas in laboratory, clinical and surgical environments. Labcaire has also rolled out a patented anti-microbial paint finish across its entire product range.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
Simon Kear, Labcaire Systems, Tel: +44 (0) 1275 793000 email: simonk@labcaire.co.uk www: http://www.labcaire.co.uk

For further information please quote: ‘OTJ’
Leeds NHS trust wins SonoSite Research Award

SonoSite, leading manufacturer of hand-carried ultrasound, announced today that it has awarded a research grant to the Overseas Partnering and Training Initiative (OPTIN) – a charity set up within Leeds NHS. OPTIN works to further medical education throughout the developing world by deploying trained clinicians into targeted areas in need of assistance.

OPTIN will use the SonoSite grant to help fund Dr Rosie Conlon, Lecturer in Medical Ultrasound at Leeds NHS Trust and OPTIN Overseas Project Coordinator, through an M.Phil. on the “Value of training in ultrasound, surgery, physiotherapy and nursing”. The training will then be passed on to UK staff enabling them to maximise the transfer of skills when they are abroad.

Already familiar with the benefits of using hand-carried ultrasound, Dr Conlon has just returned from Dhaka in Bangladesh where, using a 180PLUS® mobile ultrasound system loaned by SonoSite, her team embarked on a study to determine the likely cause of the country’s endemic problem of recurrent kidney and bladder infections. These cases were particularly common amongst paraplegics, as these patients have been catheterised for a number of years. The team used the 180PLUS® to diagnose whether kidney stones or incomplete bladder emptying was causing the problem.

Bernard Vincent, General Manager, SonoSite UK commented, “SonoSite has always been keen to promote the benefits of using ultrasound in a number of different clinical areas and are happy to be involved in raising awareness of its benefits abroad. As a company we hold ultrasound courses in-house at our headquarters in Hitchin for clinicians and are delighted to help bring the benefits of mobile ultrasound to patients in less developed countries”.

For more information please contact Gillian Duffy, SonoSite, Telephone: 01462 444800 head for a new career!
MAQUET has launched a new range of endoscopic products including cameras, light source, insufflator, fluid management system, image recording and management software on a mobile endoscopic tower.

The ALM C-Vision range of endoscopic cameras, includes models with single CCD and a three CCD sensors. Designed for easy use, the cameras are fully compatible with existing video equipment, have excellent light sensitivity, produce high resolution images and will work with all leading endoscopes.

The xenon bulb and optical system in the new ALM X light is precisely positioned to maximise the light output. A new 180W Xenon bulb fitted in the unit delivers a light intensity comparable with traditional 300 W Xenon bulbs. Microprocessor technology is used to optimise light intensity and maximise bulb life, with back-up provided by a 150W Halogen bulb.

The ALM G INSUFFLATOR is designed for easy set up and is user programmable. The device’s high flow rate and excellent leakage compensation allows a clear view of the operation site.

The ALM E-CAPTURE software enables up to 10 hours recording on CD ROM or MPEG 4 and provides network management as well as patient file administration.

The ALM E-STATION accommodates endoscopy equipment in a single compact mobile unit that can be ceiling mounted on a MAQUET pendant if required. It gives the surgical team easy access to the controls for the camera, light, insufflator and fluid management system as well as monitors, image capture and management system.

“This is an important addition to our range in the UK,” says Bill Al’Khatib, Maquet’s UK Sales and Marketing Manager. “It is a fully integrated system that uses the latest lighting and imaging technology to optimise performance and reliability.”

For further information contact: Maquet Ltd, 14-15 Burford Way, Baldon Business Park, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, NE35 9PZ, Tel: 0191 519 6200, e-mail: info@maquet.co.uk, www.maquet.co.uk

The Wellcome Trust will present FUTURE FACE, a major new exhibition at the Science Museum, curated by Professor Sandra Kemp, Director of Research at the Royal College of Art, running from 1 October 2004 - 13 February 2005.

Future Face asks questions about the human face and identity and considers what faces might look like in the future. As digital faces become as ‘real’ as live ones, and as even face transplants become a reality, how will our notions of identity be affected? Drawing from the collections of the Metropolitan Museum, New York, the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, the Hollywood Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the Wellcome Trust and the Science Museum, the exhibition will feature over 200 historical and contemporary photographs, paintings, multimedia installation and objects.

The exhibition will be marked by the publication of a new book by Sandra Kemp and a series of films, debates and discussions in venues throughout London including the Royal Geographical Society, the Dana Centre, the National Portrait Gallery and The Other Cinema.

