All topped out!

A landmark stage was reached this month on the construction of Eastwood Park’s new multi million pound training facility.

To mark progress on reaching the highest point of the building and also the half way stage of the building project, a traditional “topping out ceremony” took place in glorious sunshine. A symbolic Yew tree branch was attached to the tallest point of the building to promote good luck.

Members of the Eastwood Park Board and representatives from those companies working with construction company, Pollard Ltd, and architects, APG Architecture, attended. The concrete floors have now been laid and the roof is being installed.

John Thatcher, Eastwood Park’s CEO commented:

“We are delighted with progress on the project and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved. We are actively planning the fit out in some detail and excited about the next stage. It won’t be long now!”

The new training centre will not only create a fantastic educational environment like nothing else anywhere in the world, but also presents a unique place to demonstrate and present business to the healthcare sector.

It will have the potential to provide a regional show room, research or testing facility, potential for staff training and collaborative events as well as a medical environment to trial new products.

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NEW AE (D) Competence Framework on track

IHEEM’s new Authorising Engineers (Decontamination) Competence Framework, developed and managed by Eastwood Park, will be up and running in November.

AE (D)’s wishing to join the IHEEM register will now be assessed under this new framework. It takes into account their existing experience and provides learning and assessment linked to defined competencies, where required.

Eastwood Park will be responsible for competence assessments and once candidates have compiled their portfolio of assessed and verified evidence this will then be passed to the IHEEM AE(D) panel for review. Following a panel interview and ensuring all criteria have been met the AE (D) is then certified and eligible for appointment and registration as an AE (D) and listed on IHEEM’s register.

It has taken a number of months and much discussion with members of IHEEM’s Decontamination Technical Platform working closely with Eastwood Park to create the new framework. With clearly identified learning outcomes, the programme will act as a competence-based approach for the appointment of AE’s within the Decontamination field. Plans are in place to extend the framework to other disciplines in the very near future.

“There is nothing comparable in any other part of the world.”
Julian Amey, CEO, IHEEM

NEW AE training in 2016

Eastwood Park is also in the process of revising its existing Authorising Engineers’ Foundation Programme (AEFP) in order to support the generic skill requirements of the new AE Competence Framework. We will keep you updated on progress in coming months.

What’s new at Eastwood Park Training?

Eastwood Park Training was delighted to welcome over 100 delegates to another of our electrical workshops, led by electrical trainer and Authorising Engineer Peter Handforth.

Peter Handforth

There was a broad mix of those in engineering and technician roles, as well as those responsible for compliance and capital projects through to senior estates management. Peter took delegates on a journey through a hospital electrical installation, touching on many aspects including design, installation, commissioning/verification, alterations & additions plus maintenance.

HTM documentation and other statutory and non-statutory requirements, use of buildings and changing use, as well as the recent 17th Edition 3rd amendment were all a part of the discussions. It provided delegates with the opportunity to share their own experiences, with numerous questions from the floor.

The workshop met with a resoundingly positive response, delegates agreeing that the day had been “a good overview”.

“Particularly useful for a non-electrical person doing general project management, interesting and not too technical”.
Debora Armstrong, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust

“Very useful to a non-engineer like me”.
Pauline Richardson, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

The next event will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, Stirling on 29 October 2015. A new programme is being developed for 2016.

New training facility opens in Dubai

Marking significant international expansion, we are excited to announce a new partnership between Eastwood Park Training and Dubai based Aras Group.

Aras Group has been providing health care services and industrial engineering solutions across the United Arab Emirates and India for more than four decades.

The two businesses have been working together to create a new training facility in Dubai. We will commence delivery of fully equipped, accredited medical gas training at the new centre for the first time this November.

John Thatchers, Eastwood Park’s CEO emphasised the significance of the new facility:

“Working in Partnership with Aras Group on this new joint venture enables both organisations to ensure effective accredited medical gas training is much more accessible to a much wider audience than before, such as across the Middle East, India, Pakistan and African countries and further afield.”

The three degrees!

Eastwood Park Training is delighted to announce a formal partnership with Staffordshire University, marking the launch of two new Foundation Degrees and a BSc (Hons) Degree progression award in 2016.

These latest programmes have been developed over many months and are now subject to final approval from Staffordshire University.

Specifically for the healthcare engineering and estates sector there is a new and unique Foundation Degree in Hospital Engineering only available from Eastwood Park. It complements the Foundation Degree in Medical Equipment Technologies designed for EMET engineers.

Both are two-year work-based blended learning programmes enabling learners to continue working while studying. Learners can progress to an optional third year to attain a BSc (Hons) Management of Healthcare Engineering Technologies & Facilities.

