

Press release

29th May 2009

**HCP RADIANT HEATING PANELS FOR NEW BRISTOL HEART
INSTITUTE**

HCP, a division of SAS International, supplied 970 linear metres of radiant heating panels to the new £60m Bristol Heart Institute, which opened to patients this month. Radiant heating is a new concept for the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, but one which has been seen as offering real benefits in terms of infection control.

Alison Grooms, Commissioning and Redevelopment Project Manager for the Bristol Heart Institute, commented: "The design is a significant development in making the wards easier to clean and reducing the opportunity for cross infection risks associated with traditional wall-mounted radiator systems. Radiant heating systems can free up valuable floor and wall space, leading to increased space flexibility. This is another key benefit as it helps facilitate easy movement of patients around a hospital".

The mounting of a heating system at high level can help meet Department of Health guidance on infection control. Radiant heating systems are easy to access and their flat surfaces are easy to clean. Current deep clean guidance requires the removal of traditional radiator covers and cleaning behind radiators which can be both difficult and time consuming.

Radiant heating solutions heat objects rather than air, therefore energy is not wasted bringing large volumes of air to a comfortable temperature before occupants feel the heating benefits. Internal air temperatures can therefore be reduced whilst maintaining comfort levels. As a result less energy is used by the heating system, particularly compared with all-air-systems.

The systems also reduce air flow, and therefore dust movement in an occupied space, another critical consideration for a healthcare environment.



The new Bristol Heart Institute includes three cardiac catheter laboratories, a state of the art hybrid theatre, three in-patient wards for cardiac patients, a Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU), Coronary Care Unit and an out-patients department. The centre allows staff to work much more flexibly between the specialities of cardiology and cardiac surgery.

It is the largest building project undertaken since the 1970s for University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. The client worked with Hoare Lea, M&E Consultants, and Hayden Young main contractors on the project.

In an average year, the centre will carry out around 1,700 heart operations and perform some 4,000 cardiac procedures.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

HCP has over 30 years of product and installation experience. HCP specialises in convective and radiant heating solutions and is the largest manufacturer and installer of perimeter heating systems in the UK.

HCP is a UK owned and based organisation with manufacturing plants across the country. Its central goal is to deliver an unprecedented combination of value, product quality and application expertise.

HCP contacts for Publication:

Chichester Road
St Leonards on Sea
East Sussex
TN38 9BG
Tel: 01424 712195
Fax: 01424 457331
Email: info@hcp-sasint.co.uk
Website: www.hcp-sasint.co.uk

Press contacts:

Louise Gough or Samantha Dawe, The Think Tank on
Tel: 020 7831 2225, Fax: 020 7831 1408
louiseg@thinktank.org.uk or samanthad@thinktank.org.uk

Background information on SAS International

Metal Ceilings • Room Comfort • Doors • Architectural Metalwork

SAS International, after nearly 40 years in the UK ceiling industry, has seen many developments in ceiling products, from the basic wood fibre products of the 1960s to the high performance steel and aluminium products of today's generation of buildings.