



## News, Views & Comments from the World of Building Service Contracting

Submit your news for publication to Carol Dean at [cdean@wfbsc.org](mailto:cdean@wfbsc.org)

### ARGENTINA-BUENOS AIRES

Early Fee Deadline Is March 31<sup>st</sup>

The 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors will be held October 26-29, 2008 at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel & Convention Center. The program is coming together surrounding the theme Sustainability – Breaking New Frontiers, Enhancing Business. For more information go to [www.wfbsc2008.com.ar](http://www.wfbsc2008.com.ar), email [wfbsc2008@congresosint.com.ar](mailto:wfbsc2008@congresosint.com.ar) or call +54 11 4812 3444.

### AUSTRALIA-VICTORIA

New CEO Of BSCAA

Geoffrey DeLacy FAICD FloD took on his new role as CEO of the BSCAA on 1/2/08. Previously, Geoff was both the Principal of Polaris Consulting, and also boardSEARCH and has worked extensively in both corporate and consulting human resources roles in both Australia and Asia at such companies as Coca-Cola, St. George Bank, Ernst & Young, Burns Philp and with the Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet and of Social Security. In his various roles he has carried out executive search and recruitment for Non-Executive Directors and performance reviews with Boards of Directors at all levels and undertook extensive in-house and public education and development exercises for a large range of organizations. Geoff is a published author, is a frequent contributor to journals, is on the editorial board of the Asia Pacific HRM journal and has been a keynote speaker at several events. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of

Queensland and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Griffith University. He also holds the Company Directors Diploma. He can be reached at email-[geoff.delacy@bscaa.asn.au](mailto:geoff.delacy@bscaa.asn.au).

### BELGIUM-BRUSSELS

Europe Pushed To Cut Energy Consumption

The European Commission is developing a plan on how the EU 27 nations can slash carbon dioxide and other gases linked to global warming by a fifth by 2020. EU officials acknowledge the proposal will have an adverse impact on the gross domestic product to the tune of US\$80 billion annually and will result in increased electricity prices. Some measures will include installing energy-saving light bulbs and insulating buildings, which could reduce energy consumption by 20 percent. The EU also plans to draw a fifth of its overall energy from renewable power by 2020 and each country will have its own target.

### BRAZIL-FLORIANOPOLIS

FEBRAC Fast Approaching

The Brazilian Congress of FEBRAC will be held April 9-13 2008 at the Costao do Santinho Resort and Spa in Florianopolis-SC, Brazil. Approximately 800 attendees are expected. All members of the WFBSC are particularly welcomed and encouraged to attend the Congress. For more information, go to [www.eneac.com.br](http://www.eneac.com.br) or [www.exitoeventos.com.br/eneac/](http://www.exitoeventos.com.br/eneac/).

## BRAZIL-RIO DE JANEIRO

### Rio Makes Bid For Olympics

**R**io de Janeiro plans to bid on the 2016 Olympics with plans to hold all sporting events within the city centered in four districts: Copacabana beach, Deodoro on the city's north side, the modern Barra da Tijuca beach district, and the huge Maracana stadium complex. The Rio bid committee believes the successful 2006 Pan American Games and the role the city will play as host of the 2014 World Cup will increase its chances of securing the Olympics. The bid will be supported by public and private funding of US\$42 million initially and revenues of more than US\$750 million are projected.

## CANADA-QUEBEC

### Wiping Up With Toilet Paper Scam

**C**anadian police arrested a man who ordered large quantities of cleaning supplies fraudulently. Real David, 57, claimed he was a buyer for the Canadian forces and ordered over \$300,000 in items such as toilet paper, cleaners, paper towels and garbage bags, which he resold at flea markets. The fraud came to light when several companies filed complaints about a person who ordered large quantities of supplies without paying any of the invoices.

