



Client: **Infineum UK Ltd**

## **New Research Centre**

**Client**  
Infineum UK Ltd

**Construction Cost**  
£12,000,000

**Appointment**  
Fee Bid

**Consultancy Duties**  
full architectural design  
interior design  
space planning

**Other consultants**  
cost: Capita  
services: WYG  
structural: WYG



The new research centre at Abingdon for Infineum (an Exxon / Shell joint venture) to accommodate staff being relocated from two separate sites. Scope comprised the Masterplan for the site, a new laboratory building, a blending plant with stores and a waste management centre.

The laboratory building of 9000m<sup>2</sup> comprises modular laboratories organised on two floors with adjacent offices/write-up.

The laboratories include 109 two-metre wide fume cupboards, 16 one metre wide solvent waste cupboards and further local extract ventilation.

The laboratory modules formed a major element of the building with two principal groups accommodated: lubricants and fuels. A standard laboratory module was developed to meet the requirements of both groups, adapted to suit the detailed requirements of each in the range of fume cupboards, ventilated enclosures and open benching provided.

The pattern of associated office space was developed in close co-ordination with the laboratories to provide the desired adjacencies of research groups to their labs, together with ease of circulation and interaction.

A linear approach was adopted in the overall design with the office / write up areas running in parallel with the laboratory modules. The building is treated in two halves with groups of laboratory modules on each floor and a central core of support facilities. The design approach provided the office / write up areas with an attractive outlook to the open part of the site and distant views.

The blending plant comprises a two storey high blending hall with a control room and ancillary accommodation adjacent, a two storey high scale-up lab and a plant room at first floor. The location and massing of the facility was a sensitive issue due to the proximity to the adjacent public road.

*For more information please call James Firth on 07790 019248.*

