

Making it in Leeds

News release from Leeds Manufacturing

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Leeds Medical Firm Delivers National Surgical Training Centres

A Leeds medical manufacturing company has developed and installed ground breaking surgical training systems for two University Hospitals to train the next generation of Britain's surgeons.

University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire in the Midlands and Freeman Hospital in Newcastle have created centres of excellence for tomorrow's surgeons by installing state of the art operating theatre simulators developed by £6m turnover Brandon Medial based in based in Middleton, South Leeds.

The success is the latest example of the importance of the increasingly buoyant medical sector that has evolved in Leeds. The city is now home to more than 100 of the UK's most important medical device, health-related biotechnology and pharmaceuticals businesses employing close to 3,500 people.

The Brandon Medical simulators are entire rooms that replicate exactly the conditions and equipment within real hospital environments, assisting greatly with surgical training and reducing future patient mortality rates.

The Newcastle Surgical Training Centre has been created as part of a £300 million investment by Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Led by some of the most eminent and experienced surgeons in the country, it delivers teaching and training in specialist surgical procedures, including minimal access and orthopaedic surgery. A national resource, it is used to teach, research, assess and examine the skills of surgeons, enabling them to stay at the forefront of their ever-changing profession.

Brandon's interactive 'Symposia' audio visual system comes complete with a wide range of medical grade components and in the Newcastle installation, it connects four clinical training tables with a seminar room, video conferencing facilities and external participants in full HD with the latest 3G capability.

At University Hospitals Coventry and Warwick (UHCW) the Brandon Medical system supplies eight simulated operating theatres, camera systems, monitors and theatre lights that exactly replicate real medical environments.

Visiting UHCW, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, commented: "I am pleased to see surgical training enhanced by the smart use of modern technology. Simulation centres offer great promise, allowing surgeons to develop their skills in a safe and controlled environment. I look forward to seeing such technology used more widely in surgery, as well as in other medical specialities."

Brandon operations director Adrian Hall said: "Students and medical professionals have found the system significantly improved the quality of teaching and the simulation theatres provide students with an environment helping to master the skills they will require in real life theatres."

UHCW's Professor Damian Griffin comments: "Modern AV technology has the potential to revolutionise medical teaching. Here, the eight simulated theatres provide an interactive experience to train junior surgeons and introduce experts to new techniques. We are benefiting from smart, flexible, easy to use AV systems linking tutors, students and seminar audiences. Delegates not physically present can join virtually from remote locations and we can extend our reach to include tele-mentoring and monitoring, interactive medical lectures and links to seminars and training rooms.

"All this will help us achieve our goal of the best possible training for our students and doctors for the ultimate benefit of our patients."

Leeds boasts one of the UK's highest concentrations of medical manufacturing firms, partly thanks to the 56 large hospitals in Yorkshire and The Humber, including the largest teaching hospital trust in Europe.

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For Further Information Please Contact:

Duncan Greenwood at Appeal PR on 01423 569999/ 07799 063180