



CASE STUDY

THE DORSET PATHOLOGY HUB

Royal Bournemouth Hospital

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The new Dorset Pathology Hub recently constructed on the Royal Bournemouth Hospital site is a £24m state of the art facility that is supporting hospitals across the region to improve diagnostics for patients and help meet growing demand for specialist treatment and care.



The hub is designed for fast accurate testing, both routine and specialist, aiming to process more than 9 million tests per year and diagnose conditions in about 80% of patients in the county and further afield.



Equipped with the latest specialist technology, ensuring high quality, cost-effective diagnostics and care, the hub is already making a significant impact.

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Stirling Medical & Scientific Ltd were contracted to supply all of the laboratory worktops and benching framework, shelving and storage cabinetry.

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CHALLENGE

One of the most significant challenges faced in this project was the need to design and build laboratory benching and equipment before the physical laboratory space was even constructed. The challenge presented itself in several critical areas:

1. Space and Equipment Layout Optimisation:

Since the physical space wasn't available, we had to work with architectural blueprints and early-stage 3D modelling to define the placement of laboratory benches, fume hoods, sinks, and other essential equipment.

2. Pre-Fabrication of Custom Equipment:

Many of the laboratory's specialised pieces of equipment such as modular workstations and cabinetry needed to be fabricated in advance to ensure funding was not lost.

3. Integration of MEP Systems:

The integration of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems, had to be planned meticulously.

4. Anticipating Future Flexibility:

Laboratory design is not static, and it was important to incorporate flexibility for future changes. We worked to design a modular laboratory system that could be easily adapted as new technologies emerged or workflows evolved.

5. Coordination with Stakeholders:

The pre-construction stage required constant communication and coordination with a range of stakeholders: architects, engineers, scientists, and contractors.

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OUTCOME

By approaching the design and construction of laboratory benching and equipment with careful planning, flexibility, and foresight, we were able to deliver a fully operational laboratory that met both current and future needs.

The integrated systems and modular furniture allowed for rapid adaptation as the research needs of the lab evolved. Our ability to “build” the lab within the design phase not only saved valuable time during construction but also helped avoid costly retrofits and redesigns down the line.

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“This was a tricky project from the get go with delays due to Covid. Stirling were very helpful with storing purchased materials and then subsequent revisions as the FFE was purchased before the building design was complete. They were responsive and proactive with multiple changes to furniture that was already manufactured following client changes and main contractor difficulties.”



Laura Tuesday Brickwood,
Capital Estates,
Senior project manager

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“It is a proud moment for Dorset LEP to witness the impact our £2.7m investment into the histopathology diagnostic service is having on the health and communities right across Dorset.”

Cecila Buffon,
Chair of the Dorset LEP Board



[1] Overbench shelving uprights provided with shelf end system. Adjustable height options with no holes or slots to improve cleaning outcomes.

[2] Systeméd modular bench framing system allows for a choice of rear upstand types including shelving uprights to be fitted to the frame allowing for late changes to design. This photo shows the trunking upright frame in use.

[3] Systeméd mobile base cabinets with toughened glass doors with HTM71 accessories. Used for secure storage with the advantage of providing visibility for stock levels and labelling inside doors.

[4] Large HTM71 Systeméd tall storage cabinets provide enormous capacity for storage of scientific equipment and components.

[5] Matt effect polycarbonate sheets supplied and fitted to rear of bench frames to separate work zones.

[6] Systeméd modular laboratory bench frame system provides a very stable bench and allows for multiple bench run shapes and outcomes.



For further information:

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