Austin Update
2009

Strong performance goes against the trend!

I am pleased to report another excellent company performance this year where, in spite of the recession, we have successfully undertaken a number of interesting and challenging projects to our usual high standards.

We are also delighted to have been presented with the Cancer Research UK's Best Supplier Award for 2009 and the ROSPA 2009 Gold Award for Occupational Health and Safety, a cause for celebration and worthy tributes to the hard work and professionalism of our staff.

These successes have helped strengthen our services and put us in a strong position to undertake further complex and larger projects.

We continue to attract new customers seeking high performance, technical solutions for their facility needs and have recently recruited several new members of staff to our engineering and architectural design departments to cope with expanding demand.

This makes us all very excited by our success and we look forward to confidently building on this success in 2010.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff for their outstanding efforts this year and also express our gratitude to our clients.

Prakash Davda

Prakash Davda, Managing Director

Aberystwyth University Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS)

Developing programmes to overcome the three major issues facing world farming - food, energy and water security - are major priorities for Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences research programme (IBERS).

Professor Wayne Powell, Director of IBERS, sees the Welsh environment as a test bed for global solutions from which templates can be developed for other parts of the world, from the tiniest biological units up to whole ecological systems.

He says: "All these aspects come together in the Institute's research work. As we develop into an international centre, with laboratories capable of conducting cutting edge molecular biology research, we have a tradition of applying science to solve practical problems such as these three major issues."

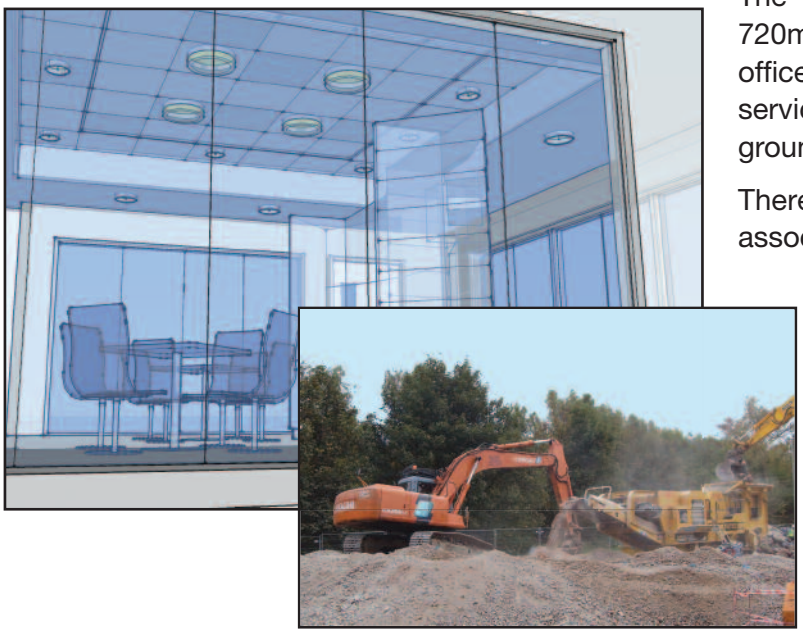
To take the work of tackling climate change on to another level, IBERS is planning a £25 million investment programme for the Institute's sites at Gogerddan and Penglais.

Austin has joined forces with architects Pascal & Watson to design new laboratory and glasshouse facilities. Austin will also be responsible for laboratory design and building services and providing the main contribution to sustainability and energy issues.

In this issue...

Austin wins Cadbury laboratory at Bournville

After undertaking the concept, preliminary and detail design of a new Analytical & Microbiology facility at the Bournville manufacturing site, Austin has been awarded the contract to construct this new facility.



In keeping with current QA principles the facility is required to meet the latest regulatory standards, be physically separate from the main manufacturing facility and be capable of future expansion.

The new single storey building with a footprint of 720m² will incorporate a mezzanine plant floor over office and stores area of 320m² allowing optimum services distribution to the new laboratories on the ground floor.

There will be a suite of three laboratories with associated store areas, open plan office, meeting room, break out and welfare facilities.

