FIRST FOR FIRE PROTECTION
VIPOND
a subsidiary of API Group, Inc.

PROJECT
The Roslin Institute

LOCATION
University of Edinburgh – Easter Bush Campus

INDUSTRY SECTOR
Education, Bio Science

SOLUTIONS
Gas Suppression Systems

BENEFITS
• Business Continuity

PRODUCTS
Inert Gas Fire Suppression systems

THE CHALLENGE

The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh is a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) National Institute. The University is ranked among the top 20 universities in the world and until the First World War it was considered to have the best Medical school in the English speaking world. It is perhaps fitting that Bio Science in the 21st century is intrinsically linked with the Roslin Institute.

The vision at the Roslin Institute is to lead 21st century animal biosciences in the UK, performing innovative basic research and enabling benefits for humans and animals. It delivers world class science to tackle some of the most pressing issues in animal health and welfare, their implications for human health and for the role of animals in the food chain

To the layman maybe the most profound feature about the Institute is Dolly the sheep. Dolly was remarkable as she was the first mammal to be cloned from a single adult cell and demonstrated that the DNA from adult cells, despite having specialised as one particular type of cell, can be used to create an entire organism.

"A system that would not interfere with data processing if a fire occurred"

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In March 2011, the Roslin Institute moved to a new £60 million state-of-the-art building located on the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush campus. Vipond were called in to provide proposals for protecting the computer server rooms on the Ground Floor and Level Three of the new building.

These required automatic fixed firefighting systems which were appropriate to the nature of the risk. A system type that would not interfere with the data processing if a fire occurred was essential. This would provide a greater chance of important computing processes continuing should there be a fire and thus safeguard the vital science taking place at the Institute.

THE SOLUTION

Gas suppression systems are normally used for such applications and these were chosen for the Roslin Institute.

Both rooms had mechanical and electrical services entering the room with, neither false floors or suspended ceilings fitted to conceal the services within the rooms. The dedicated fire detection system which controls the gas systems were designed to BS 7273-1 and also BS 6266, the relevant standard for electronic data processing installations. These standards offer guidance for detector spacing, requirements for system controls and audible/visual alarms

Due to the nature of the electronic areas to be protected, a High Hazard design concentration would be required in accordance with BS EN 15004. Where certain conditions commonly found in Server rooms such as specific bundling of cables, particular configuration of cable trays and where the power consumption exceeds 5 kW, it is deemed that a high hazard design concentration should be utilised.

An IG-55 gaseous fire suppression system was selected for each room. IG-55 is an equal blend of Nitrogen and Argon, both naturally occurring gases, ensuring that this system has essentially no effect on the environment. The extinguishing agent is stored in 80 litre high pressure 300 bar cylinders which are manifolded together. Following system activation either from the smoke detectors or from a manual release button on the control panel, a network of steel pipe delivers the IG-55 from the cylinder bank to the individually calculated nozzles within 60 seconds.

"the provision of gas suppression systems offers peace of mind if a fire should occur"

THE OUTCOME

From an economic perspective, the bioscience research and training undertaken at the Roslin Institute leads to wealth and job creation, generating high returns for the UK economy. Together the National Institutes' research underpins key sectors of the economy such as agriculture, bioenergy, biotechnology, food and drink, and pharmaceuticals. In addition the Institute maintains unique research facilities of national importance.

These facilities are dependent on secure computer services. If these services were interrupted due to an outbreak of fire the direct consequences could be immeasurable. The provision of gas suppression systems offers peace of mind that should a fire occur, it will be detected and tackled quickly. The automatic system will also alert the authorities and any personnel within or near the area. Once a fire is confirmed by the system a supply of clean extinguishing agent will swiftly be uniformly distributed throughout the protected area.

With no mess to clean up, the room can quickly be reinstated, allowing a speedy resumption of computer services for the Roslin Institute.

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COMPANY PROFILE

Vipond Fire Protection Ltd has its roots going back to 1969, when it was started as a small family owned business. In 1998 it was acquired by Vipond Inc of Canada. The company has since expanded and grown and now has 5 offices covering the whole of the UK and Ireland. Vipond Fire Protection Ltd is ultimately owned by API Group Inc.

APi Group Inc. is a multi-billion-dollar parent company for 38 independently managed construction companies in more than 200 locations worldwide. APi Group combines the personal attention of small-to-medium sized construction companies with the strength of a global industry leader to build a safer environment, develop leaders and bring innovation to the construction and fire protection and suppression industry. Since 1926, APi Group has grown by acquisition to become the stellar multi-billion-dollar company it is today.

The secret? Our subsidiaries maintain who they are. They keep the identity, reputation, customer relationships and culture they've worked hard to establish.

APi Group's subsidiaries have collectively served customers on all continents, including Antarctica.

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