Austin UPDATE

The latest news from The Austin Company

2014/15

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Architecture Mechanical Electrical Structural Public Health Construction Management

Leading Multinational Client

Blue chip client calls upon Austin to remodel 2,500m² of laboratory space within tight budgetary and time constraints.

Austin has handed over to one of its multinational clients approximately 2,500m² of scientific research space within an extensively refurbished research building on a prominent Science Park in the South of England. The building provides three storeys of open plan cell biology and chemistry laboratories together with a number of specialist research and support spaces.

The project was designed by Austin to foster collaborative working and interaction. The design was developed around a series of 'sharing principles' which were established by working closely alongside the clients scientific teams. This approach played a major part in allowing the project team to maximise the efficiency of the three storey research and support space and to ensure the building accommodates changing research requirements over the coming years.

The Austin multidisciplinary design and construction teams worked closely together and developed a number of innovative solutions at various stages, from conceptual and detailed design through to construction. This enabled our site team to maximise the available construction time without compromising quality. Through such close collaboration, Austin were able to deliver this complex project within the demanding programme of 20 weeks on site, commencing on site three weeks after start of detail design.

AN ENCOURAGING YEAR

During 2014 we have seen an increase in activity within one of our major markets - life science and pharmaceuticals.

Design and engineering has been particularly busy during the period, accompanied by an increase in construction management projects.

The diversity of size, complexity and location of our work has been wide and challenging, and I am delighted with the way our staff has faced these challenges and concluded our commitments successfully.

Another feature of our activity during the last year or so, is the number of assignments coming from past clients. This is encouraging for the company and augurs well for the future.

We are pleased to report that we have again received the RoSPA gold award for our Health and Safety results which confirms our commitment to this very important aspect of our work.

We are also preparing and adjusting to the CDM regulations which are currently being modified.

If you need unbiased support or advice on how best to proceed with your facility needs please do not hesitate to call me and allow us to show you how we can help.

Prakash Davda

Prakash Davda, Managing Director

RoSPA

The Austin Company has attained six consecutive Gold Awards from ROSPA for achievements in health and safety. The company prides itself on its health and safety management systems with its strategy for excellence in health and safety performance and its promotion of a positive culture through a behavioural based safety management philosophy. The company's operations are focussed on providing clients with exemplary health and safety management practices and actively promotes worker engagement in site based initiatives.

RoSPA 2014 GOLD MEDAL Award

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Dairy Crest

Another Austin project to the food industry

Due to our previous knowledge and experience of food testing laboratories Dairy Crest Limited recently appointed Austin to undertake a multi-disciplinary peer review on the detailed design for their new QA facility at Davidstow, Cornwall, where they manufacture one of the nation's favourite cheese brands - Cathedral City. The current proposals included the provision of a 243m² single storey, prefabricated building, which is to accommodate a microbiology laboratory, wet chemistry laboratory suites and support accommodation.

Following the completion of the peer review, Austin have made agreed changes to the design to reflect the comments made on completion of the study and in addition to some changes to the client brief.

The project is now progressing with the Austin team into construction, through to commissioning and handover.

Top Ten Pharmaceutical Client

Space utilisation strategy

Efficient space utilisation is paramount for competitive high performance organisations. Two projects undertaken recently with a key pharmaceutical client demonstrate how a carefully considered yet innovative approach can maximise the use of existing space with potential savings in real estate and infrastructure costs.

The creation of a cGMP unit, within an existing production building, accommodates a Spray Dryer enabling the development of a number of API ingredients for clinical trials. The existing shell space is converted to provide a change and transfer lobby, laminar flow booth and a double height enclosed environment for the spray dryer.

Analysis of current space and future usability in a number of buildings at the same site has identified that with strategic movement of office, laboratory and production activities, a complete building can be released together with associated infrastructure.

"Thanks for all the hard work by the Austin team" – Client Project Manager

Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst

Medical Research Council Technology

Austin have recently completed a Stage 3 preliminary design study for the internal fit-out of a three-storey accelerator building for Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst on the GSK research campus at Stevenage. The Austin design team included in-house architectural, mechanical and electrical design disciplines, together with estimating and programming support for this fully coordinated design study.

The requirements included providing bespoke accommodation on two floors for the MRC Technology, who are relocating from their current Mill Hill accommodation next year. Austin originally assisted MRCT to establish their future requirements associated with the move through a technical requirements study undertaken in 2012. This study identified requirements, including bespoke laboratories, to accommodate biological and chemistry work incorporating specialist radiological, tissue culture (CL2 containment) and NMR facilities, as well as all appropriate support functions including glass wash, autoclave, cryogenic storage and other specialist storage, standby generation and UPS.

