

Southmead Hospital Protected by TDSi Technology



The Project: Southmead Hospital

Type of Site: New build hospital including a data centre & maternity ward

Number of Users / Doors: Over 4000 users

Solution Required: A highly secure system that ensures maximum protection of staff and patients in a demanding and busy environment

Solutions Used: MICROgarde Controlles, MIFARE readers and EXgarde access control software

Working in close partnership to deliver an integrated access control system for Southmead Hospital in Bristol, TDSi is implementing a modern, robust and future-proof solution.

In 2008, North Bristol NHS Trust identified the need for a new access control system to replace life-expired equipment at Southmead, with a view to not only replace the current equipment, but to also develop a solution that would be suitable for the city's new £430 million 'super hospital', scheduled to open in 2014.

The Requirement

Following a rigorous selection process, the NHS Trust elected to work with TDSi and the proposed system...

specification, incorporating the company's MICROgarde controllers, MIFARE card readers and EXgarde management software. Before rolling the system out to the whole site, specific areas were nominated for a long-term trial, with the Academia and Pathology units the first to have the new access control system installed.

On successful completion of the trial in 2009, the configuration became a template for the remainder of the site and subsequent new buildings, with the hospital's new Data Centre, Maternity Ward and other temporary buildings, the next to be added to the network.

The system specification met a number of key criteria outlined by the Trust - principally meeting their requirements for a flexible, future-proof solution that would provide the capability for integration with a range of other site systems. Proven in applications throughout the UK, MICROgarde is a fully featured, networkable controller that delivers exceptional performance, with full read-in/read-out capability on doors and a capacity of up to 5,000 users.

The Solution

The MICROgarde controllers are programmed and managed via TDSI's EXgarde access management software - this being one of the first applications in the UK to take advantage of EXgarde Version 3, the latest release of the software.

EXgarde has been used in a wide range of projects, delivering outstanding access and integrated security systems management. The EXgarde V3 is unrivalled in its integration capabilities and provides the managers at Southmead with a flexible and dynamic platform, capable of delivering seamless integration with a wide range of building systems - including intruder and fire detection. This allows for complete building and security management and so the potential for considerable resource savings, in terms of both time and cost is huge.

The system is completed by MIFARE® readers and cards, giving the site true, contactless, smart card technology. Serving a current population of approximately 4,000 card holders, the readers provide an extremely cost effective, highly reliable solution that also allows for straightforward expansion in the future.

The same MIFARE® card can be used not only for access control but also for other site services, for example cashless vending, in the future, if required. With the new 'super hospital' due to open in 2014, the remainder of the existing Southmead site is being progressively updated with the TDSi access control system.