

# MEDIA INFORMATION

## STATIC SYSTEMS GROUP PLC

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### **RNIB ENDORSES STATIC SYSTEMS' PATIENT HAND UNITS**

A determination to ensure its latest products are accessible to the widest number of disabled people has resulted in Static Systems Group, being awarded a product endorsement from the highly respected disability charity, the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

The award is the first of its type in this product sector and is reward for Static Systems' focus on the needs of users.

Already recognised for its engineering skills, Static Systems undertook an extensive programme of consultation, design and testing to ensure its latest range of hand units - used by patients in hospitals primarily to call for the assistance of a nurse - could be easily used by people with a wide range of disabilities.

According to Static Systems' technical director, Mike Cardew, much of the design and development work was influenced by feedback from people who use the hand units and nursing staff. "We were committed to ensuring the new units meet the requirements for all users of our products, he explained.

"We consulted with the RNIB at an early stage to ensure the units could be used by people with impaired vision and other disabilities. The RNIB organised a number of workshops to simulate the difficulties faced by different disabled groups; which enabled our design team to experience problems first-hand and to then design-in appropriate features, said Mr Cardew.

"We were committed to the idea of 'inclusive design' and in embracing the principles and recommendations of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and other initiatives."

The RNIB's advice and knowledge was invaluable to Static Systems. It included guidance on colours and contrasts to assist partially sighted people, as well as advice on the tactile 'feel' of the buttons and the clarity of legends, which are so important to the successful design of the product.

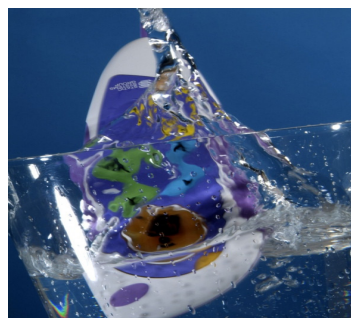
As part of the design process, Static Systems was able to sculpt the hand unit into a very distinctive shape to give enhanced comfort to the user. The company has even added a useful torch facility following feedback from some users.

RNIB's senior business development manager, Siobonne Brewster said: "Our team really enjoyed working with Static Systems from the very early design stages through to the end product. It was a pleasure to work with an organisation that understood and was committed to designing a product for the benefit of everyone who may use it. The end product looks and feels great."

All hand units in the range were designed to reduce the risk of patient cross-infection with potentially life-threatening bacteria such as Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA).

"An anti-microbial agent was incorporated into each of the rubber and plastic component parts, and the entire unit sealed to IP67 standard allowing it to be immersed in a disinfecting solution or washed in soapy water - all in line with infection control nursing guidelines," explained Mr Cardew.

Today's market is demanding units with high performance infection control, unprecedented features and a distinctive contemporary appearance, factors that have been incorporated into the new Static Systems family of patient hand units.



Static Systems' nurse call patient hand units are fully waterproof and incorporate an anti-microbial agent to reduce the risk of cross-infection.