



PROJECT

Scottish Gas
Training Academy

LOCATION

Hamilton International
Technology Park, Hamilton,
Lanarkshire

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Utilities

PARTNERS

Carillion Planned
Maintenance

SOLUTIONS

Fire Detection

BENEFITS

- reduced fire and rescue call outs
- less interruptions
- more focussed training sessions

PRODUCTS

Multi State Sensor Fire
Detection & Alarm System

THE CHALLENGE

Scottish Gas is the trading name for Centrica in Scotland. Its main business is the supply of electricity and gas to businesses and consumers. As the largest supplier of gas it has a need for a comprehensive training facility and this is served by the Training Academy at Hamilton.

Comprehensive training is a requirement and at the Training Academy, the engineers are provided with all the training needs they need. As an example of the work carried out here, 70 of the 100 apprentices were recently trained as "Smart Energy Experts" This is part of a UK government programme which will see smart meters installed as standard in homes and businesses across Britain. The new meters indicates on a display in the home or business premises how much energy is actually being used at any given time and how much it this costs.

Due to the nature of the practical training there was a high incidence of false alarms being experienced with the fire detection system. During training demonstrations the system would be activated causing inconvenient interruptions to the days training, not to mention the unnecessary calling out of the Fire & Rescue service. There was clearly a need to reduce unwanted alarms.

Vipond were called in to investigate this issue and quickly established that the existing fire detection & alarm system was unable to differentiate between boiler fumes and actual smoke during training demonstrations.

The problem was identified that the fumes generated during testing were setting off smoke detectors in flue corridors.

"a more sophisticated smoke sensor was required"

THE SOLUTION

A thorough survey of the premises determined that a more sophisticated smoke sensor would alleviate this issue.

Vipond are a Notifier distributor for fire detection & alarm equipment. Notifier are part of Honeywell International, one of the foremost manufacturers of fire detection systems in the world. This high end equipment would provide the key to the problem. The Notifier Smart4 intelligent Multi-Criteria Detector combines four separate sensing elements to act as a single unit. It combines CO sensing to monitor carbon dioxide from smouldering fires, infra-red sensing for measuring ambient light levels and flames, optical smoke detection and heat detection.



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“resolving
the false
alarm issue”



The detector dynamically adjusts the detection profile of the device in response to input of characteristics normally associated with fire. In this way nuisance alarms can be avoided. A single loop Notifier Pearl fire controller was used. This uses Notifier's class leading Opal digital protocol, onto which, the detectors and other associated devices are connected.

THE OUTCOME

This resolved the false alarm issues at the Scottish Gas Training Academy and paved the way for uninterrupted training. The benefits of changing the fire detection system are not only realised by removing the inconvenience of false alarms but also from the ongoing effects of these unwanted alarms.

In terms of lost hours for the trainees, this is something that can be measured in pounds and pence. However the effect to people being interrupted whilst they are trying to understand and grasp a new subject cannot be easily measured.

As far as the training officers are concerned, being able to seamlessly move through the training programme without interruptions must remove frustrations and by consequence, improve the flow of the training. As a result this enhanced environment will bode well for customer service from Scottish Gas.



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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