



STATIC SYSTEMS GROUP

## SSG delivers future-proofed fire safety upgrade at The Royal London Hospital

January 2026

### Project overview

**The Royal London Hospital**, a flagship facility within Barts Health NHS Trust and one of the UK's largest teaching hospitals, has completed an extensive upgrade of its fire detection and alarm systems. This initiative builds on a decade-long partnership with SSG, who originally installed the hospital's fire alarm network between 2012 and 2016 as part of the landmark redevelopment led by Skanska.

SSG, a Halma company, was once again selected to lead this modernisation programme, ensuring the hospital's infrastructure remains at the forefront of healthcare safety. Serving as a specialist centre for trauma, stroke and critical care, the hospital's infrastructure spans multiple complex buildings, each with unique fire safety requirements. With the original panels reaching end-of-life and national fire safety standards evolving, the Trust – working closely with Skanska FM – commissioned SSG to replace legacy infrastructure with a modern, fully addressable solution designed to meet the latest standards while ensuring 0 disruption to live clinical operations.

### Technical scope and standards

The 2025 upgrade required a full-lifecycle replacement of the fire alarm infrastructure to ensure long-term operational resilience. SSG executed the installation of the upgraded Evo2 fire alarm network, delivering a unified and highly resilient system.

#### The project scope included:

- Replacement of 37 legacy 925 panels with 41 new Advanced MXPro5 panels, incorporating enhanced PH120 fire-rated cabling
- A like-for-like replacement of multi-sensor smoke and heat detectors to significantly improve accuracy and fault tolerance
- Seamless interfacing with third-party building systems, including lifts, access control, ventilation, suppression and AV systems
- Full adherence to BS 5839-1:2025, verified through LPS 1014 certification

A key value-add was the seamless integration provided by SSG's position within the Halma Group. By using Advanced Electronics Ltd MXPro5 panels and Apollo sensors – both fellow Halma companies – **SSG ensured tight integration, streamlined procurement and long-term serviceability across all system components.**



## Strategic implementation

The successful execution of this technically complex infrastructure upgrade was built on a collaborative "one-team" approach. SSG worked in close alignment with Skanska FM, the hospital's Fire Safety Committee and the Authorising Fire Engineer, managing the partnership through integrated planning, accredited competency and verified documentation.

- Fortnightly project review meetings and weekly programme updates were used to manage design risk assessments and asbestos compliance
- All on-site engineers held Level 3 or higher qualifications and were FIA-trained to meet BAFA SP203-1 standards
- A comprehensive audit trail was delivered, including BS 5839-1 checklists, cable test reports and validated Cause and Effect documentation for RIBA Stage 5

## Mitigating operational risk

Executing a substantial network replacement within a high-risk, 24/7 acute hospital environment required a strategy that prioritised patient safety above all else.

To navigate these complexities, SSG implemented a phased commissioning approach that allowed the legacy system and the new network to operate concurrently. This dual-running strategy was essential for maintaining **uninterrupted fire safety coverage** during the critical loop migration phase, while also providing a window for meticulous "soak testing" to ensure the new infrastructure was stable before the final handover.

To manage the intricate demands of the site, the validation process was split into two distinct stages. The team first conducted Local Effects Testing to verify zone-specific responses, followed by comprehensive Sitewide Effects Testing to confirm inter-building emergency protocols.

This rigorous methodology validated that the hospital's sophisticated evacuation procedures remained fully functional throughout the transition.

Every phase of the installation and commissioning was carefully coordinated with hospital leadership via real-time communication protocols, ensuring that these vital safety upgrades were delivered with zero downtime and no impact on clinical workflows.

## Scalability and futureproofing

The project has delivered a fully certified, compliant system that provides superior detection and earlier warning capabilities across one of the UK's most complex healthcare environments.

The new Evo2 platform offers true open-protocol functionality, providing the Trust with the flexibility to manage and expand the system without vendor lock-in. By preserving the existing Cause and Effect logic while enhancing performance, SSG has ensured the hospital is equipped with a scalable platform ready for future digital integration.



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