Economically designed the facility offers exceptional value for money and will comply with the latest energy conservation requirements required under part L2A of the Building regulations.

This is another assignment for the food industry which Austin has served for a number of years.

Major refurbishment and new build contracts near completion at Syngenta

Austin is nearing the end of a 15 month construction programme for the refurbishment and new build of Syngenta's Physical Science and Biology Compression projects at their Jealotts Hill facility.

The refurbishment programme for both science projects is now nearly complete with minor commissioning and the fit out of the laboratories due for November completion.

The specialist laboratories have been designed to meet the high standards of 'Defra'.

They will assist Syngenta in its research and development work and will create an uninterrupted link between existing green houses and a specialist laboratory building.

The success of Austin at Jealotts Hill was complemented by the opening of new facilities and a new robot, in Building 100, by HRH Princess Royal.

This is the latest in a number of projects completed by Austin during the past 20 years.

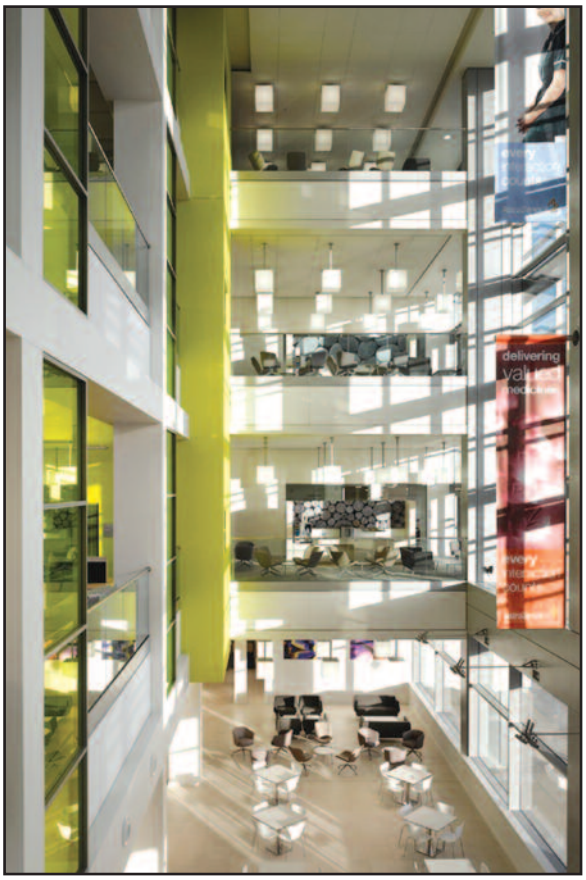
Great result for new sanofi-aventis facilities

For the sanofi-aventis site in Alnwick, Northumberland, a complex total service commission has been provided for a major refurbishment of some 4,500m² of laboratories, write-up areas and associated facilities.

Because of the need to keep the unit operational during the upgrade, the project was split into five distinct phases with a number of sub-phases.

A detailed planning process ensured a satisfactory project conclusion.

More success with AstraZeneca



AstraZeneca's prestigious new PR&D facility in Macclesfield consists of a 12,000m² facility providing four floors of research laboratories and associated offices, write-up areas, meeting rooms and interaction areas.

