

Cooper Controls give green lighting boost for Great Ormond Street

The opening of the Mittal Children's Medical Centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital is helping define new standards for energy efficient buildings. Energy-saving lighting controls from Cooper Controls are playing a key role in efforts to deliver the UK's greenest medical building to date.

The centre features a wide range of energy saving technologies, with a glazed façade making the most of the available natural daylight. To ensure that energy consumption is minimised, the wide use of daylight sensors ensures that artificial lighting is dimmed or switched off whenever daylight levels permit.

The system uses a range of area controllers and lighting control modules for zoned lighting control –making use of motion sensors in areas of variable occupancy. These sensors trigger the system to dim the lighting to a pre-determined level for 10 minutes, when no people are detected, before switching off completely. This ensures that anyone stationary in the space has warning well before the lights go out.

Another interesting feature of the system is the response to mains failure or interruption. Instead of switching the lighting to 100% as would normally be the case, the system switches affected lighting to a pre-determined level (typically 10%) to avoid disturbing patients unnecessarily. The lighting system was proved and tested in conjunction with a Menvier emergency central battery system supplied by sister company Cooper Lighting.

The building lighting may also be controlled from a central PC that enables monitoring of system performance as well as reconfiguration of the lighting zones and schedules to keep the building in tune with changing patterns of use over time.

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