



Press release

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QUBE GROUP BUYS OUT PCSL PARTNER TARMAC

Qube Group has acquired from Tarmac Ltd, its 50% share of Precast Cellular Structures Ltd (PCSL), the specialist prison houseblock builder.

Following the transaction, Qube Group, the parent company of design and build contractor Composite Ltd, now controls 100% of PCSL. The group has owned 50% of the company since 1996, when Composite set up PCSL as a joint venture with Tarmac, to be part of the first PFI prison project in the country.

Since then, PCSL has completed more than thirty projects in the custodial sector, providing in excess of 5,200 cells. In the past twelve months, the company has completed houseblock projects at HMP Nottingham, Swaleside and Long Lartin, all of which have achieved BREEAM Excellent status.

Qube Group Managing Director, Roy Nield-Dumper said: "This purchase will enable us to consolidate and focus our activities on further developing our modular approach to delivering outstanding prison accommodation."

Modular construction is perfectly suited to the specific requirements of the custodial sector due to its competitive cost, safety and security, high quality, low maintenance costs and speed of construction.

Composite designed and constructed its first houseblock for PCSL in 1995 at HMP Fazakerley (later renamed Altcourse), near Liverpool, Britain's first PFI

prison. In total it has built 32 precast concrete, modular prison houseblocks in the British Isles, including six for the Scottish Prison Service, and one in Guernsey.

Ends

PHOTO CAPTION

New prison houseblock showing the construction phase, which is now complete, by PCSL at HMP Nottingham

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Composite, part of Qube Group Limited, is a leading design and build contractor, specialising in the construction of precast concrete frames and modular buildings. Offering a high quality structure, combined with fast on-site erection times, it has been involved in more than 400 projects throughout the UK for the health, education, retail, rail, commercial and custodial sectors.

Recent and current projects include teaching blocks for Tipton Academy in the West Midlands and Chessington Community College and multi-storey car parks for hospitals in Bournemouth, Bridgend and Swansea and for the St Catherine's Walk retail and leisure development in Camarthen.

Precast Cellular Structures Ltd, part of Qube Group Limited, has recently completed houseblocks for HM Prisons in Worcestershire, Nottingham and Kent.

Founded in 1983, Composite has achieved its industry-leading position through highly skilled project management, expertise in design solutions and offsite construction expertise.

As well as speed, offsite construction means fewer personnel and trades onsite, and a reduction in deliveries and site storage, all of which can help minimise health and safety risks. By lowering levels of waste, noise and dust, it also makes less of an impact on the environment. These benefits contribute to making offsite construction a practical and cost-effective option.