The Wellcome Trust has been at the forefront of promoting the new dialogue between art and science, through publications, displays, lectures and debates and, recently, a three-year programme of exhibitions at the Science Museum. Led by Dr Ken Arnold, Head of Public Programmes at the Wellcome Trust, these exhibitions have featured distinguished guest curators, work by significant contemporary artists and a wide range of exhibits from the Wellcome Collection. Through imaginative collaborations between artists and scientists, they have highlighted key issues in medical science, past and present.

FUTURE FACE is the final exhibition in a series mounted by the Wellcome Trust at the Science Museum, since 2002: HEAD ON: art with the brain in mind, curated by Marina Wallace (2002); METAMORPHING: transformation in science, art and mythology, curated by Marina Warner (2002/3); TREAT YOURSELF: health consumers in a medical age, curated by Ken Arnold and Tim Boon (2003); and PAIN: passion, compassion, sensibility, curated by Javier Moscoso (2004).

For more information: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
UVGI announces HPA’s test results for the Nightingale Air Purification System

UVGI announced today that its Nightingale air purification system has completed stringent tests carried out by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) in the UK. These results and the importance of controlling hospital-acquired infections has meant a significant level of interest amongst hospitals worldwide in UVGI Nightingale® air sanitisation systems.

The Nightingale® unit uses ultraviolet light to tackle the problem of hospital-based pathogens and is the first British mobile air sanitization system with the ability to provide positive or negative room pressurization in line with CDC1 and NHS2 guidelines. Decontamination with the Nightingale® system is achieved through four primary levels of protection. Stages include both HEPA filter and UV lamps that perform the greater part of the microbial decontamination, literally breaking apart organisms - bacterial, fungal and viral - at the DNA and RNA level. This prevents the possibility of resistant survival organisms or mutant strains. After air has passed through the system, it is pushed out of the top of the unit to create a constant airflow through the room.

The system was tested with a high aerosol concentrations of Staphylococcus epidermidis, Aspergillus niger, Mycobacterium vaccae and MS-2 coliphage. These represented surrogates of MRSA, Aspergillus fumigatus, TB, Influenza (coronavirus).

Every test showed that the filter performance ranged from 99.9970 % (Aspergillus niger) to 99.9999973 % (Mycobacterium vaccae) efficiency. All the results indicated that Nightingale achieved higher efficiencies than were anticipated when challenged with the bacterial surrogates.

Another key aspect of the Nightingale® unit’s key features is its unique ability to sanitise its filter cells. This feature was tested by HPA following the large succession of surrogate trials and found to have zero cfu’s (colony forming units) within the Hepa filter material. This is important in ensuring that a filter in a sensitive area does not contain live viable microbials.

The Nightingale technology has been used by hospitals internationally and two units have recently been acquired by North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke. Ian De Bruin, Project Director of the Estates Department for the hospital says, “All hospitals are prone to outbreaks of a variety of pathogens from time to time, for instance Aspergillus. The UVGI system appears capable of dealing with many airborne pathogens on a regular or emergency basis, which is certainly important when dealing with patients with weakened or non-existent immune systems.”

Joseph Tufo, Managing Director of UVGI, said, “This is a significant step in our efforts to provide a reliable, widely available method for eradicating airborne bacteria in the hospital environment. The Nightingale could, therefore, prove a powerful weapon in fighting bacteria, such as TB and MRSA, in the event of a hospital outbreak.”

In addition to the UK, UVGI are working with regulatory agencies in other European countries to determine the further independent assessment in each country for Nightingale.

For further information please contact: Joseph Tufo, UVGI Ltd, Tel: 01256 814162, joe@uvgi.co.uk

New home mechanical ventilator provides clinical-quality ventilation at home

Dräger Medical AG & Co. KGaA is introducing Camena, a new home ventilator that provides clinical-quality ventilation for domestic use, to the public at the annual meeting of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) on September 4-8, 2004, in Glasgow, UK.

With the support of patients and a six-member scientific team of international experts, the team of Dräger Medical, Netherlands, created this innovation in only one-and-a-half years. The result is a home mechanical ventilator designed especially for long-term ventilation in the home environment.

Patient-oriented system technology

Camena provides, both invasive and non-invasive ventilation. A new feature, Volume Guarantee, safeguards gas exchange by guaranteeing the target tidal volume range. The device offers pressure-supported and pressure-controlled ventilation. Modes such as CPAP, Bi-Level and PCV further provide versatile ventilation performance. The AutoSlope software feature automatically adjusts the respective inspiration curve to provide comfortable, patient-specific ventilation.

Designed specifically for use in a home setting, Camena weighs only 4.8 kg and measures 385 mm x 175 mm x 275 mm (L x W x H). More importantly, it is extremely quiet and operates at 10 mbar with <29 dBA() and at 18 mbar with <32 dBA. The display provides additional convenience automatically going blank after two minutes.