## GERMANY-BERLIN

### Germany Cuts 2008 Economic Forecast

**G**ermany cut its economic growth outlook for 2008 to 1.7 percent, although political leaders insist there is no sign of a recession and the U.S. economic slowdown should not directly affect economic growth. The German economy grew by a solid 2.5 percent in 2007.

## JAPAN-TOKYO

### Company Offers Pet Subsidy

**T**okyo-based Kyoritsu Seiyaku Corporation, a Japanese maker of medicines for animals has begun giving employees who own dogs or cats a monthly family allowance of \$9 per month for

their pets. The number of pets in Japan has grown and there are now more pet cats and dogs than children under age 15.

## JAPAN-TOKYO

### Prisons Prepare For Elderly

**J**apan is building three new jails in anticipation of the prison population aging. The three jails will offer disabled access, including elevators, slopes for wheelchairs and grab-bars in toilets and baths. The number of prison inmates aged over 60 rose to 8,700 in 2006 from 3,500 in 1997. Each prison will accommodate about 360 people and total building costs are estimated at ¥8.3 billion.

## NEW ZEALAND-CHRISTCHURCH

### Hefty Fines Sought For Workplace Injury

**C**ompanies that have accidents in the workplace may face much heavier penalties if the Department of Labor has its way. The Department of Labor suggested starting points for fines of \$100,000 and \$130,000 before allowances were made for early guilty pleas and clean work-accident records. The Department used a court case against a company called Cookie Time, which was prosecuted when a woman went underneath a moving conveyor belt to clean it and her cleaning rag, her hair, and then her arm became caught breaking a bone in her arm, to push for the fines. Instead, the judge overseeing the case fined the company \$15,000 and ordered it to pay reparations for medical costs and emotional harm totalling \$5961.

## SOUTH KOREA-SEOUL

### Foreign Firms Will Not Be Audited As Much

**T**he foreign business community in Korea has long requested the government simplify tax laws and collection procedures, as well as minimize audits, which are all obstacles to doing business in the country. The commissioner of the National Tax Service (NTS) has agreed to minimize audits on foreign companies. In addition, the agency will employ a customer voice system to better listen to taxpayer con-

cerns and suggestions, resolve any issue that can be solved on the spot immediately, and will consider notifying foreign businesses of tax audits 15 days in advance, up from the current 10 days.

## TAIWAN-TAIPEI

### Unemployment Rate At Seven-Month High

The Taiwanese jobless rate climbed to 3.95 percent in December from 3.93 percent in November, a seven-month high. Economists pointed to the global slow down as the culprit. Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. lowered its economic growth estimate for 2008 to 3.8 percent from an earlier prediction of 4.2 percent. However, Taiwanese exports rose 19.8 percent to a record in December as increased sales to China compensated for a slowdown in demand in the US.

## THE NETHERLANDS-AMSTERDAM

### Job Vacancies Remain At Record Level

Recent figures released by Statistics Netherlands, show the number of job vacancies in the Netherlands remains high with 236 thousand vacancies at the end of 2007. In the last quarter of 2007 the number of vacancies in trade and business services rose, while it decreased slightly in the other sectors of industry. Vacancies mainly occurred in large companies or those with at least a hundred employees. Medium-sized companies had 3 thousand vacancies more than a year previously and the number of vacant positions at small companies was actually slightly lower than in the previous year.

## UK-LONDON

### Norovirus Reaches Epidemic Levels

The winter vomiting bug norovirus has struck 2.8 million people in the U.K, affecting more than 200,000 a week, representing one million new cases each month and reaching the levels of

reports made during the massive outbreak five years ago. A spokesman for the Health Protection Agency said it was too early to say if the disease had reached its peak.

## UK-LONDON

### More Funding Needed For Hospital Cleaning

The CSSA and its members are concerned that the current, much publicized hospital deep clean program will be an expensive waste of time if it is not followed up by concerted action to increase the frequency of day-to-day cleaning in hospitals.