Potential learners can start registering for the programme now, with the first cohort starting in April 2016.

Our new website

We are delighted to reveal our new look website, making it easier for you to find the right training solution. Fresher, easier to navigate and packed full of photographs and information to ensure you have everything you need to consider for your future training.

NEW! eastwoodparktraining.co.uk
in touch...

Profile: Michael Ell...

...is one of the newest trainers to join the Eastwood Park team.

As Eastwood Park’s medical gas portfolio manager, Michael leads and develops the centre’s medical gas training. His courses involve as many practical experiences as he can, enhanced through access to the only fully installed medical gas pipeline system in the UK built for training purposes and simulating a hospital environment.

Michael was formerly a marine engineer, hospital engineer, a hospital Estates Manager and a medical gas risk specialist, with over 25 years’ hospital engineering experience. He offers in-depth knowledge as a medical gas Authorised Person, as well as the management of medical gases on a range of industrial & healthcare sites.

“During the last few years delivering medical gas training and undertaking a number of significant compliance and safety audits, I have uncovered some stark realities with real relevance to all healthcare/medical environments.

Patient and staff safety should remain at the centre of everyone’s focus. However, we know this is not always the case. Somewhat surprisingly, medical gas pipeline systems are not always seen as integral to patient care – of course things change rapidly when there is a problem. It shouldn’t take a problem to trigger this view.

The current standards, commonly in use worldwide, namely HTM 02-01, ISO 7396 (1&2) and NFPA 99 are all effective documents addressing comprehensively the requirements of design, installation and verification.”

Profile: Michael Ell...

Nonetheless, in many organisations the management of medical gases is in most hospitals form is often passed. Both the ISO and HTM standards provide some guidance, either directly or implied, on how best to provide a quality system that includes all stakeholders (patients, nurses, doctors, pharmacists and in the case of a medical gas piped system, engineers).

We all need to remember patient safety is the priority and the standards generally all refer to the four tenants of supply (continuity, quality, adequacy and identity).

Worldwide there are reports of patient incidents including deaths where there has been a breakdown in the drug (medical gas) administration process ranging from equipment failure to incorrect administration by nursing staff. Through a slightly different emphasis on medical gas training it is hoped such incidents can be avoided, or at least severely reduced.

Our Medical Gas Training sessions connect the elements of patient safety and prepare Authorised and Competent Persons to the work place through engaging, practice, practical hands on tasks and the application of information from the HTM 02-01. We look forward to seeing you at Eastwood Park in the near future.”

Michael Ell, Medical Gas Manager.

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HTM 00 & critical training

All too often training is seen as an unnecessary expenditure, especially in times of strict budget controls and where there are numerous demands on spend.

Adopting an attitude of ‘probably won’t happen to us’ or ‘we’ve got away with it until now’ often prevails. But the impact and implications of a major incident rarely equals to the investment made in essential training and developing a highly skilled competent workforce.

Healthcare standard HTM 00: Policies and principles of healthcare engineering (section 6), gives clear guidance on the matter. Section 6, “Training, information and communications” states:

“All personnel employed in the design, operation and maintenance of engineering services, including maintenance personnel and operators, should receive adequate, documented training. Personnel should not commence their duties until this training has been completed, competency has been validated and detailed operating instructions have been provided.”

Training, including regular refresher courses, should be an essential part of any hospital engineers’ working life at all levels. The guidance within the HTM specifies the dangers of “unauthorised modifications, alterations or additions to the critical engineering service”, as well as potential for “legal consequences”.

The document also emphasises the benefits of staff training and how, when implemented in a proper business plan, it will “deliver cost-efficient provision of services meeting the future need of the organisation” as well as an increase in customer service levels. Reading this section of the HTM will focus attention on requirements and the legal ramifications.

TNA and meeting compliance

One approach many organisations follow in assessing their training requirements is through a training needs analysis (TNA).

The output will ensure a co-ordinated and bespoke training plan, which delivers an effective and cost-saving solution to aid have or a more individual training approach...

Eastwood Park recently undertook a significant exercise for a multinational client where it provided a comprehensive report outlining the major changes between previous NHS Guidance and current guidelines.

By evaluating where the gaps in compliance existed at a specific PHI hospital, this proved hugely valuable, enabling the client to review not only its training needs but also performance against contract.

We can do the same for your organisation, ensuring that you meet with HTM 00’s clear recommendations.

For more information please visit our website, call +44 (0)1454 262777 or email training@eastwoodpark.co.uk

HefmA’s “The air that we breathe”

Eastwood Park is pleased to be hosting and organising on behalf of HefmA’s South West Branch, the first in a series of seminars.

