

Siemens relocates UK headquarters

After 16 years based in Bracknell, Siemens plc has relocated the majority of its headquarters-based employees to a new office which has been officially named 'Sir William Siemens Square' to mark the occasion.

1,400 Siemens employees moved from Bracknell and Staines to Frimley. 250 information technology services specialists continue to be based at Hyde House, a Siemens building adjacent to the site in Bracknell. A park and ride scheme also operates from Hyde House for employees who wish to commute to Bracknell and continue their journey to Frimley by shuttle bus. The park and ride scheme was introduced to help reduce traffic and alleviate the need for additional parking spaces at the new headquarters.

Built four years ago, Sir William Siemens Square, close to junction four of the M3 motorway, is a stand-alone site with four office buildings totalling 183,000ft² (17,000m²) of floor space. The offices have been refurbished with the latest state-of-the-art technology infrastructure.

Andrew Beshaw, managing director of Siemens Real Estates, who led the relocation project, said, "The relocation of our UK headquarters has been an ideal opportunity to rethink the way we work and massively reduce our impact on the environment," said Beshaw. "We have set ourselves the target of recycling 75% of all our waste at the new HQ. We will start by putting in mechanisms to measure what we are doing so we can report on what is recycled, how much waste goes to landfill and how much energy we use."

Globally, Siemens' own carbon footprint is estimated to be 4.5 million tonnes of CO₂, with the majority of that caused by electricity consumption. Lighting throughout Siemens' new headquarters in Frimley has been installed using Siemens' own intelligent technology ensuring minimal energy consumption. Siemens estimates it will make an annual saving of 122.6 tonnes of CO₂, and save more than £34,000 a year from the new lighting alone.

For more information
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PALM MicroBeam system enhancements

Carl Zeiss is introducing a range of new accessories for its PALM MicroBeam laser microdissection system to advance research into living cells. The PALM DuplexDish 35 culture dishes, PALM DishHolder 35 with CapCheck and PALM DishHolder 6/35 are specially tailored to the needs of laser microdissection and pressure catapulting technology (LMPC) and open up new experimental possibilities for the isolation and micromanipulation of cellular and sub-cellular systems. The enhanced system will be especially useful to life scientists working with PALM MicroBeam instruments in research institutes, universities and in the pharmaceutical industry.

DuplexDish 35 is a 35 mm diameter culture dish optimised for cell growth and micro-dissection. Cells can be isolated, collected and cultivated in the dish without an additional trypsinisation step. The small dish diameter cuts down on reagent volumes to reduce costs. Despite an additional membrane, the base offers optimal gas exchange and exhibits low autofluorescence. The main fields of application are living and stem cell applications with an emphasis on downstream applications such as transfection assays.

Zeiss also released two dish holders in which the DuplexDish is inserted before being placed



on the microscope stage for observation. The DishHolder 35 incorporates an aperture that allows the user to check for successful specimen isolation. The aperture also allows microdissected specimens to be ejected into the cap of a microtube where they may be examined without requiring the dish to be removed from the holder.

The DishHolder 6/35 will accommodate up to six of the 35mm culture dishes at a time. It can also be inserted in the stage for microscopic examination but also allows for convenient preparation under laminar airflow. The holder has a cover for all six dishes or each dish may be individually closed.

For more information E. micro@zeiss.co.uk

OXYSWING® Medical Oxygen Generators Manufactured to ISO 13485



The quality management system of IGS' manufacturing site in Italy has been certified to ISO 13485:2003 by Det Norske Veritas. IGS Italia is IGS' major manufacturer of the NITROSWING® and OXYSWING® PSA nitrogen and oxygen generators.

Tom Jeffers, President of Innovative Gas Systems, said: "The certification to ISO13485:2003 is the first step of our future strategy for medical oxygen and will further enhance the already strong market position of our current OXYSWING® PSA oxygen generators for healthcare applications. We will introduce our new OXYSWING® medical oxygen line during the Medica 2007 fair in Düsseldorf in November 2007. Besides a very innovative design, the new OXYSWING® medical oxygen product line will be certified to the 93/42/CE directive for medical devices as well."

Innovative Gas Systems is one of the world's major suppliers of on-site air separation plants for the production of nitrogen and oxygen. IGS' technologies for the production of nitrogen and air drying by Hollow Fiber Membranes (GENERON®) and for the production of nitrogen and oxygen by optimized Pressure Swing Adsorption processes (NITROSWING® & OXYSWING®) set new market standards in terms of performance and efficiency. IGS has production facilities and numerous sales and service centers in North America, Europe, Russia, Middle East, Asia and the People's Republic of China.

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3D fruit fly images to benefit brain research



A 3D image of a fruit fly generated after first bleaching the fly's exoskeleton. Different organs can be clearly seen.

MRC scientists have generated 3D images of the inside of a fruit fly using optical projection tomography (OPT), images which could help to speed up genetic research into Alzheimer's and other diseases affecting brain cells. A 3D image of a fruit fly generated after first bleaching the fly's exoskeleton. Different organs can

be clearly seen. Dr Mary O'Connell of the MRC Human Genetics Unit who led the research explained, "Neurodegeneration isn't a strictly human phenomenon. Insects are affected by it too."

Because the fruit fly and human share many genes with similar functions, the fly is widely used by genetic

researchers to study how genes influence human disease. OPT could help researchers to look at how the fly brain changes in response to alterations in the normal activity of a specific gene without the risk of damaging tissue through dissection.

For more information
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