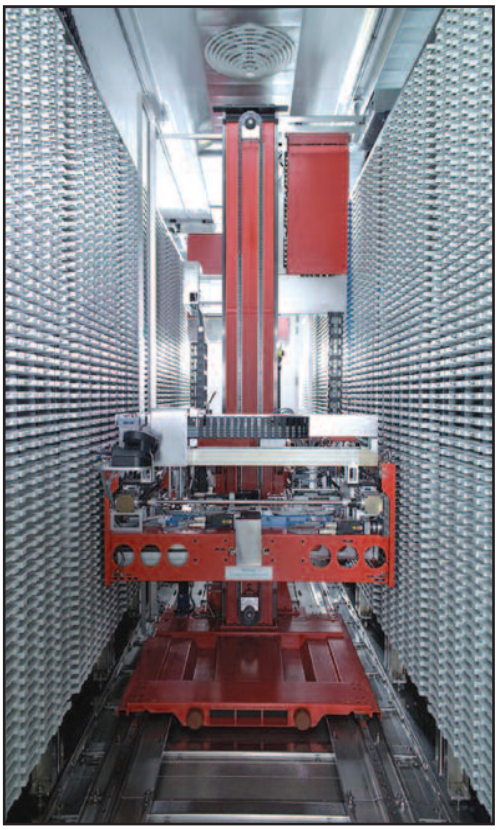
Each floor operates independently via a dedicated plant room on each floor whilst both offices and research laboratories have prefabricated service supply modules. An access floor to the office area acts as a supply air plenum to the open plan areas.

The meeting rooms were designed for prefabrication off site and are fully demountable for easy relocation. A "no-ceiling" philosophy has been adopted to allow easy access for flexibility and maintenance. A full height atrium fronts the office and connects existing buildings on both sides providing a casual meeting space on the ground floor, a refreshment hub and direct access to a library and meeting rooms.

The Interior design and construction services contract included open plan laboratories accommodating 250 fume cupboards.

The Project was delivered with Astra Zeneca and their alliance partners with Austin responsible for the interior fit out detail design and installation.

Three Projects in One



Austin's assignment for one of it's major customers consists of a new automated compound store, the refurbishment of an existing laboratory building and modifications to a recently completed research laboratory building.

Each of these projects commenced with a conceptual study which was followed by both preliminary and detailed design. These projects have now progressed into the construction phase, with one already handed over and the other two planned for completion later in the year.

The automated compound store is a new purpose designed enclosure having closely controlled temperature (minus 20C) and humidity levels. It also features a critically flat floor which has been laid to the manufacturer's exacting standards.

There is an analogue addressable fire alarm detection system linked to an FE13 gas fire suppression system, but, owing to the very low temperatures a Vesda air sampling system was necessary to provide automatic smoke detection.

The refurbishment of the existing laboratory building consisted of a mix of laboratories, refurbished to accommodate a new robotics laboratory with write up areas, staging areas and consumables store.

During the construction work the remaining laboratories were kept fully operational by extensive planning of the building work and in particular the set up of the new mechanical systems.

The work in the research laboratory building required modifications to create a new space containing "state of the art" robotics. The work also included the remodelling of the area to provide a consumable store, an assay development laboratory and a tissue culture laboratory.

Optimising your facility

Are your buildings efficient and safe; do they serve your company's needs; do they provide a productive working environment for staff?

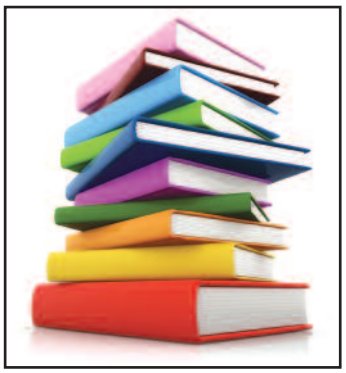
If you want to find the answers to these questions then an Austin Health Check can help to:

- identify areas where improvements can be made to ensure compliance with statutory obligations
- lower running and maintenance costs
- suggest improvements in materials and people flow
- minimise space utilisation
- generally improve the facility's overall performance and provide an advisory role for any new or potential developments to meet modern standards

A building condition survey taking into account the internal and external building fabric can be undertaken backed up by a professionally written report. Similarly, a mechanical and electrical survey can challenge control philosophies, BMS operation for effectiveness, general efficiency and maintenance requirements.

Austin will present the benefits of this Health Check at your premises; this one-hour presentation will count towards CPD requirements.

Essential bedtime reading!



Ever wondered how to achieve maximum energy efficiency and thermal comfort in high performance buildings?

Well, wonder no longer as you can find the answers you seek in a new book called "Materials for energy efficiency and thermal comfort in buildings" available from Woodhead Publishing in January 2010.

