

Leeds Beckett Case Study

Leeds Beckett University

Leeds Beckett University
Leeds, West Yorkshire, England

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Leeds Beckett University (formerly Leeds Metropolitan University and Leeds Polytechnic) is a university located in Leeds, West Yorkshire with campuses in the city centre and in Headingley. The Headingley Campus comprises of 64 buildings (116,320.38 Sq m) and the City Campus comprises of 31 buildings (88,421.17 Sq m).

Background to installation

The university has a long-standing and successful relationship with Schneider Electric and has used the company for various solutions throughout its electrical infrastructure, primarily the low voltage (LV) distribution metering. This new project forms the next evolution in the relationship.

All projects have the same overriding objective: to modernise the university's systems to bring them in line with present standards, and in doing so, make energy usage more cost effective and sustainable. A key aspect of this is intelligence, which is especially important for a large-scale institution like a university, as the benefits of intelligent infrastructure tend to scale exponentially with size.

Solution and benefits

Leeds Beckett chose to install the Schneider Electric IFE Interface for LV circuit breakers, Compact NSX-E, BSCM. This solution was chosen as there was an increasing need to improve the monitoring of power supply and usage, and it offered greater flexibility and functionality over panel meters.

The university as a whole needs to be more accountable for power consumption, as the sustainability team are always looking to find ways to drive down usage wherever possible. The Schneider interface provided the raw data to enable decisions as to where and how power consumption could be cut by giving greater visibility into how the building was performing. As the product uses industry standard protocols and is Tested, Documented and Validated Architecture (TVDA), the electrical team knew that it could trust the integrity of data and quality of the product and installation.

Another important function of the solution is that it has made maintenance of the existing infrastructure easier and more effective. The interface made it simple to monitor breaker status and wear and tear, allowing the team to spot problems in the system before they could escalate and cause damage. Components could be changed straight away, preventing any breakdowns and systems outages.

While the sustainability benefits are longer term, as they are dependent on ongoing analysis of data, the maintenance benefits have been instantaneous. Generally speaking the team has much more confidence over the system's integrity, and they are looking forward to rolling out the interface into other buildings when the opportunity arises.

There were also very few problems with the installation of the interface, especially given that it was a new product that the university had not used before. Schneider Electric technical support were a huge help at easing the transition and helping the electrical contractors install the systems by selecting the correct components for the panel build.

The future

Initially, the solution has been deployed in one building as part of a wider refurbishment plan. The university's electrical engineers are always consulted whenever new buildings are refurbished and the Schneider Electric interface will be a recommended solution wherever it can be incorporated. This will be especially beneficial as any energy and cost savings will be amplified each time the solution is installed.

The team at Leeds Beckett are always looking to embrace new technologies, especially when they help regulate power consumption and deliver sustainability and cost benefits. Schneider Electric are one of their key partners in this drive to modernise the university's infrastructure.



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At Schneider Electric, we call this Life Is On.

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