



“to protect vital equipment and provide resilience to fire”

THE CHALLENGE

Tanfield House was constructed for Standard Life Assurance and opened by Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II, in 1991. Located in the Cannonmills district of Edinburgh and nestling beside Water of Leith, this facility comprised a Data Centre and an Administration Building, providing Standard Life with state of the art IT facilities for an increasing electronic data dependent financial services industry. The facility was fitted out with twenty-four gas suppression systems to protect the vital electronic equipment and processes undertaken at Tanfield.

The Data Centre remains with Standard Life today but the Administration Building operations were transferred to new premises in Edinburgh. The administration building was refurbished and is now an attractive, ultra-modern office facility and home to several businesses. Two of these operate in the e-commerce sector and are active in a globally connected ethernet world that mandates business continuity and safeguards for vital electronic equipment.

Craneware is a UK company with headquarters at 1 Tanfield. They develop and provide financial software for use by health authorities throughout the USA. The software assists these authorities to better manage their finances in numerous ways such as stock control, billing, compliance and auditing. The other company based out of Tanfield which invested in Vipond fire safety systems is Dell SecureWorks, part of Dell Computers. Dell have an intrinsically important organisation based here which serves the Europe, Middle East, Africa and India markets.

Vipond was contracted to design, install and commission FM-200® fire suppression systems to provide a solution that would protect the computer equipment from fire without compromising the hardware or the system processes that they handle. Downtime was a key factor, and providing a solution that wouldn't interrupt the vital functions of the computer processes or leave any residue on the equipment was a vital consideration.



PROJECT

Dell and Craneware

LOCATION

1 Tanfield, Cannonmills, Edinburgh

INDUSTRY SECTOR

e commerce

PARTNERS

Arthur MacKay Mechanical & Electrical contractors

SOLUTIONS

Clean Agent gaseous fire suppression systems

BENEFITS

- Vital Asset protection
- Business Continuity
- Business resilience

PRODUCTS

FM-200® Fire Suppression Systems

EMAIL

admin.uk@vipondltd.co.uk

WEBSITE

www.vipondfire.co.uk



THE SOLUTION

“Where business continuity is important in electronic environments, gaseous agents are usually the preferred choice”

Tanfield is an aesthetically pleasing environment with a large open atrium, an attractive staircase, with lots of natural light and glass fronted offices running off the lobbies. A juice bar adds to the ambience and completes the feel good environment, conducive for creative thinking and business. Craneware and Dell are located on the 2nd and 1st floor levels respectively and gaining access with fire suppression systems to these offices played a part in the decision making process. The Craneware system was installed in 2011 and the Dell system was fitted early in 2015.

Alternatives included Inert gases which are naturally the most environmentally friendly clean agent systems and FM-200®. This is a halocarbon based system and was ultimately chosen by both companies. Stored as a liquid rather than a gas, it requires less storage containers than inert gas systems and moving containers during periodic testing was considered. Another benefit is the smaller footprint required for agent storage, which is often preferred where space is at a premium. FM200® like the inert gases, is safe when people are present, and unlike other water based systems, is a clean agent. It does not conduct electricity and importantly leaves no residue on sensitive equipment so requires no clean-up afterwards.

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Although not enjoying the same outstanding environmental profile as the system featuring the newer Novec™ 1230, FM-200® nevertheless provides an number of features which makes it the most widely used clean agent system throughout the world. These include speed of suppression, space saving benefits and safety.

At Craneware, an automatic/manual FM200® fire suppression system was installed early in 2011 utilising a single container with 53kg FM200®. As part of the system a dedicated system control panel with system status indication and manual release control was located outside the entrance to the protected area. The system can normally be left in the automatic mode and used in the manual mode if works are being carried out within the room that could possible activate the smoke detectors. Early warning of fire is a pre-requisite and in accordance with the British Standard for electronic data processing BS 6266 automatic smoke detectors were used at an increased spacing density than would needed for a general fire detection system. Two zones are utilised to reduce the possibility of a false alarm activating the system and discharging the suppression agent unnecessarily. The system equipment is fairly compact and was installed over four day period.

The Dell system is almost identical and utilises a single container with 135 kg FM200® to protect the room and floor void space. This was installed in January 2015 and provides important protection to a vital service that Dell provide.

THE OUTCOME

The financial benefits can be realised by the security of business continuity, increased business resilience and customer retention. Most businesses struggle to continue after a fire. If there was a fire in either of the clients' computer rooms, an early warning fire detection and alarm system would activate the clean agent systems and help suppress the fire before significant damage could occur. Having no clean-up of extinguishant, an early resumption of business can take place. With this vital time saved, the system user can provide a continuous service to their customers. This ensures business continuity and resilience after a crisis caused by a fire and enhances customer confidence and ultimately customer retention.

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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