The user interface contains two levels: the professional user interface displays pressure and flow curves, and the patient interface displays the settings and alarm information in case of occurrence. The number of alarm events, their causes, as well as trends, can be stored internally for up to one year.

Set values can only be set and changed by physicians. In addition, specific parameters can be “tagged” so that patients can, if necessary, adjust settings themselves also via the optional remote control. The integrated Rescue Mode ensures that ventilation continues even in the unlikely case of a pressure sensor failure.

Mobility and service

Camena also supports patient mobility. For example, the system can be used in a car, boat or an ambulance due to the 12V - 24 V power connection. Camena is also ideal for use with wheelchairs. A built-in battery serves as a power backup supply for up to 2 hours of ventilation. And an optional external battery can add another 20 hours of backup power.

To ensure that the delivered gas is clean, the system includes a highly effective particle absorption (HEPA) filter that removes dust particles and bacteria. Service and maintenance is covered by remote service and diagnosis and backed by DrägerService®. This saves time and money, and makes patient location no problem.

Bas Dirksen, General Manager at Dräger Medical BV., Best, Netherlands, and Head of the Business Unit Pre & Post Hospital Care, has the following to say about Camena: “Fifty years ago, Dräger¹s Poliomat revolutionized the market for home mechanical ventilation. Based on this technology, which was actually first developed by Dräger in 1906, we have combined today¹s scientific knowledge with patient requirements to find a solution that not only meets our standards for innovation but also elevates the quality of care.”

A detailed information is available on the Company’s Website at: www.draeger-medical.com, or contact: Dräger Medical UK : Grainne Maguire, Tel 020 77316461 Grainne.maguire@fmcommos.com

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Derriford Hospital chooses the latest Berchtold video technology.

Following an extensive selection process, the team upgrading the surgical lighting in Theatre 15 at Plymouth Derriford hospital selected the innovative Berchtold TV video equipped operating lights to provide the superior illumination and video required by the users of this facility.

The Berchtold solution allows for a choice of cameras to be simply plugged into the centre of the operating light in a matter of seconds and without the use of tools. This innovative solution means that any hospital with a suite of theatres can benefit from high quality video facilities in any prepared theatre, as required – even if only one camera is purchased!

This solution can result in extensive cost savings and can grow as the demand for video increases, with further cameras being purchased as required.

The video picture may be displayed on a flat screen monitor suspended as part of the complete light installation as in Derriford – or indeed networked out to any other location in the hospital using Berchtold's patented "ORICS" device which allows video data to travel along the hospital's already existing computer highway – from any location to any other!

With its long standing relationship with qualified partners, Berchtold is able to supply not only operating lights, but equipment supply pendants, UCV systems and Operating tables. The company can also arrange service and maintenance contracts for a complete range of operating lights – whatever the manufacturer. One blanket contract to cover theatre lighting for the complete hospital.

The company will be on hand to welcome you to the exhibition at the forthcoming NATN conference in Harrogate in October.

Berchtold UK Ltd, Telephone: 01249 700 770

Mock courts helps doctors deal with culture of compensation

SCOTLAND'S growing "compensation culture" has led to doctors attending mock courtrooms to prepare them for the ordeal of real-life negligence claims.

Concern over the growth of a US-style culture of litigation has forced health boards to spend tens of thousands of pounds hiring specialists to prepare staff for court appearances. Increasingly, health boards are putting staff through £2,000 role-play sessions to have them schooled in everything from what to wear in court to how to appear confident in the witness box.

Doctors are also taught the techniques lawyers use to manipulate responses and told how to keep cool when being aggressively cross-examined. In front of colleagues, each participant is made to stand at a makeshift witness box where a lawyer questions them on a hypothetical scenario.

During the day-long course run by legal training consultancy firm, Bond Solon, the performance of each as a witness is assessed.

Mark Solon, director of Bond Solon, admitted "compensation culture" was fuelling demand for the courses. He said: "Every healthcare practitioner, surgeon, doctor or nurse has to have in the back of their mind that this patient might sue. Doctors come to the courses because they are terrified of giving evidence in court."

A spokesman for NHS Orkney said: "We run the courses for staff as part of good practice. We put staff in the witness box and if there are any chinks in your armour the lawyers rip you to shreds."

News of the moves comes as compensation pay-outs in Scotland reach record levels. Since 2000, the sum paid out by the NHS to settle negligence claims has more than tripled from £3.9 million three years ago to £13 million last year.

For further information visit www.bondsolon.com or e-mail marks@bondsolon.com Source: Scotsman 23.8.04. BART DICKSON

Sporicidal wipes featuring new audit trail on display at NATN Conference

Tristel sporicidal wipes, first launched at the end of 2003, are now supplied packaged in individual sachets. This not only assures the integrity of each individual wipe, but also enables the establishment of full traceability with a complete audit trail relating to their use. Demonstrations of the new wipes system will take place on the Tristel stand at the NATN Conference & Exhibition and the Tristel team will be available to discuss individual infection control issues.

