

- **Eurest is to manage staff restaurant facilities, meeting rooms and hospitality for KPMG LLG's 34 UK offices in a £30m deal. Eurest already runs half KPMG LLG staff dining operations.**

- **WS Atkins has reached financial close on the Merton Schools PFI, and named preferred bidder with Balfour Beatty for PPP contracts to build a motorway in Scotland and upgrade and maintain two-thirds of London Underground, confounding reports that it might be withdrawing from this market. According to Atkins' spokesman, the company "Remains fully committed to PFI/PPP projects on which we can make a worthwhile return."**

- **Sodexo has been awarded the catering services contract at WH Smith's office in Swindon and distribution centre in Dunstable.**

Integration brings building professionals together in Toronto

The first conference on integrated buildings by CABA held in Toronto recently has been heralded as a great success as Peter Manolescu, founding director of securityXML reports

The two-day inaugural Intelligent and Integrated Buildings conference held at the Metro Toronto Convention centre last month was organised by CABA (Continental Automated Buildings Association). It brought together industry leaders from around the world creating the largest discussion forum on automated buildings for property owners, FMs, tenants and equipment manufacturers.

Speakers from high profile companies including Honeywell Ltd, Teng Solutions and North American Security Services (NASS) gave presentations covering a vast array of topics regarding building systems integration looking at problems through to solutions.

The conference was opened by Ron Zimmer, chief executive officer of CABA and Bob Williams, Chairman of the Intelligent & Integrated Buildings Council. Discussions highlighted the need for consumer education in order for them to drive the market. Ron Klemenic, chair of the Council for Tall Buildings and the Urban Environment was concerned that the building

industry does not have good feedback from the end users of its products. He believed that if building users understood what integrated buildings were capable of then would push for the 'intelligent building'.

CABA was praised by Roger Mellor, Chairman of HMA Consulting Inc. for its stress on 'integration' as the key to the definition of the truly 'intelligent building'. Having experienced numerous difficulties Mellor explained that IT consultants are great at getting data from A to B but do not understand engineering principles, so with them in charge there is integration but no real control. A new type of person is needed, he said. One who really understands buildings, their current and likely future use and the technologies that will drive intelligent building projects.

Savings

Highlights included a fascinating speech by Thomas Lohner of Teng Solutions. He compared the life cycle of three types of building, one without any integration of systems, one with partial integration and one fully integrated, and proved that total integration provides savings both on initial installation and over the following seven years.

Day two of the conference focused on building security. Intrusion, electronic espionage,

cyber invasions and terrorism which were categorised as the main current threats. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorism, delegates were reminded that natural threats are just as strong if not a stronger threat than manmade risks, and systems needed to be designed with an 'all hazards' approach. Mark Macy, President, North America Security Services stressed the need for integration, and he described the lack of modern thinking in security companies and the fragmentation into fire, access control, biometrics and CCTV.

Big companies such as Honeywell or Johnson Controls offer 'security solutions' but the products will not be of their own development. The key to tackling these problems, as I suggested in my own presentation, is the latest digital technology called XML. This software will enable any company to truly integrate systems. I showed how XML (eXtensible Mark-up Language) can be used to create a company's own mark-up language. By building on industry-wide data schema (XSD) companies will exploit a new vocabulary that is specific to their sector. Ultimately the integration of security systems will lead to the integration of all building automation making inter-operating systems the norm rather than the exception. We already have the technology so lets use it!