

The Verdict is in...GE Security's Fire Detection Wins the Case in Antwerp



Antwerp

The city of Antwerp is known all over the world for its diamond business. Next to this trademark element of the city, it is also a historical city in the history of Belgium and even Europe. Historic buildings like the cathedral and the Guildhouses confirm this statement. Supported by the numerous stores located in the inner city, Antwerp is also a shopping destination. To prove that Antwerp is even more than this, it houses one of the most important trading ports in the world.

Antwerp Courts of Justice

Changing the local skyline on the southern approaches to Antwerp – the steel and glass, sail-like roof structure of the new law courts building is visible from vantage points all over the city.

Beneath the sharp forms of the roof, the central open area of the building provides a large concourse featuring a transparent glass covering. Radiating from the central space are eight courts, arranged in six wings that collectively handle all divisions of local law. The largest is the criminal court - others deal with civil, family and employment cases. Completing the complex are facilities for industrial tribunals, a court for minors, an extensive library, meeting rooms and a public café.





Pre-existing situation & GE Security's role

The building services specification for the law courts project called for comprehensive control from a central building management system, with all security elements integrated at a high software level.

Fire detection and alarms had to be integrated with other systems as part of the building management package which would be monitored from a single control station. As part of the monitoring system, graphic displays had to be provided to enable total system management.

A further requirement of the fire detection and alarm system was the ability to provide accurate information at the individual sensor level.

GE Security's Solution

In order to provide the required level of fire protection within the law courts buildings GE Security proposed a networked fire detection system, featuring 33 four loop, Ziton ZP3 analogue addressable control panels.

The entire complex is covered by over 3,000 optical smoke sensors, of which 300 are multi criteria units individually programmed to sense real fires against differing environmental backgrounds. Special high sensitivity aspiration units are installed in higher risk areas and linear beam detection protects the open central concourse.

The total fire detection is managed and controlled via the ICAROS supervision system developed by GE Security's partner in fire detection, Fabricom GTI division Security Belgium.

Information is provided and displayed on a series of detailed building maps featuring, individually, every one of the 3,000 sensors. System information provided at the control station for each sensor includes sensor performance, near service level and an event log.