In addition to providing the bespoke accommodation for MRCT, the remaining area of the accelerator building has been designed to incorporate a number of individual tenant occupied laboratories and offices, designed to be adaptable to suit a wide range of needs from incoming tenants, including biological CL2 capability and med tech facilities.

Austin are now commencing the Stage-4 detailed design exercise for this 3,600m² fit-out project following the successful completion of the Stage 3 design.

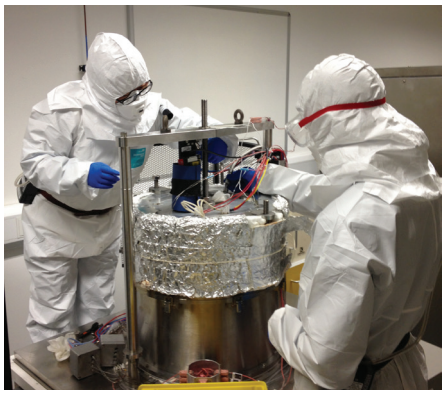
National Physical Laboratory

Austin assist NPL in the upgrade and development of their testing and research facility

During the past 12 months, Austin has been involved in a number of design projects at the National Physical Laboratory. The projects involve specialist laboratories which require a high level of servicing. Working within the constraints of the existing buildings has proved a challenge.

Collaboration with both the estates and science user teams has been vital in establishing the brief and the goals.

Each laboratory design is developed in partnership with NPL to maximise the spatial utilisation and functionality required to support the science. The process has involved identifying design milestones to which the user groups have provided input and from which they have been able to visualise their upgraded laboratories.



New University Client

Going "hot" on Cryogenics

Austin have recently been appointed to undertake a number of specialist design projects for a leading Russell Group University. The latest of these is the concept design study for a new centralised bio-bank / cryogenic store to support the scientific activities undertaken on a research based campus.

The new facility is to incorporate storage for 20 plus large 80K/94K high efficiency dewers together with a technicians area and external liquid nitrogen storage tank.

Biological Services Unit

Austin carried out the preliminary design for the refurbishment of a Biological Services Unit for the University. The BSU is located in the 1950's Science Centre located within a city centre location. The project carries the spatial challenges associated with an old building in a congested central site. The design aims to provide mechanical systems which are easy to access and maintain and the internal environment and continuous operation essential to meeting Home Office regulations.

Austin have now been commissioned to deliver the detail design and construction of the facility through to commissioning and handover.

Food and Confectionary Facility

Bean busy

Following the successful preliminary design study for a new Academy, Austin have been appointed to undertake a number of additional designs to upgrade aspects of their on-site manufacturing processes.

The latest of these studies is to convert an existing facility, into a new melting facility. This entails removing existing equipment and remodelling the whole area. Austin are providing specialist multi-disciplinary support to develop the new facility which will include storage and associated unloading facilities, a new canopy, new specialist areas incorporating specialist equipment.

The project will be designed to minimise the time from shutting down of the existing roasting activities to start-up of the new melt facility.

Mondelez

Internal office fit-out

The Austin Company was commissioned by Mondelez International to produce a complete design of the new office area comprising of open plan 'breakout' pods and fixed conference rooms, meeting rooms and new washroom facilities at their facility in Bournville, Birmingham.

Upon completion of design The Austin Company was also subsequently successful in being appointed to carry out the management and construction phase works.

Austin International

Prague, Czech Republic

Office workplace design is an increasing aspect of Austin's work, creating environments for new ways of working and providing adaptable solutions reflecting the business aspirations and operational requirements. Working within the client's team Prague proved yet another dynamic and interactive process. Together we developed a variety of space

solutions to respond to a rapidly growing part of the organisation working in the area of agile and new technology software development. Integrating technology, team working and private work space were some of the requirements integrated into 7,000m² of space planning solution.

"Your work is being really appreciated" - Client Design Lead

Keneba and Fajara, Gambia

Medical Research Council - Austin continue to support the valuable work the MRC is undertaking in The Gambia. We have just completed the detailed design and tender package information for the expansion of research laboratories, treatment clinic and conference facilities at the outreach site at Keneba. The design and specification have been developed with local contractors in mind. The project is due for completion by March 2015.

