



STATIC SYSTEMS GROUP

## SSG delivers HTM/BS-compliant fire safety upgrade at Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital

November 2025

### Project overview

**Ysbyty Gwynedd** is a district general hospital in Bangor, serving the health needs of the west area of North Wales. Opened in 1984, the facility houses a full range of acute medical and surgical specialties, making continuous operation and robust safety systems absolutely critical.

SSG, a Halma company, was appointed as the specialist contractor for the full design, verification and replacement of the hospital's end-of-life fire detection system. Given SSG's long-standing maintenance relationship with the hospital, SSG was involved in the early design and development discussions. The core objective was to replace the existing legacy SSG fire alarm system with a modern, addressable, open-protocol solution that delivers enhanced safety, reduces false alarms and achieves full compliance with current national fire safety regulations and standards. The tender was reviewed with critical input from the North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

### System architecture and standards

The project required a comprehensive, full-lifecycle replacement of the fire alarm system components across the complex site. SSG executed the installation of the upgraded Evo2 fire alarm system, ensuring a unified and resilient fire detection network.

- **Installation** of modern, multi-sensor detection devices throughout the facility to significantly improve accuracy and reduce the risk of false alarms
- **Replacement** of notification devices, including visual strobes, to ensure effective alerting and compliance
- **Enhanced integration** with other building systems (such as HVAC and security) for a coordinated and rapid emergency response

A key value-add was SSG's consultative role. The project required SSG to **develop, verify and optimise the fire detection** design to meet stringent Welsh Health Technical Memoranda (WHTM) and current British Standards (BS 5839 Part 1 2025). This involved employing an experienced design manager, writing and agreeing to a bespoke specification and producing a complete set of documentation, including revised Cause and Effect information, network/system schematics and a design certificate to RIBA Stage 5. **Full compliance with the Loss Prevention Standard (LPS) 1014 certification was also ensured.**



**WHERE CARE MEETS TECH**

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## Stakeholder collaboration

The successful execution of this technically complex infrastructure upgrade, valued at approximately £500k, hinged on close collaboration with the Trust. SSG provided full-time management supervision on-site, alongside a dedicated senior fire technician, ensuring swift day-to-day issue resolution.

- **Structured communication**

Fortnightly project review meetings with the client to update the programme, discuss access and agree upon quotations for any necessary variation works

- **Staff competence**

Ensuring all SSG staff and operatives were Fire Industry Association (FIA) trained to the required level of competence across all relevant disciplines

- **Bespoke operational rules**

Working closely with the client to agree upon a unique set of rules, setting out the 'Way We Work' at Ysbyty Gwynedd to ensure safety and cooperation in the live environment



## Overcoming operational hurdles

The primary difficulty lay in executing the substantial infrastructure replacement within a fully operational acute hospital environment while ensuring zero compromise on fire safety.

**SSG mitigated this through detailed planning and flexibility:**

- **Maintaining continuous fire safety**

A phased installation plan and a 'hot changeover' strategy were implemented. Complex interface panels linked the old and new networks, ensuring both systems remained live during the transitional works.

- **Operational disruption**

Work was scheduled meticulously to minimise impact, with a large percentage of panel changeovers and primary Cause and Effect testing occurring during off-peak hours

- **Managing legacy infrastructure**

When faced with external pressures to accelerate work (such as meeting the financial year-end at Hexham), SSG ensured that any acceleration was managed internally and transparently, prioritising safety and clinical workflow above all else

The works were completed in eight months on-site, finishing on schedule in August 2025.

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## Long-term value and scalable platform

The project successfully delivered a fully certified, HTM and BS Code-compliant system that provides superior fire detection and earlier warning capabilities.

**The measure of success was clear:**

- **The project** was completed on programme and met the agreed budget with no variations
- **The new system** is less prone to faults and false alarms, increasing occupant confidence and reducing long-term operational costs
- **The architecture** is scalable, providing a platform for future expansions and integration with smart building technologies

Crucially, the success at Ysbyty Gwynedd directly contributed to SSG successfully negotiating and securing an upgrade of a similar nature at Wrexham Hospital for the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. This follow-on project was secured on a single tender waiver, a testament to the Trust's confidence in SSG's proven delivery, quality and partnership approach.



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