Each of the new wipe sachets carries a unique set of traceability labels that users can peel off and affix to patient notes and also to a Quality Audit Trail record book. In addition to providing evidence to indicate the correct activation and use of every wipe, the record book prompts users to specify details of the instrument being decontaminated, as well as the pre-deaning and rinsing procedures, and the instrument's next destination.

Since their launch, the Tristel wipes, which are designed for use on all hard surfaces, have been widely adopted. They are proving especially helpful in decontaminating heat sensitive, non-lumened medical devices such as nasendoscopes and ultrasound probes.

The impregnated wipes are activated immediately before use by applying foam from a controlled dosage dispenser. Each box of wipes contains 48 wipes, each of which can be used to decontaminate a range of equipment. The wipes are also suitable for use on high risk unit surfaces and are also found to be effective against a wide range of microorganisms.

For further information visit www.tristel.com or Telephone the company on: 01638 721500
Liquiband Surgical™ is the latest superglue technology for rapid, effective wound closure and post-operative wound management. The two stage applicator, in conjunction with precision wound apposition forceps, facilitates accurate and effective wound closure. No secondary dressing or removal is required facilitating optimum wound healing conditions to minimise scarring.

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We have recently been commissioned by the Department of Health's Patient Safety Research Programme to investigate the reuse of single use medical devices within the operating theatre environment in English NHS hospitals.

We would be grateful if you were able to spare a few minutes and participate in an on-line survey about this. We have asked Anaesthetists, Surgeons, Theatre Nurses and ODPs to complete the survey. Each person responding will be entered into a prize draw to win a case of champagne.

The survey asks about your knowledge and experience of single use devices. All information you provide will be treated in strictest confidence.

If you feel able to participate in this research, please visit our web page:
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/igbis/singleuse
and follow the instructions to start the survey.

If you would like any further information about the study, please email the project's research fellow, Emma Rowley: emma.rowley@nottingham.ac.uk, or telephone the project's secretary, Louise Towers on: 0115 846 8154 (Tuesday – Friday, 9am– 4pm).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society.
The University of Nottingham
Nottingham  NG7 2RD

www.nottingham.ac.uk/igbis/singleuse

East Sussex NHS Trust chooses Agfa HealthCare for Trust-wide implementation of PACS

East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust are soon to benefit from a trust-wide implementation of Agfa HealthCare's leading IMPAX 4.5 PACS solution, following an agreement signed today. Agfa will also be providing the Trust with an integrated PACS/RIS solution to both its Hastings and Bexhill hospital sites, which will significantly help the Radiology directorate streamline its workflow.

"The Trust opted for Agfa's IMPAX system as it provides the most integrated package currently available," commented David Baker, Superintendent Radiographer. "Having been actively involved in the development of PACS systems from their infancy, over a decade ago, I am well versed with what a good system should offer. IMPAX meets our healthcare needs perfectly since it interoperates seamlessly with storage solutions and allows the retrieval of images and data files within seconds, which can be viewed within any department of the hospital," he concluded.

East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust provides NHS acute Hospital services in East Sussex at Conquest Hospital, Eastbourne District General Hospital, Bexhill Hospital, Crowborough Birthing Centre, Memorial Care Centre and Uckfield Community Hospital.

Malcolm Catchpole, PACS/RIS Manager for the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust said: "We have had an Agfa PACS system installed at our Eastbourne site for almost four years now and in this time, the Trust has been extremely satisfied with its performance and reliability, as well as with the support it receives from Agfa. Hence, when the opportunity to roll out PACS System Trust-wide, Agfa were the obvious choice. In addition to the technical aspects of the chosen system, the Trust is delighted with the competitive price with which it is being offered by Agfa."

Agfa equipment is also already in use at the Conquest hospital. The Conquest Hospital has been using three totally dry, digital hard copy printers since their installation last September. The Conquest also installed a digital dental set, which integrates completely with the Agfa system, providing a complete solution to the department’s requirements.

Agfa software is inherently intuitive and is easily learned with minimal training, which is good news for busy hospital environments.

For further information please contact:
Bill Reid, Agfa Healthcare.
Telephone: 020 8231 4900
NEW LIGHT EXTENDS ALM RANGE FROM MAQUET

MAQUET has added a new operating theatre light, the XTEN, to its ALM range. The quality of light is designed to offer good working conditions while minimising the risk of eye fatigue. It provides a uniform distribution of light with excellent shadow control made possible through the use of a cross-shaped aerodynamic cupola making it especially suitable for Ultra Clean Ventilation Canopies.

