

When justice meets power

We have contributed technology to the new Parramatta Justice Precinct in Sydney – a showpiece development designed for the efficient administration of justice and a model of energy management and conservation.

The Precinct was the first NSW Government building designed to achieve a five-star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.

The \$300 million, state-of-the-art project features our power control distribution and monitoring technology, including more than 100 PowerLogic power meters, 50 custom-made distribution boards and six main switchboards incorporating our technology.

Our energy management proficiency infuses the high security complex of nine trial courts, a new six-court complex for hearing children's matters, a 20,000 square metre administration centre and a refurbished hospital.

"This is a landmark energy management project on any scale," said Star Group Project Manager Ric Fewtrell.

"Power quality is vital – you can't afford to have power interrupted when you are delivering sophisticated services to as many as 15 courtrooms at once – not to mention the major audio-visual centre, X-ray and other security systems, health support services and enormous data processing demands. Energy supplies and quality have to be protected to the highest levels."

Site electrical contractors Star Electrical specified our solutions because they were readily available at short notice and backed up by our expertise in energy management.

Our energy-monitoring technology allows management and analysis of the day-to-day costs of efficiently running the lifts, lights, heating and all the mechanical and electrical services associated with operating the entire site.

The Power Logic technology allows the end-user to drill down to the final distribution board to access all current, voltage and power parameters.

"Given that buildings in general consume one third of the world's resources – and [in Australia] use 42 per cent of [our] energy – it's only common sense that





Our Switchboard Manufacturers Sales Engineer Robert Christensen (left), and Star Group Project Manager Ric Fewtrell



major projects such as this be used as a showpiece for more sustainable practices,” Mr Fewtrell said.

Schneider Electric’s Switchboard Manufacturers Sales Engineer Robert Christensen, who worked with Star Electrical and switchboard manufacturer SMB Harwal Electric Pty Ltd on the project, said the close relationship between Schneider Electric and the Star and Harwal groups helped ensure that a very tight project was delivered on time and on budget, despite several challenging design reviews.

“The flexibility of the technologies chosen was also important. For example, dozens of Masterpact NW air circuit breakers were selected for the critical role of switching up to 2500A. Many were used to switch between mains supply and generators, and when the scope of the works was extended to incorporate synchrocoupling [SCTT] transfer, they were able to accommodate the task as part of their standard mode of operation.”

The Parramatta Justice Precinct was constructed by Brookfield Multiplex for the Attorney General’s Department.



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