



keyinfo

December 2012



Delivering Information from Key Forensic Services Ltd

Wishing all of our customers and partners a very Merry Christmas!

West Coast Consortium Contract Success

Earlier this month we received confirmation of the West Coast Consortium (WCC) contract award. We are very pleased to have the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the WCC forces and are looking forward to contract implementation in April 2013.

Commenting on the news, Group Managing Director Paul Hackett said: **'This is a major milestone for KFS and we are proud to be able to continue serving the 14 WCC forces.'**

'We have been providing some services in and out of contract to many of the WCC forces since 2008. I am delighted that we now have the opportunity to expand the services we provide and we look forward to the contract implementation and beyond.'



New KFS laboratory location in **Norwich**

Our Norwich laboratory has moved from the John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, to a new location at **4 Penfold Drive, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0WZ.**

The new site provides the business with much better facilities and importantly, scope for future expansion. The site will become

fully operational in early January, with a rubber-stamp expected from UKAS before the end of this month.

A customer event to mark the official opening of the new site will be scheduled for early 2013.

New home, too, for **Coventry** corporate staff

Coventry's Finance, Human Resources, Sales & Marketing and IT teams are relocating early next year to a unit adjacent to units 1,2 and 3, to make way for further laboratory space as the business continues to expand.

Right People. Delivering Results.

Experienced scientists delivering forensic effectiveness, unquestionable integrity, focused customer service and value for money.



Key Forensic Services Limited



The RapidHIT® DNA processing system was centre-stage at a number of high profile events across the country during October and November, creating a huge amount of interest within the UKCJS, the scientific community and academia.



Awarding|Commendations

Commendation for Rebecca Marsh

The Coventry Drugs Team's Rebecca Marsh recently received a well-deserved commendation from the Chief Constable of Merseyside Police for her achievement of **Forensic Science Student of the Year**, during her time spent with the force before she joined us at KFS.

The award took place at the famous Aintree Racecourse where Rebecca, along with a number of other high-achievers, celebrated her success with members of her family.



Commendation for Martin Crookes



Coventry's Martin Crookes (Senior Reporting Manager) has just received a Chief Superintendent's commendation for his work and professionalism in respect of Operation Yak, a major investigation conducted by North Wales Police, centred around a complex series of burglaries (114) across five force areas.

Two men, Ryszard Elert and Krzysztof Karmaciuk have been jailed for seven years each for a total of 114 burglaries across England and Wales over a 14 month period.

Together they stole £318,000 in money and jewellery. To read the full story on BBC News [scan the QR code here](#).

RapidHIT® is taking the UK by storm

The ground-breaking technology was showcased at Biometrics 2012 in London, The 10th ACPO SIOs Annual Conference in Wyboston, the Forensic Science Society's 'Forensic Horizons' conference at Warwick University and the launch of the Alec Jeffreys Forensic Science Institute at Leicester University.

Perhaps the most pleasing reaction however, was at the SIOs conference in Wyboston, where KFS staff took delegates' samples during the coffee break, generated their profiles during the morning conference sessions and emailed them their profiles before lunch!

Says Account Manager, Craig Bennett:

'The reaction of the delegates as they came out of the morning sessions and switched on their

Blackberries to find their DNA profile on their email was just incredible – they were truly amazed and many came straight over to me saying that we were right, the technology really does work and they did get their DNA profile in 90 minutes! I must say we all got a tremendous buzz from this reaction to the RapidHIT® technology and it was very obviously the talking point amongst the conference delegates.'

The RapidHIT® technology is now undergoing intense validation, a programme of work being led by Lesley Ives in our Norwich laboratory. Early 2013 will see the instrument being trialled by a number of law enforcement agencies, providing us with valuable feedback relating to its operational use in the investigative environment.



Professor Bernard Silverman Chief Scientific Adviser, Home Office is seen inspecting the RapidHIT® instrument at the Forensic Horizons conference. Professor Silverman's DNA profile was generated by the RapidHIT® and he later posted it on his own website www.bernardsilverman.com





Questioned Documents team assists The British Council

Our Questioned Documents team presented a 2 day training course to the British Council in November on forensic handwriting examination. The IELTS section of the British Council are responsible for

vetting overseas students attending further education in the UK, and are facing an increasing problem with students paying others to take entrance examinations for them. Kim Hughes presented the course

covering the basics of handwriting and signature examination at our Birmingham offices and has been asked to deliver the same course to other members of the team at the British Council in London in January.

Record Number of New Starters

October broke all records for recruitment, with a monthly total of **fourteen new hires**.

This is the highest figure in a single month since KFS was established. This brings the total new hires in the last four months of 2012 to 36. This is a healthy reflection of the current business climate, which continues to gather pace as we prepare for an increase in workload during 2013.

Graduate Recruitment Programme Delivers Results

As the business continues to expand and we prepare to deliver to the WCC contract, the HR team has been busy co-ordinating a major graduate recruitment programme offering candidates a unique opportunity to join us to train and gain valuable experience working in an operational role.

Working in partnership with recruitment specialists SRG, the Coventry-based HR team has assessed 90 potential candidates and will be offering the very best graduates permanent contracts with us. We expect our graduate intake to join the KFS team early in the New Year.

Key Forensic Christmas and New Year Opening times



Our offices will be open as follows:

Norwich

24th December 09.00-16:00
25th December CLOSED
26th December CLOSED
27th December 09.00-17:00
28th December 09.00-17:00
31st December 09.00-16:00
1st January CLOSED

2nd January return to normal working hours

Warrington

24th December 08.00-16:00
25th December CLOSED
26th December CLOSED
27th December 08.00-17:00
28th December 08.00-17:00
31st December 08.00-16:00
1st January CLOSED

2nd January return to normal working hours

Coventry

24th December 08.00-16:00
25th December CLOSED
26th December CLOSED
27th December 08.00-17:00
28th December 08.00-17:00
31st December 08.00-16:00
1st January CLOSED

2nd January return to normal working hours

As always, for urgent requirements we can be contacted out of working hours via our **Duty Manager service on 07792 268294**



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