



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

**Begins**

### **SERVING THE DEFENCE ESTATES**

T H WHITE'S Groundcare Division is proud to be a key supplier to the largest grounds maintenance contract ever awarded in the UK. The five year contract was awarded in February to ISS Facility Services Landscaping by CarillionAmey who last year won five Ministry of Defence (MOD) contracts with a potential value of £4.5 billion working on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to maintain Service Family Accommodation across the UK and Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Army infrastructure in sites, including grounds, throughout the UK.

Groundcare isn't normally the first thing that springs to mind in terms of the nation's defence. But when you stop to think about it, the MOD has charge of estates with vast acreages of grass that needs to be mown, maintained and manicured. Besides the fine tradition of presenting a smart appearance at key establishments such as the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, there are also many estates – including RAF bases – where grounds maintenance is an operational necessity. And that's not to mention the hundreds of Armed Services sports fields and the grass in and around Service Family Accommodation areas.

As part of re-equipping the grounds care operation, ISS selected T H WHITE to supply diverse machinery ranging from mowers and tractors to trailers, chippers and even snow ploughs with salt spreaders.

“The choice of T H WHITE was based not only on the company’s expertise and ability to recommend the right kit,” said Phil Jones, Managing Director of ISS Facility Services Landscaping, “but also on the large portfolio of leading brands for which they hold official franchises. T H WHITE’S strategically-located Groundcare sites made the logistics of supplying the machines to the many sites across the country much easier, and of course the on-going service support can be provided quickly wherever it’s needed.”

This new major order consolidates a long term relationship that began in 1998 when T H WHITE first supplied ISS, which is proving to be beneficial to both parties.

Topping the order, negotiated by T H WHITE sales representative Stuart Fry, are 43 of the latest Ransomes HR300 ride-on mowers which incorporate electronic finger-tip controls, hydraulic drive, the option of rotary or flail decks, Cross flow hydraulics for improved traction, 4-WD even in reverse, and LED road lights.

Next up are 32 Ferris dual-drive mowers, 29 Ransomes Parkway 3 mowers with a swing-out centre unit for easy access and maintenance, as well as a variety of other mowers for specific applications and specialist tasks. Among these are 18 McConnel SR620/460 Flex wing mowers and 11 Iseki SXG Ride-on mowers featuring a 54in rear discharge deck, a large discharge grass shoot to eliminate grass blockages and 600-litre hightip collection box. Hydraulic power steering and a differential lock gives these mowers impressive all-terrain ability.

As well as mowers, the order included New Holland and Case IH 100hp tractors, Ifor Williams trailers, GreenMech wood chippers and 13 of the innovative GreenTek ‘Double Quick’ aerators which will aerate, roll, rake and brush in one pass.

Some of the sites where the new equipment is being put to work include RAF Valley in Anglesey where Prince William was a search and rescue pilot and the Army Aviation Centre at Middle Wallop where the famous Apache helicopters are based.

ISS is fully committed to the Armed Forces Community, not only were they the first facility management service provider to sign the MOD Corporate Covenant, but they are also to be

awarded The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award due to their support of employment opportunities for both Reservists and the Armed Forces personnel alike. ISS Facility Services Landscaping MD Phil Jones is particularly concerned with problems facing veteran soldiers, especially the unseen mental wounds they often have to cope with. In June he completed the Dolomiti Extreme Trail, a 33-mile endurance event run at high altitudes in the Dolomites, raising money for the charity Gardening Leave, ISS Facility Services Landscaping's charity partner

As part of its CSR programme, T H WHITE was pleased to support Phil in this challenge by sponsoring him for £1,000; in total he raised £7,100.00, all of which will be used by Gardening Leave to help veterans with mental health issues to return to good health and civilian life through horticultural therapy – a fitting way for people in the groundcare business to help those suffering from the traumas of conflict. To find out more, visit [www.gardeningleave.org](http://www.gardeningleave.org).

**Ends**

**Notes for editors:**

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- ISS Facility Services Landscaping is the largest grounds maintenance service provider in the UK and has been providing a trusted service for over 30 years to some of the most prestigious, successful organisations.

- ISS Facility Services Landscaping contracts cover the whole of the country, employing over 1500 core and 100 seasonal staff who operate from over 40 depots and offices. Please visit [www.isslandscaping.co.uk](http://www.isslandscaping.co.uk) for further information.
- ISS is one of the world's largest facility services providers. They provide organisations of all types, shapes and sizes with every facility solution they might require. Please visit [www.uk.issworld.com](http://www.uk.issworld.com) for further information.
- The T H WHITE Group is a private company with a turnover in excess of £110 million. It has interests in agriculture, cars and commercial vehicles, lorry cranes, professional grasscare equipment, construction equipment, security and fire systems, sustainable energy, as well as materials handling and bulk storage installations. The Head Office is located in Devizes, Wiltshire, where the business began in 1832. Please visit [www.thwhite.co.uk](http://www.thwhite.co.uk)