



SMS ensures domestic bliss at Hendon Waterside

Just 30 minutes from central London, Hendon Waterside is a flagship regeneration project and an impressive Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that is transforming the local area's landscape. This mixed-use commercial and residential development overlooks the Welsh Harp Reservoir – 170 hectares of open water, marshes, trees and grassland – and is helping to create a thriving, cohesive and sustainable neighbourhood.

Developed by Barratt London, Hendon Waterside will deliver 2,000 residential units throughout a 10-year programme. It comprises four distinct tower blocks – three eight story structures alongside a 26 floor building called The Vista, which is made up of 142 apartments with a range of on-site amenities including a two storey underground car park. Each of the apartments in The Vista has been thoughtfully designed with modern living in mind and the entire building boasts a state-of-the-art building services infrastructure.

Occupant safety is a primary concern, which is why Hendon Waterside insisted on having the most innovative life safety solution available. Kent based Firenso had already been involved with one of the eight storey structures called Lakeview and was initially asked to configure a fire detection system for the car park at The Vista.

Matt Holness, Managing Director at Firenso, takes up the story and states, 'As a longstanding SMS distributor, we have always found its products to be incredibly reliable and cost effective, with superb technical back-up. For the car park at The Vista we designed a solution comprising of an analogue addressable SMS SenTRI TWO loop-based system, 200 SenTRI heat detectors and 25

SenTRI sounders and believed that would offer the requisite level of protection.'

SenTRI TWO is an EN54 approved networkable panel, which can be configured with up to two detection loops, accommodating up to 200 devices per loop. This ensured that the solution configured by Firenso would be flexible enough to accommodate any further expansion if necessary.

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Once the car park project was completed, Firenso's expertise was then called upon for the rest of The Vista's life safety system. 'We were asked to design a solution that could not only monitor the fire detection devices, but also the sprinkler and power monitoring system,' comments Holness. 'We decided to install a EN54 certified SMS SenTRI FOUR control panel, which can manage up to four loops of up to 1km in length. This was complemented by approximately 450 devices including the SenTRI SEN-720 analogue addressable heat detector, which features powerful software algorithms to minimise unwanted alarms – something that is incredibly important in these types of environments.'

Fitting the devices was also quick and easy thanks to the design of the SMS products. Holness adds, 'Some manufacturers put electronics in their bases and when high voltage tests are carried out this can damage the units. SMS doesn't, so obviously this can't happen, and when it came to commissioning we were simply able to slot the sensor in the base.'

Signals are collected from a number of external systems such as the automatic opening ventilator (AOV) equipment within each block and the car park extraction systems. The Vista has sprinklers in each of its 142 apartments, which are monitored by four way channel interfaces. These then signal back to the SenTRI FOUR, which also has to indicate the status of main power supply and the standby source. Both SenTRI TWO and SenTRI FOUR panels were networked together in order to provide complete coverage.

Firenso was also presented with another significant challenge, when it had to configure a custom built panel that could allow the fire service to see the status of the entire system and identify what is happening in each area. In addition, when the sprinkler system is activated the fire service is also automatically alerted and this is achieved through a specially configured cause and effects matrix. Commissioning of these relatively complex cause and effects was made easier by the powerful programming options within the SMS SenTRI system, offering unrivalled levels of functionality and flexibility.

Salvatore Scozzaro, Development Manager at Barratt Residential Asset Management, is responsible for planning essential services and managing the team of estate staff at Hendon Waterside. He concludes, 'It has been a real pleasure working with Firenso and I feel completely satisfied that its specification and installation of a life safety infrastructure from SMS offers residents the best possible protection from the potentially devastating consequences of fire. We were so pleased that we recently awarded Firenso the maintenance contract for the fire detection, emergency lighting and sprinkler systems and I'm looking forward to working with Matt and his team as the site progresses.'