The unit is lightweight, compact and very easy to position. It has touch panel operation or optional remote control through a standard RS232 interface. In the multi-media configuration, a zoom or fixed focus camera fitted into the handle provides high-quality images which can be displayed on a flat screen monitor. The same monitor can be used to view data, such as patient notes, or images from outside the theatre.

The XTEN uses ALM's dichroic mirror and micro lens technologies to give a consistent level of illumination over the entire surgical site. It has a highly temperature of 3500K together with a colour rendering index of 93 to give true tissue colour rendition. It also incorporates a highly efficient heat management system that uses dichroic coated filters to eliminate 94% of infrared emissions. This results in a cool, comfortable working environment for the surgical team and protection for the patient tissue.

"The XTEN is part of our continuing roll out of new lighting products," says MAQUET's Andrew Cserey. "We invest heavily in R&D to make sure that as surgical needs and practices evolve, we can always offer the best solution."

For further information contact:
Maquet Ltd, 14-15 Burford Way, Boldon Business Park, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, NE35 9PZ.
Tel: 0191 519 6200 e-mail: info@maquet.co.uk www.maquet.co.uk

NEW - QA4 DAY SURGERY SYSTEM FROM ANETIC AID

As the theatre equipment specialist you can trust, Anetic Aid have built an enviable reputation based on the quality of their products plus their reliable friendly and personal service.

They are committed to providing the solutions that meet your needs, a dedication that has driven their meteoric growth over the last twenty five years.

A visit to their stand C131 at this year's N.A.T.N. exhibition will clearly demonstrate the company's dedication to manufacture and market operating theatre equipment to the highest standards of materials, workmanship, innovation and after sales servicing and support.

An opportunity to win their highly regarded QA3 Variable Height Patient Trolley worth over £2000 will also create interest at this year's event.

Anetic Aid,
Tel: 01943 878 647, Fax: 01943 870455 e-mail: sales@aneticaid.co.uk

HI-Tech Medical Ltd, DISTRIBUTORS OF XENOLITE NO LEAD RADIATION PROTECTION APRONS

The Xenolite range of aprons offer at least a 30% reduction in weight compared to other lead equivalent aprons and are 10% lighter than other "composite" lightweight aprons. (As confirmed by the F.A.S Institute Munich).

A full range of styles, lead equivalent and colours are available.

Now used in many leading UK hospitals by both Theatre and X-Ray depts where the reduced weight is proving to be of benefit.

Please contact us today at our new and expanded premises, for further information on the range of Xenolite lightweight radiation protection aprons.

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Victoria House, Andrews Road,
Llandaff North, Cardiff, CF14 3P
Tel: 02920 751063 Fax: 02920 751063

Or visit our new website at: www.hi-tecmathedical.co.uk

out more 07092 097696 e-mail admin@lawrand.com Issue 168 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004
Regent Medical at NATN 2004

Regent Medical, the world’s leading manufacturer of high quality powder free surgical gloves and skin antiseptic products for the healthcare profession will be exhibiting on stand number C119 at this year’s NATN (12-14th October)

This year’s stand signals a new beginning for Regent Medical Ltd. The new corporate logo echoes throughout the stand and reinforces Regent Medical becoming a stand alone company. The exhibit will also showcase two of Regent’s key products this year, Biogel® Indicator Underglove™ and Biogel® Super Sensitive™. Visitors will be welcomed to sample the gloves first hand and all Regent Territory Managers will be available to answer any questions.

There will also be the opportunity for customers to obtain information regarding NEW Hibiscrub with Moisturisers due to be launched in the UK in early 2005.

A fun focal point of the stand this year is the Regent Bar situated towards the back of the stand, which will be serving up non-alcoholic cocktails to quench your thirst, whilst you find out about the latest developments from Regent Medical.

There will also be two exhibitor seminars hosted by Regent in the exhibitor Seminar Theatre.

Graham Johnson, a Specialist in Occupational Health will be holding a seminar on Tuesday 12th October at 11.15am – 11.45am. His seminar entitled Effective Risk Based Glove Selection, will discuss the process for conducting an appropriate risk assessment to reduce the risk of adverse health effects from inappropriate glove use reflecting on the most recent courts appeal case regarding latex allergy.

On Wednesday 13th October at 15.30-15.40, Dr Judith Tanner, Lead for Nursing Research for Southern Derbyshire Acute Hospitals will address interested parties on Best Practice & Double gloving. She will review the recent Cochrane Systematic Review of double gloving, “Double gloving to reduce surgical cross infection” which was carried out by herself & Hazel Parkinson, Professional Development Nurse for Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

Have a great conference and we look forward to seeing you on stand C119.

