

NEC/LG Arena

Johnson Controls protects The National Exhibition Centre



Johnson Controls ensures that the venue is protected by a reliable and robust integrated system that offers the site ultimate protection.

Project overview

The NEC Group is the Birmingham based venue management company that operates four world-class venues: The National Exhibition Centre, The International Convention Centre, the LG Arena and The National Indoor Arena. The Group also operates national ticketing agency The Ticket Factory and award-winning, prestige caterer Amadeus.

Every year The NEC Group brings together over four million people to learn, do business, and be entertained at more than 900 diverse and varied events. Employing 2,000 people on a permanent basis and with a further 1,000 casual workers, The NEC Group delivers a £2 billion annual impact on the regional economy and supports the full time equivalent of 29,000 jobs.

Product and services applications

- Fire and security system
- Extinguishing system
- Intruder alarm system

Customer needs

When The NEC redeveloped their concert arena in conjunction with electronics giant LG, Johnson Controls was brought in to upgrade the existing fire alarm system, extinguishing system and intruder alarm. This ensured that the venue was protected by a reliable and robust integrated system that could offer the site ultimate protection.

The NEC opened in February 1976, attracts over 2.3 million visitors a year and was originally designed by architect Edward Mills. The aim of the £29 million redevelopment project was to increase the capacity on the Arena to 15,700, alongside enhancing the customer experience by improving existing facilities and installing additional toilets, bars and restaurants. At the same time as increasing capacity of the venue – the existing Johnson Controls fire detection and security systems were upgraded.

The venue was originally served by the company's Minerva system in 1989. This project involved the upgrade of the old Minerva addressable fire alarm equipment to the latest digital MX Technology, incorporating multi-sensor technology to enable changes in environment during live performances.



"We were however delighted that the Johnson Controls team worked around this event and successfully delivered the completed project on time."

Andy Henderson, M&E Manager at The NEC

Johnson Controls solution

Roger Harrison, Birmingham Fire Sales Consultant from Johnson Controls commented: "The upgrade has enabled the LG Arena to move to a digital addressable system, meaning it will now be protected by the most advanced technology available. Digital systems offer a superior robustness and reliability and can support a higher number of devices on one loop, giving increased flexibility, whilst allowing for the system to be readily extended if required in the future."

The detection panels control hundreds of devices and interfaces into a public address voice alarm system. The intelligent programming allows for thousands of event action groups, which determine alert and evacuation procedures depending on the location and type of any incident.

The products were installed in the LG Arena entrance (formerly the Forum building) and the LG Arena (formerly The NEC Arena). The Johnson Controls team had to work to a tight deadline to install the system and had to work around a major event being held at the same time.

Andy Henderson, M&E Manager at The NEC commented: "Johnson Controls were tasked with delivering the upgrade of the fire detection and security systems in time for the Horse of the Year Show in October 2009. This proved particularly challenging given the size of the upgrade and the fact that The NEC hosted the 100th Rotary International Convention, with key speeches in the Arena during the middle of the installation programme."

For further information or advice, call: **0800 804 6227**

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