A chapter contributed by Austin entitled "Materials for energy efficiency and thermal comfort in buildings" deals with the requirements of energy capacity, human occupancy and specialist conditions.

Different components and materials for energy efficiency combine with strategies for assessing the benefits, or not, of incorporating environmentally aware, energy reducing opportunities into buildings, whilst taking into account the specialist nature of the facility and the specific energy requirements. This leads to categorising the selection of materials with payback periods, a review on BREEAM and future trends.

News in Brief from Austin

What else has been happening?

Medical Research Council

Austin is delighted to have been selected to provide engineering and design services through separate framework agreements with the Medical Research Council.

This covers architectural and three engineering disciplines, namely mechanical, electrical and civil/structure.

Imperial College

Austin has been awarded a four year framework agreement by Imperial College London as suppliers of specialist mechanical and electrical consultancy services for the design of specialist laboratories and other niche areas.

Projects will include both new build and refurbishment works on the College estate consisting of 25 sites in and around London.

St. George's University of London

St. George's University of London, a health sciences university, has awarded Austin a consultancy contract for the development of a decant strategy for their main teaching and research facility located on St. George's Hospital, Tooting.

The aim is to develop a strategy for vacating part of the building and for the consolidation of research activities into the remaining occupied part of the building. This work entails high level discussions with departmental managers and academics.

Genzyme

Austin is delighted to have added Genzyme's Haverhill Site to its contracts list and client base.

Genzyme identified Austin as the company to help them with the modifications and expansion of their facility.

STOP PRESS

Austin cancer fundraising appeal

Austin has committed to raising money for Cancer Research UK with the launch of a matched funding appeal. For every pound donated by an Austin supplier, the company will give an equal amount.

Louise Selman, Area Volunteer Manager for CR-UK says: "I am delighted to be working with Prakash and all of The Austin Company on this ambitious fundraising target. Cancer Research UK is supported completely by public donations and we can't express our gratitude in words to Austin for thinking of us. Best of luck and look forward to hearing the end total!"

in aid of
CANCER RESEARCH UK

Austin wins Cancer Research UK's Best Supplier Award for 2009

At Cancer Research UK's Best Supplier Award ceremony, Gillian Lewis, Programme Leader at CR-UK said: "The successful delivery of building on time and ahead of budget has provided a state of the art Biotherapeutics Development facility which allows Cancer Research UK to expand research in the years to come. Austin delivered this development with savings in excess of £1 million. As a result, Austin was selected to receive the award because we felt they matched our requirements with a team we could work with."

Pictured: Harpal Kumar CEO, CR-UK (right) presents Best Supplier Award to Prakash Davda MD, Austin.

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OTHER NEWS

Total Responsibility!

Hi, I'm Peter,

Although relatively new to Austin, I already have six months service under my belt as a Senior Engineer.

Having previously worked for both pure "Design & Build" Contractors as well as leading "Consultancy Design" practices, this makes me appreciate that working at Austin is a unique position offering me the best of both worlds.

No other organisation gives the typical engineer such a high exposure both to detailed design from the grass roots concept stage, to over-viewing the nuts and bolts installations and solving the inevitable construction issues.

Sharing a multi-disciplined office not only leads to some quality banter but to individual engineers grabbing the drawings, thrashing through a problem, solving the issues in an "all party" way, and ultimately producing some of the best facilities in the country.

Austin adds a Low Carbon Energy Assessor to its skill base

Following a recent recruitment drive Austin has added further key additional skills to their Mechanical Services department.

The department now includes an Advanced User of the IES Virtual Environment, a CIBSE accredited Low Carbon Consultant and a Low Carbon Energy Assessor capable of lodging Energy Performance Certificates.

Future Science Future Laboratories

Robert Naylor-Stables, Architect and Director of Facilities Development at Austin revisits his "Future Science – Future Laboratories" paper, first delivered at the ISPE Conference in Berlin.

He also reassesses the laboratory as a workspace, creating a new vision for laboratory building prospects ready for a future workforce. If you would like a copy of this paper please contact Austin.