Following the unveiling of the infection control strategy by the Department of Health, the CSSA Director General Andrew Large claimed that unless there is sustained funding of day-to-day hospital cleaning, the deep cleans will prove to be a 50 million pound flash in the pan.

The CSSA has recently established a healthcare task force to examine the whole area of healthcare cleaning. A major focus for that task force is research to estimate the cost of introducing a more frequent cleaning regime that would enable lasting improvements in the overall cleanliness of the NHS estate and support the fight against hospital acquired infection.

The recent Government announcement of up to £270 million per year, by 2010-2011, to improve infection control does not fully reassure the CSSA, as it is focused on medical staff increases and not on cleaning.

Andrew Large concluded that contract cleaners believe a substantial proportion of that extra funding should be directed towards increasing cleaning frequencies in hospitals so as to maximize the contribution of cleaning to the fight against hospital acquired infections.

According to the CSSA, the NHS Chief Executive will be holding a cleaning Summit in the near future. The CSSA looks forward to being able to play a full part in that summit and to discussing how more frequent cleaning can aid the fight against Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, (MRSA) Clostridium difficile (C. diff) and the other hospital acquired infections.

## US-CALIFORNIA

### Regulators Aiming To Control Thermostats

A document circulated by the California Energy Commission, proposes allowing state regulators to have the emergency power to control individual thermostats, sending temperatures up or down through a radio-controlled device that will be required in new or substantially modified houses and buildings to manage electricity shortages. The changes would allow utilities to adjust customers' preset temperatures when the price of electricity is high. Customers could override the utilities' suggested temperatures, but in emergencies, the utilities could override customers' wishes.

## US-MASSACHUSETTS

### Bird Flu May Be Spread Via Particles On Surfaces

A World Health Organization report has found that 25 percent of the cases of 350 people in 14 countries who have contracted the H5N1 bird flu virus are unexplained. The report indicates this may be caused by small particles of virus-contaminated fluid that stick to surfaces or fertilizer made from infected bird feces that is somehow carried the virus into people's noses or mouths.

## US-MONTANA

### Superbug Strains Evolved From One Bacterium

In a study that appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, scientists have determined the drug-resistant superbugs known as MRSA infections, came from one rapidly evolving bacterium. According to scientists, the bacteria emerged from a single strain, dubbed USA300. The USA300 group of strains appear to have extraordinary transmissibility and fitness and researchers anticipate it will evolve into various strains that will have a wide range of disease-causing potential in the future.

## CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

### JohnsonDiversey

JohnsonDiversey is in the process of planting 7,100 trees across vital areas of Southern Europe, including land recently ravaged by forest fires, through a reforestation project called Dify Planet. Approximately 6,000 trees have already been planted in Portugal by volunteer JohnsonDiversey Iberia employees. The project is the latest company sustainability initiative and is linked to the sales of its Dify dishwashing system, which reduces waste and energy and water use. The Dify dishwashing system is just one example of the commitment to minimizing the impact product development, use and manufacturing has on human health and the environment. Through its Dify Planet project, JohnsonDiversey pledged to plant trees in conjunction with each Dify dishwashing system sold across 15 countries by the end of 2007. Dify, which stands for Does it for You, has a built-in rinse aid using one single product with no dosing pump, which uses less space and reduces packaging. Its biodegradable carton keeps plastic components to a minimum and other parts can be recycled. Use of the Dify system results in a savings of up to 70 percent in plastic materials, 50 percent in used space and as much as 96 percent in dosing-pump energy. Dify Planet is not the the first tree-planting effort for JohnsonDiversey. In 2006, the company planted 50,000 carnauba palm tree seedlings in the Caatinga region of Brazil in a similar project, which was linked to the sale of its TASKI floor machines.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

17th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
October 26-29, 2008

Visit [www.wfbsc2008.com.ar](http://www.wfbsc2008.com.ar)  
for more information.

18th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

New Zealand - 2010



ALL BUILDING SERVICE CONTRACTING COMPANIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT IS A WFBC MEMBER, ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE WFBC.

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