

FLEXIBILITY PROVES TO BE THE KEY:

Static Systems' Series 900 Fire Alarm System

West Suffolk Hospital

BURY ST. EDMUNDS



The fire systems contract placed with Static Systems Group by West Suffolk Hospital Trust and valued just short of £1 million, presented some significant design and operational challenges. The contract was also made all the more complex because the work had to be carried out in a 'live hospital' situation with little or no disruption to patients.

The 18-month contract saw the replacement of the existing fire alarm system on the site of the 480-bed hospital. The existing system was severely limited by its age and designed with just one control panel protecting the entire hospital.

The Solution

Series 900 Fire Alarm panels were installed in a contract which included supply, project management, installation and commissioning. The scheme also had to take account of the possible future growth of the hospital at further locations, and the subsequent need to expand the fire alarm system, should this arise.

Proven Expertise

A critical factor in Static Systems' appointment was the company's proven project management expertise and its ability to work closely with hospital staff in a live situation without the need to close wards or theatres.

Describing Static Systems' appointment to the contract, West Suffolk Hospital Trust's deputy estates manager, Ian Stuchbury said: "After a very stringent tender appraisal process it became evident that Static Systems' professional approach to this project was supported by their previous experience of working in a live hospital environment, and this gave the Trust added confidence."

Phased Work

Installation was undertaken on a phased basis, one area at a time. A total of nine Series 900 panels were installed in all areas on two floors. Each was left on test for 28 days, working alongside the existing system. When proven, the old system was removed and the new system was connected to form part of a site-wide network.

Static Systems' project manager, Graham Horwood said: "We liaised very closely with the Trust's team to ensure that our system was complimentary to the ongoing operational needs of the hospital. Our weekly meetings with the Trust, our availability on site and the flexibility to deal with situations as they arose, were major factors in the success of the project."



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case study

West Suffolk Hospital

Main Entrance

Flexibility

In order to be able to offer maximum flexibility, Static Systems installed the site-wide network system first. So when wards and departments were closed to patients for refurbishment, or due to low occupancy, engineers could take advantage of these situations to fit the detection devices and complete wiring and installation tasks. **“It wasn’t the way we would normally have carried out an installation of this sort but, by being flexible and adjusting our programme, we were able to co-operate with West Suffolk Hospital staff to aid their own ongoing refurbishment work,”** explained Graham Horwood.

To protect valuable hospital daytime procedures and patient appointments there was a good deal of ‘out of hours’ working for Static Systems’ engineers in areas such as theatres and the x-ray department.

During the contract, Static Systems and the Trust’s clerk of work, Peter Davey, designed and introduced a permit access system to allow work to be done, in certain sensitive areas of the hospital, at agreed times.

Client Benefits

- New networked system providing comprehensive protection.
- Minimum disruption to patients and hospital procedures during installation.
- Designed with hospital expansion in mind.

the product

Series 900 fire alarm panels were installed throughout, operating with Apollo Discovery detection devices chosen for their sophistication and reliability in operation.

Two large plasma screens were installed, one in the front entrance of the hospital and one in the restaurant. In normal mode the screens display general hospital information, but in the event of an alarm condition they display a map of the entire site to assist fire officers to locate the incident.

The entire project complied with LPS 1014, requirements for Certified Fire Detection and Alarm System Firms, operated by the Loss Prevention Certification Board for which Static Systems is an accredited company. Other standards adhered to included BS 5839 and HTM 82.

