



PTSG and the Gibraltar Health Authority: A sunny outlook for St. Bernard's Hospital



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Premier Technical Services Group PLC (PTSG) has delivered annual testing of St. Bernard's Hospital's fall arrest systems since 2008, when the contract was inherited from one of its 21 acquired companies. This long relationship has allowed PTSG's skilled engineers to develop an extremely clear understanding of what the hospital requires in the delivery of these works, both in terms of the quality of work provided, and in the manner in which they are carried out.

In 2016, the hospital was looking for ways to utilise a greener energy supply, and in such a sunny climate solar panels were an obvious choice. However, its roofs were not safe for contractors to access in order to install the solar panels, and so the installation of a bespoke access system was required.

As an already trusted partner to the hospital for access and safety services, PTSG was the natural choice to advise the hospital on how best to make this work happen, and to provide the solution in a quick and cost-efficient way.

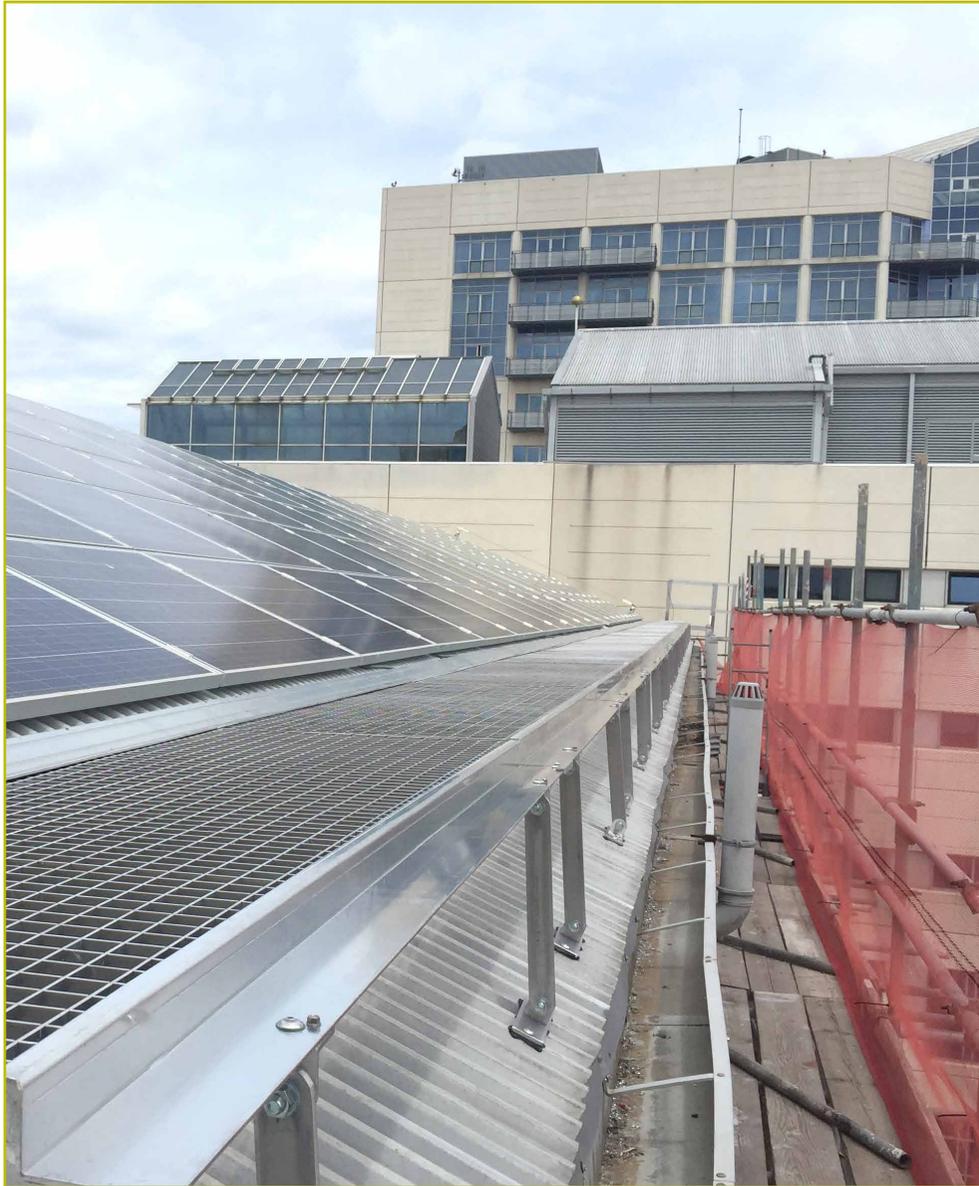
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The Group's engineers being approached by the Gibraltar Health Authority to advise them on an access system for the hospital's plant room, where the solar panels were to be installed. This then developed into an agreement to design and install a bespoke solution comprised of fixed ladders, mansafe systems and walkways.

The pressures of working for a public body in an unfamiliar environment created several unique obstacles for PTSG's engineers to overcome. An example is high temperatures and exposure to the sun, which had to be accounted for in the team's working processes and procedures.

A RoSPA gold medal winner, PTSG is renowned for its commitment to health and safety, and its teams are always equipped with modern and high-quality personal protective equipment. Though it may seem counterintuitive, when working in high temperatures this safety equipment has the potential to increase operatives' risk of falling ill due to the heat. It was therefore incredibly important that PTSG's supervisors mitigated these risks wherever possible.

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This was achieved by scheduling works for the coolest times of the day, and taking more regular breaks to get some shade and rehydrate. To account for the extra time spent off site on this contract, PTSG worked with the Gibraltar Health Authority to meticulously plan all works, creating a strict schedule that was adhered to at all times.

The distance between PTSG's head office in Castleford and the location of the site in Gibraltar called for an innovative approach to this project. On its work in the UK, PTSG is able to construct the majority of its access equipment at its main base, before transporting it to its final location and piecing the main components together.

As PTSG is based almost 2,000 miles away from the hospital, this contract required an innovative delivery solution as the equipment could only be exported on pallets. Every piece of the system – comprised of ladders, handrails and mansafe systems – was designed to be packaged and delivered in a 'flat-pack' form so that it could be easily exported and assembled by PTSG's teams on site.

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This requirement had to be carefully considered throughout the design process, as any access equipment that could not be easily assembled from several 'flat' pieces was not viable.

Despite the new challenges this contract brought with its location, the company dedicated the time and resources necessary to deliver an access solution that was unique and perfect for this site.