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*Frank Collins
Maintenance Manager,
Controls and Energy Facilities and Services Division*

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type:
Building Management, Security

Location:
Perth, Australia

Edith Cowan University

The Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia, consists of five campuses that serve 20,000 students. It is an open, lively environment with people entering and leaving buildings all hours of the day. Like most modern higher education facilities, the university is anxious to offer students and staff a healthy indoor climate and personal safety. TAC® has been providing the university with building management solutions for over a decade.

Named after the first woman elected to the Australian parliament, Edith Cowan University (ECU) is a forward-thinking institution noted for its innovative courses. Students here strive for the very highest levels of excellence, as does the university’s board of directors.

TAC was selected as supplier in 1991 to design and install intelligent building management and security access systems. University campuses today are often large complexes consuming vast amounts of energy and water. TAC understood that any money saved from reducing building operating costs could be ploughed back to where it is needed most—student education.

THE CHALLENGE

TAC was asked to design a system that could control and monitor a wide variety of different building functions such as ventilation, day and nighttime energy use, chillers and boilers, and air quality. It had to include all five campuses yet be centrally monitored from offices located elsewhere in the city. To retain the open atmosphere, the campuses and teaching facilities would need a series of unobtrusive security measures that would guarantee student safety and prevent campus crime or unlawful trespassing yet not interfere with university life.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Increased security for students and faculty
- Ability to remotely monitor five separate campuses from central location
- Decreased operating costs

Edith Cowan University

THE SOLUTION

Three Perth-based campuses now have a state-of-the-art Contactless Smart-card-based access control system that is linked using ECU's existing IT Ethernet. It controls over 160 doors and can handle 20,000 unique users.



Future smartcard applications include library database and e-Purse functions. The system also integrates with other security systems such as CCTV and security alarms. The Building Management System controls all aspects of daily indoor environmental operations via constant readings from 3,500 measuring points. This data is transmitted to 14 TAC Vista™ Workstations, which use the ECU Ethernet to pass information from one building to another and allow system access from any site.

THE BOTTOM LINE

"We have been using the TAC Building Management System since 1991 and have found it to be very reliable," says Frank Collins, maintenance manager, Controls and Energy Facilities and Services Division. "We have been able to expand and upgrade our systems when required over the years, and we will continue to grow with TAC."

EDUCATION PROFILE

Students have high expectations when they select a college or university. They require a quality education and campus experience at a reasonable cost. State-of-the-art facilities, safety and security are of primary concern. In order to meet rising expectations within this cost-sensitive market, colleges and universities must invest wisely in their facilities as a strategic asset to recruit students and attract faculty and staff.

TAC has proven experience in working with higher educational facilities to take advantage of building management solutions that maximize energy efficiency and performance. This leads to a reduction in operating costs and enables the reallocation of saved resources to new programs for students within the same budget.

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