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Innovaré Systems Revisit off-site Construction Solution at Davison School

Project Brief

Innovaré Systems recently revisited one of its key projects at Davison School, Worthing, constructed during the summer of 2007. The aim was to find out how the students, teachers and staff have settled into their new building 12 months on.

The original project schedule for the school extension indicated the construction period would run for 28 weeks when using a traditional brick and block construction method. Given the impact an extended period of construction would have on the whole school and the on-going disruption of building works, Ann Scales - School Business Manager took the unusual approach of pushing for a new solution and building method that would reduce the 28-week programme.

Project Managers' Joynt Construction discussed various options with the client and the main contractors for the project, Integra Brighton Ltd. Having previously worked with Innovaré's structural insulated panel (SIP) building system, Integra recognised the system's ability to deliver an innovative and cost-effective solution to the demands of this project.

Project Type/Application

Working closely with Integra, Innovaré designed and engineered a dry structure for the building which could be constructed in just 12 days. This enabled the full construction schedule to be reduced to 13 weeks, 15 weeks ahead of the original brick and block method. Innovaré provided 300 square metres of SIP panels to form the structural external and internal walls. Innovaré completed its work on site within three weeks, enabling Joynt Construction to oversee the associated internal works and deliver the project on time and to budget.

The new extension provided six additional classrooms, two toilets and a new staff-room for the school with the ability for the space to be re-allocated in the future with further internal partioning should the schools' requirements change.

Outcome/Result/Success Factors

The staff and pupils alike found it hard to believe that the huts that they had been using were replaced in just 13 weeks with such a high quality space.

The sustainability credentials of the building added to its desirability and the more the school learned about it the more excited they were as the project came to life.

Many people visiting the school have been surprised when they have found out how the extension was built as the building feels solid and well insulated, and the finished render means it is almost identical to the original buildings.

Given the Government's much-publicised investment programme for improving school facilities within England, Davison School may yet prove to be a breakthrough for the use of innovative construction methods.

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