SONOSITE® EXPANDS TITAN CAPABILITIES FOR OB/GYN MARKET

SonoSite®, leading manufacturer of hand-carried ultrasound systems, has announced the availability of a new upgrade to its TITAN™ system, the company’s latest ultrasound system. Designed especially to meet the needs of Obstetricians, Gynecologists and Fertility specialists, the new features include an advanced analysis and calculations package that enables essential measurements to be taken. Customers with existing systems can upgrade their current systems using a SonoSite® Compact Flash card.

“OB/Gyn consultants have been anchor market adopters of SonoSite’s technology since we introduced the first hand-carried ultrasound systems in 1999,” said Kevin M. Goodwin, SonoSite® president and CEO. “Their input has been critical to the development of our TITAN™ system - addressing their needs for a high-performance system that was robust enough to travel with them from patient to patient.”

SonoSite® launched the TITAN™ system in 2003. It was designed to offer clinicians maximum image quality on a large digital high-resolution LCD that was mobile. It was also engineered to be ‘future proof’ and hence it is easily upgradable via compact flash cards. The first upgrade was released at the end of 2003 – providing it with directional colour capabilities -ideal for vascular surgeons, this was followed by the release of TITAN™ TM 2.0, which has a module specifically designed to meet the needs of Cardiologists and now this third upgrade has become available focused towards the Obst/Gyn market.

The TITAN™ system is based on SonoSite’s proprietary ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) technology, which integrates millions of transistors onto one circuit, reducing size while offering excellent image quality and performance. Weighing only 7.7 pounds, TITAN™ was designed for durability and highly mobile use. The ASIC technology allows for a 12-second boot speed enabling clinicians to immediately deliver patient care efficiently and effectively.

“TITAN™ gives us the flexibility to provide a complete OB exam right in the clinic and the reassurance that we are getting accurate information on fetal growth and overall pregnancy health,” said Dexter M. Page, M.D., a perinatologist who has used the TITAN™ system since its 2003 introduction in his seven offices in Washington, DC, “When they are involved in maternal fetal practice in Atlanta and surrounding area “It really helps in the labour and delivery setting and is far superior to the systems typically found in these hospital departments.”

For more information please contact: Dee Banks, SonoSite, Telephone: 01462 444800
www.sonosite.com

MEDICA and ComPaMED exhibitors book more space - event becomes more international than ever

Both the world’s largest trade fair for medicine, MEDICA, and the leading international Trade Fair for the Suppliers to Medical Manufacturers, ComPaMED, are becoming ever more popular.

Exhibitor registrations for the 36th World Forum for Medicine (24 to 27 November 2004, ComPaMED, 24 to 26 November 2004) already reached the previous year’s results in early May (totaling 113,000 m² net). “We are delighted to be able to cater to the on-going interest taken by exhibitors in these two trade fairs with the extension of Hall 13 and the relocation of ComPaMED to the new Hall 8,” says Horst Giesen, Project Director at Messe Düsseldorf. While space reservations from domestic exhibitors remained stable, registrations from other countries have continued to rise. More than 4,000 exhibitors have registered so far.

MEDICA and ComPaMED will be occupying all 18 exhibition halls of the Düsseldorf Exhibition Centre. MEDICA covers all the sectors related to out-patient and in-patient health care. This includes electro-medicine/medical equipment, laboratory technology/diagnostics, drugs, physiotherapy/orthopaedics, consumables and disposables, information & communication technology, textiles, medical furniture, furnishings, facility management and building services.

ComPaMED, re-located to the brand new Hall 8, caters for all aspects of those supplying medical manufacturers. These include raw materials, components, parts, packaging and services for use in the medical supplies industry.

MEDICA meet.IT again in Hall 16
In the wake of the changes affecting the health care systems of most industrialised nations it will not only be the ranges displayed by exhibitors that will present possible solutions and stimulate expert discussions, but also the special MEDICA shows.

Alongside MEDICA VISION (presentations from research institutes) and the “Physiotherapy Forum”, MEDICA MEDIA (telediagnosis) and MEDICA MEET-IT are expected to attract particular attention this year.

Following its successful debut in 2003, the MEDICA meet.IT user forum – coordinated by the umbrella organisation Information Technology in Health Care in Hall 16 – will once again provide added value to the programme of events. Software users from hospitals will present papers with proposals and case studies on the installation and use of new IT applications.

For opening hours and admission tickets nothing has changed from the previous year. MEDICA and ComPaMED can still be attended with one admission ticket valid for both events. The ticket also grants access to most events at the MEDICA Congress, (over 10,000 participants in 2003), a total of 200 seminars and courses plus over 500 internationally renowned speakers. Opening hours for MEDICA and ComPaMED 2004 are 10.00 am to 6:30 pm; on Saturday MEDICA will open from 10.00 to 5.00 pm.