Austin have developed a real understanding of how important the work in Africa is to the MRC and its scientists. Their knowledge of the location through various visits and literally living the experience at their visits amongst scientists, staff and local community has directed the work differently to normal projects. The design that Austin provided is maximising the facilities in the most economical way, finding solutions for laboratory environments, which can be procured, installed and maintained locally, and therewith making the most of the funding award. This is innovation of a different type! - Susan Simon, Head of Projects

Health and Safety Review

CDM - The Construction (Design & Management) regulations are changing!

For only the second time in its 20 year history, the CDM Regulations are to change.

The HSE are proposing updating the regulations in an attempt to make requirements, in particular to small and medium-sized employers, more easily understood.

The current proposals include:

- Withdrawing the 2007 Code of Practice and replacing with a tailored suite of sector-specific guidance.
- Removing the role of the CDM Coordinator.
- Increasing the duties of the Client.
- Creating a new duty holder of "Principle Designer", as well as maintaining the role of "Principal Contractor".
- Clients' duty to appoint a principal designer and principal contractor is to be based on the number of contractors, rather than on the notification threshold as at present.
- Increasing the duties of the design and the project team.
- Revising the requirements for The Construction Phase Health & Safety Plan.
- Changes to the notification threshold.
- Extending to domestic clients` projects

The proposed changes to the CDM regulations have yet to be verified, but it is anticipated that they are likely to come into force in April 2015.

Austin will be ready for the change, will you ...?

Health and Safety Awareness Literature - Acting the Part

At Austin, we continually strive to improve health and safety, particularly on site using a whole range of tools and techniques. As part of our initiatives in looking at behavioural health & safety issues, we arranged a topic session for all the contractors working on an AstraZeneca project.

This took the form of a companywide health and safety quiz, however we raised the profile of it by setting up a draughts contest where all the draughts were volunteers from the construction team. This quiz was held outside the site on a massive draughts board with a raised platform for spectators and using MEWPS to enable team captains to direct play.

The topics promoted the 4C's identified in HSG645 – competence, communication, cooperation, and control.

"The event was a real success and I think it was really appreciated by the operatives on site. I think for some, it was the first time they had been involved in any such safety event!" - Ian Adamson, Global Construction Manager, AstraZeneca

The Austin Company
DESIGN | CONSTRUCT | INNOVATE

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Bio Products Laboratory Limited

Fill line installation and Grade A support area modifications

The project involves the installation of a new injectable products filling line into an existing facility. The filling line will increase the output of the existing facility which itself requires modifications in terms of validated utilities, mechanical and electrical services including structural and fabric alterations in a live pharmaceutical production facility.

The shutdown period is very brief and will require micro managing of several areas within the building. As such the project management approach is to divide the scope into small areas creating mini projects within the project. This approach facilitates the assignment of an order of precedence to each mini project which is critical for managing float reductions during execution of the works.

The ventilation systems will require modifications of interdependent pressure regimes and controls including validation which are subsequently modified and revalidated for the final regime.

Austin's role is to continue from their role on the preliminary design (BOD) into detail design and manage the construction including validation of modifications. One of the greatest challenge of detailed design is information gathering of the existing facility systems in terms of capacity relative to new requirements.

The Pirbright Institute

Helping to enhance a world class reputation

Austin is a member of an international team designing a new high containment research facility at The Pirbright Institute. The facility will allow the study of virology within livestock, focusing on viruses affecting poultry and animals, including zoonotic diseases and emerging pathogens.

It is also responsible for the design of the new site-wide infrastructure required to serve the entire site redevelopment programme. This extends to ground investigations, spoil management, reviewing site-wide utilities such as steam, gas, electricity, water, drainage, data & communications and associated civil works.

These two projects form part of the UK government/BBSRC £250 million funded initiative to elevate The Pirbright Institute into the world's most innovative and technologically advanced scientific centre for the study and control of viral diseases that affect livestock and those that spread from farm animals to people.

The Institute in 2014 celebrates its 100 year anniversary and since its establishment as a cattle testing station for tuberculosis, Pirbright has played a vital role in controlling and preventing some of the world's most devastating livestock diseases through fundamental and applied research and the development of new and improved diagnostics and vaccines.

Cancer Research UK

All a buzz!

Austin have recently undertaken additional work for Cancer Research UK following the completion of a number of highly specialised research and development facilities. This latest project involved undertaking a concept and option study for providing additional specialist laboratory facilities, including an entomology facility, change and welfare facilities, within an existing specialist research establishment at Cambridge.

For this latest study, Austin provided specialist architectural, mechanical, electrical design in addition to estimating support.