

2010 ASHE Annual Conference

Tampa, Florida was the educational hotspot for healthcare engineers this July during the 47th Annual Conference and Technical Exhibition of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA). From July 11-14, more than 2,800 healthcare facility management professionals gathered to learn about the latest developments, cost-saving ideas and performance improvement strategies in their industry.

Applied Data Systems, Inc. (ADSI) executives Jim Filippi, Linda Filippi, Cathy Epperson and Tim Morgan were on hand throughout the conference to answer participant questions about computer-aided facility management (CAFM) systems at the ADSI booth. In addition, ADSI executives attended and participated in numerous conference sessions to remain on the cutting edge of healthcare industry facility management trends and regulations.

"We look forward to attending the ASHE conference each and every year," says ADSI president Jim Filippi. "With our company's focus on healthcare markets, it's crucial we have our finger on the pulse of current and future trends in the industry. Our participation is especially important in today's economic environment because we're able to take the knowledge we gather at the conference and share it with our clients who may not have the budgets, personnel or time to attend the conference every year."

Conference sessions covered a wide range of healthcare engineering topics. Highlights included sessions on benchmarking energy usage to achieve energy savings, improving aging healthcare facilities through retro-commissioning, using Building Information Management (BIM) systems to create life-like models of daily facility operations and current trends such as healthcare commissioning.

"By coming together, we are better able to see the commonalities that bind us together as healthcare professionals. This year's opening speaker reminded us that the work we do is 'mission critical' because of all we do to keep our hospitals in working order," says ASHE president Terry Martin. "By being here to network and learn, we are able return to our facilities with a new-found enthusiasm as we discovered new and better ways to get our job done."

Upcoming revisions to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 99 Standard for Health Care Facilities were a major focus of this year's ASHE conference. Significant changes to the standard are currently being reviewed and are expected to be finalized in June 2011. If adopted, several of these changes will have a considerable impact on healthcare facilities. The proposed changes include:

- Required redundant equipment for supply, return and exhaust air systems.



ASHE Hosts Successful Annual Conference

(July 27, 2010) More than 2,800 health care facility management professionals were in Tampa, July 11-14, attending the 47th Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) of the American Hospital Association (AHA). This represents an increase in attendance from 2009. In addition to education and networking, the attendees were able to take advantage of an exhibit hall that showcased 250 service providers

- All facilities must provide 96-hours of onsite fuel storage – agreements with suppliers for ongoing fuel deliveries will no longer be sufficient.
- Isolated power systems will be required in all operating rooms unless a risk assessment is conducted and it is determined not to be a wet location.
- Full smoke control will be required in many areas – not only in operating rooms as specified in previous editions.
- New requirements for cryogenic systems including testing for proper function, purity and operation of the control sensors.
- New testing and inspection requirements on existing non-stationary medical booms.
- Increases the number of electrical system receptacles needed in general care, critical care and operating room areas.
- New chapters for IT and Communication, Plumbing and Heating – plus a completely rewritten and expanded section on Emergency Management.

As participants stopped by the ADSI informational booth, the ADSI team welcomed the opportunity to discuss the ways CAFM systems help facility managers achieve their cost-saving goals. Through the strategic use of CAFM healthcare organizations can maximize reimbursement revenues, optimize asset deployment and usage, satisfy regulatory requirements, improve operations with increased equipment uptime and streamline maintenance operations by shortening work order response time and minimizing the risk of equipment failure. Additional facility improvements generated by CAFM systems include decreased energy usage, strategic master planning, effective emergency planning and preparedness, and simplified building condition assessments.

ADSI Director of Healthcare Services Cathy Epperson, CHFM, emphasizes the improvements and savings that can be achieved by using CAFM systems for audits by The Joint Commission and other regulatory agencies. "Reporting is a huge advantage when a regulatory agency such as The Joint Commission comes in to audit your facility," says Epperson. "Even if you have all your preventive maintenance and other environment of care data in your system, it is not going to do you any good if you can't access it. Rapid, quality reporting makes you look competent and professional. It shows you know your system and are able to produce an accurate report quickly and efficiently."

Healthcare facility management professionals who are interested in learning more about the 2010 ASHE conference, hearing about the information presented during conference sessions or finding out how CAFM systems can help them meet their facility management goals are encouraged to contact the experts at ADSI.

"We are committed to investing in high-quality educational conferences such as the 2010 ASHE because it is one more way we can help our clients," says Jim Filippi. "Our top priority is providing the best advice and information to facility managers so they can achieve their strategic objectives, maximize cost savings and improve performance – and the knowledge we gained at the 2010 ASHE conference will allow us do exactly that."

For more information on ASHE and the annual ASHE conference, visit www.ashe.org. To learn more about Applied Data Systems, Inc. (ADSI) visit www.adsi-fm.com or call (763) 694-8900.