For further information visit the Internet at: www.medica.de / www.comamed.de
NEW OPERATING THEATRE CUTS INFECTION RATES

A high-quality modular operating theatre new to the UK could significantly reduce post-operative infection rates. It is being introduced by MAQUET, one of the country’s leading suppliers of healthcare equipment.

MAQUET’s VARIOP modular theatre is designed to minimise the risk of infection and has already proved its effectiveness. Over 2000 are in use in hospitals throughout Europe including many leading University Hospitals and in each case infection rates are significantly lower than in the UK. The company is now making the VARIOP available to NHS and private hospitals and believes that it could play a significant part in helping to reduce the risk of infection.

To demonstrate the benefits of the system MAQUET has built a fully fitted modular VARIOP theatre at its headquarters in Sunderland. Incorporating the latest developments in modular construction it is believed to be the most modern facility in Europe.

“The only way to convince health professionals that this radically different approach is an effective solution is to let them get their hands on the real thing,” says MAQUET’s Bill Al’Khatib. “We know how well it works from our experience in other countries but taking busy staff abroad to see for themselves isn’t always practical.”

The VARIOP is a high quality modular system offering exceptional flexibility in the design of the operating theatre which can be reconfigured in the future to accommodate changes in requirements. All mechanical and electrical services are hidden behind hygienically sealed removable wall and ceiling panels. The powder coated wall panels can be cleaned without risk of damage and in many installations they have been in use for over 25 years without the need for redecoration. Wall and ceiling panels are easily removed for maintenance which can be done during non-working hours to minimise disruption to the department.

The theatre in Sunderland replicates a real installation in every way with some additional features to take visitors behind the scenes. An inspection door reveals the mechanical and electrical services hidden behind the hygienically sealed wall panels and permits examination of the supporting structure. This level of access is considered essential to demonstrate the system’s flexibility and the ease with which a theatre can be reconfigured in the future to meet changing needs.

All fittings such as cupboards, control panels and x-ray viewers are built into the wall units to present a flush, easy to clean surface which makes cleaning easier, quicker and more effective.

The use of sliding doors rather than swing doors reduces air turbulence within the theatre and therefore the risk of infection at the operating table.

“It’s not just the fabric of the building that makes a difference,” explains Bill. “VARIOP is concerned with planning and implementation of best practice which can optimise the flow of patients through surgery while minimising the risk of infection.”

Several other products have been added to the MAQUET range recently, each focusing on the need to protect patients from infection.

For further information contact:
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Innovative ‘ceramic-on-metal’ hip replacements to undergo clinical trials

A new type of artificial hip, more robust and longer lasting than conventional artificial joints, is to undergo clinical trials and could be available for patients within five years.

These ‘ceramic-on-metal’ joints cause less damage to the surrounding bone than conventional artificial hips, therefore many recipients will avoid the need for further surgery. They could also lower the age at which it is practical for patients to undergo hip replacement, helping them to continue to lead active lives. The limitations of conventional artificial hips mean that many patients are advised to wait as long as possible, often in considerable discomfort, before having an artificial hip put in place.

The research is being carried out by engineers, medical researchers and biologists at the University of Leeds, underpinned by funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

This research is a further improvement on work carried out by the same team to develop ‘metal-on-metal’ joints, which have been in use for a number of years. The ceramic part of the new artificial joint is the knuckle head and the cup of the hip is made out of the metal.

‘Metal-on-metal’ joints improve on the traditional ‘metal-head-in-polyethylene-cup’ implants, being longer lasting and more robust. This latest ‘ceramic-on-metal’ joint further improves on ‘metal-on-metal’ as it generates ten times less metal wear. The ceramic head remains smooth and undamaged throughout the lifetime of the joint and this improves the joint lubrication process, reducing friction and wear. The research team use a unique “Hip Simulator” to carry out their work.

Professor John Fisher of the School of Mechanical Engineering is leading the research. He says: “An increasing number of younger and active patients now need hip replacements, and are demanding better-performing artificial joints. These recent developments will lead to a ten-fold improvement in wear performance.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Simon Kear Labcaire Systems
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www: http://www.labcaire.co.uk

Healthline publishes guide on Latex Gloves for Surgeons

Healthline Products Ltd is a major supplier to the UK National Health Service of a wide range of quality-assured latex, vinyl and synthetic gloves. As part of its educational support for users of its protective gloves, including the recently launched CISION® Gel-coated latex gloves for Surgeons, Healthline has produced a quality, 8-paged Guide to protective gloves.

It is estimated that over 40 billion latex medical gloves are used each year to protect patients and medical staff from infection. Numbers have increased rapidly since 1987 with the recognition of the need to protect against AIDS and viral hepatitis. The purpose of this Guide from Healthline is to provide important information to advisors, purchasers and wearers of gloves, so that the risk of any problems arising is minimised and, where they maybe encountered, general background on the correct course of action is available.

