

SunGard Availability Services

Xtralis' VESDA Aspirating Smoke Detection is the natural choice for the leading information availability provider's new major technology centre

SunGard Availability Services

As the leading provider of information availability services and a global leader in integrated software and processing solutions, SunGard serves more than 20,000 customers in over 50 countries, including the world's 50 largest financial services companies.

Size: 2,000 employees

Location: 70 throughout Europe and North America (20 in the UK)
www.availability.sungard.com

Industry

SunGard pioneered the disaster recovery and business continuity industry in 1978.

Products used

Xtralis VESDA Aspirating Smoke Detection: 42 Xtralis VESDA VLP detectors were installed (each protects areas up to 2,000 sq metres and support four configurable alarm levels).

The challenge

SunGard's key new London Technology Centre (LTC) is the company's largest European Information Availability facility and it is dedicated to providing 'reactive' IT disaster recovery services and 'interactive' high availability technology solutions for always-on business functions. The 130,000 sq. ft LTC, located in West London, is spread over two floors and contains eight separate self-contained computer room suites.

Only the highest possible protection could be selected to safeguard the key data centres within the LTC. SunGard ensures that its customers' IT systems, people, data and e-enabled applications are available whenever, wherever and however required. As such it is imperative that all SunGard facilities display resilient infrastructures, whereby single points of failure are eliminated and all reasonable protection measures are taken.

The solution

Xtralis VESDA Aspirating Smoke Detection is nothing new for SunGard: the product is installed in SunGard's data centres throughout its 20 UK sites. Over the years, SunGard has come to depend on the unparalleled protection provided by Xtralis VESDA smoke detectors, as well its exceptional reliability. An Xtralis VESDA system, therefore, was the logical choice for SunGard's leading-edge Information Availability centre, the LTC.

Contractor, Direction Fire, who advised SunGard on engineering specifications for LTC, also felt aspirating smoke detection was the obvious choice for SunGard's first line of a multi-tiered fire defence strategy, given that the building has a number of environments subject to close control air conditioning, and very high air flows.

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 **xtralis®**

VESDA®

Xtralis VESDA smoke detectors are renowned worldwide for providing the earliest possible warning of a potential fire, thus eliminating any business disruption. Xtralis VESDA VLP – the core product in the VESDA portfolio – was installed at SunGard's LTC. The Xtralis VESDA VLP detector protects areas up to 2,000 m² and supports four configurable alarm levels. Due to the scale, complexity and diversity of the SunGard project, 42 VLP detectors were installed within the site.

The results

Each of the eight business continuity and high availability technical areas within the SunGard site has a two-tier Xtralis VESDA smoke detection system, with numerous Xtralis VESDA VLP detectors serving the return air of the room cooling units and additional detectors serving the room space at high level. All the detectors are then connected to a VSM3 network, with the front-end PC located at the site's 24-hour manned control room.

The entire set-up is highly sensitive, with the Xtralis VESDA smoke detection system acting as the early warning of a potential problem, and the point detectors initiating sprinkler sequences thereafter if necessary. Xtralis VESDA smoke detectors also protect the building externally, so that any fires in the immediate surrounding industrial area could not cause any damage to the building. All external air entering the building is monitored and linked to Xtralis VESDA detectors.

With this set-up, SunGard—and its clients—can rest assured that the best possible protection scheme has been implemented, an imperative measure in an industry like disaster recovery.

“We know where we are with Xtralis VESDA, we know the value we get for our money and we know the level of protection Xtralis VESDA will give us – so we never saw the need to consider anything else. With Xtralis VESDA we always know we have the best chance of catching any fire before any other measure might be needed. Xtralis VESDA has never let us down and in a business like ours, that is critical.”

Karl Smith, SunGard
Building Services Manager

“We have tried the vast majority of other aspiring products on the market but we find that Xtralis VESDA is the most versatile and the most reliable. Our view is that if Xtralis VESDA is properly set up, apart from periodic maintenance, you can more or less walk away from it.”

Kevin Vince, Director,
Direction Fire

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