

CASE STUDY

MEDICAL AIR TECHNOLOGY REFURBISHES A CL3 LABORATORY AT THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



Medical Air Technology (MAT) recently completed a project at the prestigious Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), increasing laboratory capacity to accommodate a new machine for counting and profiling cells. Founded in 1898, LSTM is the oldest School in Tropical Medicine in the world, and recognised globally for its groundbreaking research into infectious, debilitating and disabling diseases.

MAT has worked on several Containment Level 3 (CL3) laboratory suites around the country, so was able to guarantee both experience and speed of delivery when approached by LSTM to reconfigure and revalidate its existing laboratories. Laboratories that handle human pathogens that may be transmitted via inhalation, that often have a low infectious dose to produce effects and that can cause serious or life-threatening disease, need CL3. This level of containment emphasizes additional primary and secondary barriers to minimise the release of infectious organisms into the immediate area and the environment, such as HEPA filtration of exhausted laboratory air.

The suite was required to house a new Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting (FACS) machine. MAT reconfigured and revalidated the existing laboratory to accommodate the new FACS machine, carrying out work including new electrical installation, sinks and drainage, a DX cooling system, lab furniture and room fabric improvement. Achieving improved air tightness was particularly important to comply with CL3 restrictions.





FACS is a specialized type of flow cytometry – a popular analytical cell-biology technique used extensively throughout the life and biomedical sciences. The FACS machine rapidly separates cells in a suspension, based upon the specific light scattering and fluorescent characteristics of each cell. This allows researchers to profile a large number of cells simply and accurately, collecting data related to many parameters.



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