Several easy to understand sections are featured in the Guide:

- Why do we use latex gloves?
- What is latex?
- How is latex made into products?
- How can latex gloves cause reactions?
- What are latex reactions?
- What is latex?
- Why do we use latex gloves?
- How can latex gloves cause reactions?
- What are latex reactions?
- How can we do to be sure that we are using safe gloves?
- What first aid treatment is suggested for allergic reactions?

The Guide includes a comprehensive list of relevant references and the study findings of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia, on 39 commercially available latex medical gloves available.

For your copy of the Healthline Guide on protective gloves, or for more information on the company’s full range of gloves, please telephone Healthline Products on: 02234 244 100

Healthline Products Advanced solutions for stringent medical procedures.
Wellington Hospital Chooses Brandon Medical for Major Contract

The Wellington Hospital, the UK’s largest purpose-built independent hospital, has chosen Brandon Medical as suppliers for what is the largest private-sector medical lighting contract this year. The project has involved the development of 4 major Cardiac Theatres and 2 Plastic Surgery Theatres at the hospital, all equipped with Galaxy Ultra surgical lighting.

As a first class specialist hospital, the Wellington provides outstanding medical care and has earned an international reputation in advanced medical technology.

Initial feedback from the Wellington Hospital has been very encouraging, with the Galaxy Ultra lights impressing both nurses and surgeons with their brightness and quality.

As a provider of specialist medical lighting, Brandon Medical has a proven track record working within the healthcare sector. Highly regarded and with a reputation for research and innovation, Brandon offer the most advanced lighting solutions based on the precise needs of the customer. As well as operating theatre lights, Brandon Medical’s range of products also includes minor surgical and examination lamps, surgeons control panels and emergency power systems.

Brandon’s Galaxy Ultra operating lamps were selected due to their high performance, comfort and ease of use. Brandon were able to meet the exact requirements for The Wellington Hospital due to the versatility of the Galaxy system which is designed as a set of modular components to enable the Galaxy Ultra to be configured to meet any theatre requirement. This flexibility combines with a deep optimised column of focused light that achieves high intensity without compromising the other important aspects of lighting performance like maneuverability and positioning. The Galaxy Ultra is also designed with the visual and physical comfort of surgeons in mind by eliminating un-necessary heat, providing the ideal colour and distribution of light to minimise eye fatigue.

The Wellington chose Brandon following a recommendation from one of their Sister Hospitals. The Lister Hospital have used Brandon Medical Galaxy Ultra lights for several years and were pleased to recommend them. Both hospitals are part of the high-profile HCA International Group.

Brandon Medical Co Ltd, Holm Well Road, Leeds. LS10 4TQ
Tel: 0113 277 7393 Fax: 0113 272 8844
www.brandon-medical.com

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XpressO™ catheters so simple to insert for long term haemodialysis

Gambro Hospal Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Gambro AB, has introduced two new long term haemodialysis catheters for vascular access in ESRD patients, when alternative access methods fail.

The XpressO and RetrO catheters from Gambro provide high flow at low pressure, thereby reducing the risk of interrupted dialysis treatment, as a result of alarm over-activation.

These catheters make use of a straightforward sheathless insertion technique, which is a potentially safer means of catheter implantation. As a result, the risks of air embolism, excess bleeding and vessel trauma are significantly reduced.

There are a number of reasons for evaluating the XpressO and RetrO™ catheters. Both have:
- Dual – O lumen designs for higher flow at lower pressures, for more timely dialysis completion and the simplicity of a single insertion
- Kink-resistant design for easier movement through tortuous vessels
- Separated free-floating distal tips to reduce re-circulation potential
- One-piece, silicone fabrication to eliminate joints and transitions, thereby reducing trauma and bleeding and increasing patient comfort.
- Round lumens to reduce blood turbulence and minimise lumen pressure fluctuations.

In addition, RetrO catheters enable retrograde tunnel insertion for precise placement in the right atrium, to allow maximum flow rate. They have a hubless design to reduce turbulence and clotting potential, together with long proximal pigtails to enable customer length determination.

For further information on the XpressO and RetrO long term catheters, please telephone 01480 444000.
The Intersurgical SOLUS™

... it stands alone

The Solus single use laryngeal mask airway is ideal for use in anaesthesia and emergency medicine. The Solus embodies all the classic features of a laryngeal mask airway with a number of new refinements. The single use Solus overcomes all concerns regarding cross infection.

For further information on the SOLUS laryngeal airway range please contact our customer care office on: 0118 9656 376 Or alternatively visit our website at: www.intersurgical.com