

Argus Security awarded first LPCB EN54-25 Approval

Argus Security Srl

□ 014



For several years, Argus Security Srl, a specialist fire detection design and manufacturing company based in Trieste, Italy has been working in conjunction with its engineering partner Argus Spectrum, to expand the range of dedicated wireless detectors and ancillary devices distributed to European markets, including of course the UK.

These products were first developed and supplied well before the implementation of the specific European standard, EN54-25, which now covers the wireless performance of such fire alarm devices. Since they were designed to fully comply with the standard's requirements Argus Security was keen to demonstrate this fact to customers by having the products third party certificated by a leading approval organisation and so chose LPCB (part of BRE Global) as an internationally recognised assessment partner. This choice was also determined by the need to obtain comprehensive certification covering not only wireless performance, but confirmation of the critical responsiveness of smoke and

temperature detectors, ability of devices to withstand environmental extremes, immunity to EMC, etc. All of these aspects could be readily covered by LPCB as part of their assessment process.

The Sagittarius range of Argus Security wireless detectors recently completed the full series of EN54 testing successfully and are the first products to have been certified by LPCB to the EN54-25 wireless standard for fire system applications.

Argus Security addressable wireless devices are designed to be used not only in conjunction with Argus Vega protocol intelligent systems, but also offer dedicated interfaces allowing them to be used with other system solutions, including conventional fire alarm installations.

Product is distributed in the UK under the Hyfire brand by Sterling Safety Systems and is available in other European markets via specialist system distributors. Please contact Argus Security at www.argussecurity.it for more information.

Multi Million contract with University of London

Balfour Beatty Workplace

□ 016

Facilities management provider Balfour Beatty WorkPlace has secured a £multi-million contract with the University of London's Central Academic Bodies and Activities for the provision of all its facilities management services, except catering.

Under the terms of the three year agreement BBW will be responsible for providing a comprehensive range of FM services in staff working areas and student halls of residence at 31 sites across the central London estate.

The Central Academic Bodies and Activities of the University enhance the academic excellence of the federal University and deliver highly effective, value-added services to the Colleges. Their activities include the delivery of distance learning to 50,000 students worldwide, the provision of world-renowned libraries containing over two million items and the accommodation of over 3,000 students.

You're hired! Lovell apprenticeships for Essex teenagers

Lovell

□ 015



Essex teenagers Kathryn Boret and Alex Norton are getting a head start in their construction careers thanks to housing maintenance and regeneration specialist Lovell.

At a time when good construction apprenticeships are in short supply, Kathryn, 16, from Laindon, and 18-year-old Alex, who lives in East Tilbury, have secured places on the Lovell national apprentice training programme.

They will start their careers in the local area as members of the Lovell team carrying out Decent Homes housing improvements and repairs for homes managed by arm's length management organisation South Essex Homes for Southend Borough Council. Both Kathryn and Alex are studying for an NVQ Level 2 qualification in Construction Maintenance Operations at Prospects College, Basildon and attend college one day a week. The rest of the time, they are getting essential experience working with Lovell, closely supervised by qualified tradespeople. Lovell is paying their wages and has presented them each with a set of tools.

"I have been looking for an apprenticeship since last autumn, ringing up lots of companies but I couldn't find anything, so this is a fantastic opportunity," says Alex. "I am really enjoying the work – I like the variety and having the chance to put my skills to use."

"I was over the moon the moon when I found out about the apprenticeship," says Kathryn. "I've always wanted to work in the industry and have helped my grandfather build his own house. I love the fact that you build things which last and have the satisfaction that you've played a part in creating something permanent. It's been really good getting experience of bricklaying and rendering."

"It is excellent to see our repairs and maintenance programme creating additional benefits in the form of training opportunities for young people. We are delighted that Kathryn and Alex are benefiting from this chance to gain construction qualifications and we wish them every success with their training," says Paul Longman, group manager, property services, South Essex Homes.

"Helping create jobs and offer opportunities for career development in the neighbourhoods where we work is immensely satisfying and we see it as an important part of our commitment to community involvement," says Lovell regional director Steve Coombs. "We look forward to helping Kathryn and Alex progress through our training programme."