“The air that we breathe” will take place on 19 November at Eastwood Park and will address the importance of air quality and the part it plays in patient and staff wellbeing.

The one-day workshop will highlight how ventilation systems are used in the healthcare environment and referenced in HTM 03-01 and other NHS guidance. The session will cover a variety of topics including determining and managing the competence of Authorised and Competent Persons, essential components of an air conditioning system typically used in healthcare premises and managing and maintaining systems in accordance with current guidance.

Primarily for HefmA members, however, a small number of spaces are open to others on a first come first served basis. To book your place, £100 per person including lunch, please call +44 (0)1454 262777.
**Profile: Sylvia Martin**

Barts Health NHS Trust encompasses 5 local hospitals and with a turnover of £1.25 billion, has a workforce of 15,000, supporting 2.5 million patients in East London. Sylvia Martin is the Trust’s Decal Lead and Eastwood Park later delivering our Decontamination Lead training.

Decontamination has multiple stakeholders all of whom work closely with Sylvia in her day-to-day role as Decal Lead for Barts Health, helping to monitor and advise on the decontamination process. Outlining her role, Sylvia says:

“Decontamination is carried out in nearly all areas of an organisation and it is essential that activities are monitored. A Decal Lead ensures that the risks associated with decontamination is fully recognised and are being managed appropriately in accordance with current regulatory requirements.”

Decontamination Lead – roles & responsibilities training is scheduled throughout the year.

King Faisal Hospital

Following completion of an extensive two year work-based learning programme in King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh, KSA, Eastwood Park is delighted to congratulate these students who have just graduated and are now productive and fully competent members of King Faisal’s CSSD department.

The ceremony was attended by Eastwood Park’s CEO, John Thatchter and Learning & Development Manager, Lisa Slevin, who led the programme in Riyadh, mentoring students through the process.

NEW to healthcare?

Do you have staff that you are struggling to find time to fully support? Don’t worry, there may seem a lot to learn or to impart to new members in the team, but we can ease the pressure.

With an introduction for those entering a role in Healthcare for the first time, His new course Essentials for engineers – new technical hospital staff will be delivered in November.

Aimed at technicians new to healthcare estates, the course will give delegates an understanding of specialist engineering systems and services that technicians are required to operate, maintain and repair. It will also look at essential Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) guidance and the permit to work process, emphasising the importance of proper implementation to ensure the safety and integrity of systems.

This training is ideal for those either recently appointed or aspiring to Technician posts within an NHS healthcare environment. What’s more, successful completion of this course provides an underpinning knowledge and understanding to allow technicians to progress onto the specialist Competent Persons (CP) courses. Should you have several new recruits Eastwood Park can deliver this course at any location to suit.

**Continued expansion**

It has been another busy 12 months, with continued growth and development, not only has the long awaited new training facility started to take shape, the business has experienced significant increase in international training and partnerships, as well as seeing another year where turnover and profits have increased on UK training services.

Craig Nugent
Business Development Director

Craig Nugent was appointed to the Board and has taken on the role of Business Development Director. Craig joined Eastwood Park early in 2013 as General Manager, and has been instrumental in supporting the international training business with CEO, John Thatchter.

Lyndsay Corbett
Training Manager

Also joining the management team is Lyndsay Corbett, who started as Training Manager in December 2014. As a highly experienced educationalist, Lyndsay leads the portfolio design and development programme, as well as planning and managing operational delivery.

Hong Kong nurses compete for training

Following rigorous assessments in their own country of Hong Kong, an elite group of nursing staff will be spending four weeks on a decontamination and infection control development programme at Eastwood Park.

This is the second time Eastwood Park has hosted such a visit and Eastwood Park Account Manager, Michelle Nixon, who is co-ordinating their trip said:

“Places on the programme are highly sought after, as the nurses have to compete against those from within the whole of the Hong Kong health service to attend. We have developed a bespoke programme for them, including various decontamination courses as well as visits to both hospital equipment manufacturers and hospital decontamination units around the UK.”
In its third year, our summer schools for hospital engineering apprentices fill fast. The week long residential programme crosses all engineering disciplines, providing a fundamental overview of different disciplines and how they interact as well as reference to the relevant HTMs.

Team events – breaking the ice

need that degree... for your next promotion?

FdSc Hospital Engineering or FdSc Medical Equipment Technologies
BSc (Hons) Management of Healthcare Engineering Technologies & Facilities

Continue working and study part-time to achieve a relevant Foundation Degree, leading to a BSc (Hons) Degree awarded by Staffordshire University, subject to approval. For further information visit our website.

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