

National Waterfront Museum – Redetec editorial

Tailored Fire Products has announced it has provided Redetec rack enclosure fire control systems for the protection of IT rack enclosures and equipment cabinets for the National Waterfront Museum project in Swansea. Redetec was specifically chosen by the electrical consultant for the project because it offered significant technical and user benefits and substantial costs savings. The Redetec systems were installed by Chubb's, Bristol office.

The museum showcases Wales's industrial and maritime history and is a major part of the regeneration of the Swansea city area. The museum is set to open in the autumn of 2005.

During the design of the project an area of concern was the ongoing protection of the critical IT equipment racks. The distributed design of the IT networks made room total flood fire protection an expensive option. Instead, Darren Ferson of McCann & Partners, Cardiff, chose Redetec. As Darren recalls "designing adequate critical systems fire protection solutions was a headache because of the infrastructure needed to support a room total flood solution, not least because we didn't have or need heat replacement or air handling systems. Instead I chose Redetec, because of its ability to be quickly and very easily installed within the equipment racks, with almost no installation time and at very little cost".

Redetec units are mounted within each IT rack and provide continuous smoke detection and fire suppression via in-built clean gas delivery. As each Redetec unit is completely self-contained, installation time is all but eliminated. The system is designed to operate continuously, even when the room is occupied.

Redetec is a rack mounted unit which detects fire conditions within the control equipment rack itself, thus giving early indications of alarm conditions before any possible fire escalates to a critical stage. The unit has the ability to detect fire on either a single or co-incident operation via point type or VESDA smoke sensors. Fire suppression gas options include FM200 and NovecTM1230.

Once a fire condition has been reported to the main processor and after a preset delay period the extinguishing agent is released into the cabinet and the fire is extinguished. Redetec has the added advantage of having ventilation fan control which can be shut down during fire alarm and re-initiated to ventilate the enclosure after a release.

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