

### SUPER-HOSPITAL COMPLETED IN ROCKFON

The market for building materials is undergoing radical change: whereas price was often the over-riding factor, best value for money is increasingly becoming a deciding factor. Now, product properties and system benefits, their effect on the indoor as well as outdoor environment and the whole life value of the products are being emphasized. This paradigm shift was one of the reasons why Rockfon Ltd. secured an order for 160,000 m<sup>2</sup> of ceilings for the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) project at Derby City General Hospital.

"This is our largest single project in the UK, and it marks a significant step, as one of the major hospitals in the country is undertaking using compressed stone wool ceilings," says Roel Cals, Managing Director of Rockfon Ltd and refers to the fact that Rockfon ceilings are made from stone wool from Rockwool International.

All along, Rockfon Ltd. has been in close dialogue with the Skanska Main Contractor project teams and an important focus area was always a clean and safe environment for patients and hospital employees. The expected life cycle of the materials was also an important aspect. Finally, the flexibility of the company's product range in terms of the installation process was a decisive factor in this complex and large scale building project. "The hospital streets and corridors are extremely congested and do not allow the use of primary grid or hangers back to the soffit. The Rockfon solution omits this requirement due to its lighter construction and larger tile size which spans across the street," says Chris Fairhall, Procurement Manager at Skanska



In a hospital, a sound and safe environment of course means good hygiene and clean-ability and thus the moisture and bacteria resistant nature of the stone wool ceilings plays an important part. The acoustics aspect of the indoor environment is also important, both to the well-being of patients and the ability of staff and visitors to communicate effectively. Actually, studies show that patients recover faster when the acoustics are good and spaces are quieter. Furthermore, fire safety is of course of crucial importance in a hospital where there are many patients of varying mobility who need extra evacuation time in case of fire.

Chris Lamb, National Alliance Manager of Rockfon Ltd says: "Overall, this project has demonstrated that Rockfon Ceiling Solutions are suitable for all healthcare projects, particularly for PFI/PPP and the principles that these processes demand".

Construction of the hospital began in May 2004 with ceilings being installed from May 2005. The first phase of the hospital was completed in June of 2006 and overall completion of the second phase by December 2008.

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QLD - Comprador Pacific Pty Ltd	98 Buchanan Rd. Banyo 4014	Tel: (07) 3621 8888	Email: <a href="mailto:brisbane@comprador.com.au">brisbane@comprador.com.au</a>
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