

Zeus Lite ensures fire safety at new science building

FIREFLY® barrier system ensures fire safety of new Harwell science building

Critical work to ensure the fire performance across one elevation of a cavernous new research building, at a world-famous science campus in Oxfordshire, has been successfully carried out by a specialist installation company. Using a lightweight barrier system from **FIREFLY®** – in this instance, Zeus Lite Vertical was to remain permanently visible, requiring a novel upgrade to its appearance.

Harwell Science and Innovations Campus near Didcot in Oxfordshire, originally established in the 1940s as the country's atomic energy research centre but nowadays known as the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus. Harwell offers a mix of manufacturing, flexible laboratory space, R&D facilities and office accommodation, as well as for start-ups and major international businesses. As the designers of the Tech Edge, 1 AJA Architects chose to specify the Zeus Lite Vertical 90-30 system to protect the steel framed building from the proximity of another, timber clad office structure. Following a site visit and design input by a **FIREFLY®** Technical Sales Manager, Coventry based KRASI Fire Protection were awarded the contract to carry out the installation on behalf of Feltham Construction Ltd.



KRASI's Contract Manager, Daniel Oldacre, commented: "Due to the orientation and short distance to the existing building, a fire barrier was the only option and **FIREFLY®** Zeus Lite was specified. We installed it by shot-firing the normal steel angles against the inner frame of the building, stapling the barrier together and securing the barrier to it while we had to temporarily remove the cross bracing to achieve safe access for employing a cherry picker. However, while this would normally be left visible, we were required to conceal the staples by securing a strip of **FIREFLY®** Phoenix over the staples using high-temperature adhesive. The work went well – involving good cooperation with the client and architects and took us three weeks with four operatives on site."

FIREFLY® Technical Manager, Chris Boam, stated, "To meet the client's requirement for fire protection that not only achieved the necessary fire resistance rating but also maintained a visually appealing finish, we worked closely with KRASI to ensure all fixings were concealed. To accomplish this, the typically exposed staples were covered using **FIREFLY®** Phoenix, secured with high-temperature adhesive, while ensuring full compliance with safety standards."



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Daniel Oldacre, Contract Manager, KRASI