

## De Montfort University Goes NetVu Connected for Enhanced Campus Security

- Vertical Market: Education
- Country: UK
- End User: De Montfort University
- Integrator: Security Design Services

Leicester-based De Montfort University has adopted an advanced NetVu Connected surveillance solution from DM Fusion member Security Design Services to maximise the safety and security of its 20,500 students and 3,240 staff. De Montfort is one of the most successful of the UK's new universities founded in the 1990s and has already established an international reputation for the quality of its professional, creative and innovative education

### A New Beginning

The new infrastructure at De Montfort which went 'live' in August 2007 reflects the University's desire to be at the forefront of technology and innovation in all areas of its operations. It is a positive example of the way that the latest networked digital CCTV technology can be applied, successfully, to protect large scale and diverse campus environments. Already a number of educational establishments have expressed an interest in following De Montfort's lead after visiting its new state-of-the-art CCTV control room - at the heart of the scheme - to witness the solution in action.

DM Fusion installer Security Design Services has been a key driving force behind this large-scale project, working in conjunction with the Estate Services and Security team at De Montfort, to create and install a CCTV solution which meets their current and future security demands.

Key elements of the ambitious scheme include the linking back, over fibre, of 21 geographically dispersed campus buildings - using a number of Digital Sprite 2 DVRs (Digital Video Recorders) from Dedicated Micros and the associated user-friendly NetVu ObserVer GUI (Graphic User Interface) - to a new control room in the Estates Services and Security building at the Leicester campus.

Additionally, Security Design Services has installed (26) smaller ECO4 DVRs to link-back 26 lifts at various locations across the campus, over the network, and has also started a rolling upgrade programme of existing CCTV cameras by fitting the latest Dendard 2060 and 2040 dome cameras - including those at the multi-million pound Kimberlin Library - for both internal and external monitoring.

### Taking a Seamless Approach

Commented Steve Critchlow, General Manager, Security Design Services "We are extremely pleased with the positive response to the work we have already undertaken at De Montfort. The project was initiated back in May 2007 and from the start it was decided to adopt a Dedicated Micros solution to deliver the key elements of the project. Crucially, going down the NetVu Connected route has allowed us to put the Estate Services and Security team in a position to monitor CCTV cameras across the campus by removing the legacy - and disparate - monitoring systems sourced from multiple suppliers."

Mr Critchlow is enthusiastic about the new CCTV infrastructure at De Montfort: "It is definitely a more practical proposition than what was in place before in terms of operation and maintenance, especially given the reputation which systems from Dedicated Micros have for long-term reliability and ease of use. Moving forward, the Estate Services and Security team can now tap into a much more capable seamless NetVu Connected solution."

### Remote Control

The potential for remote viewing and centralised control is undoubtedly a key benefit for De Montfort, supported by the ability to readily call-up and distribute networked video footage, and, crucially, to provide a fast response to incidents wherever they might occur on the campus.

Mr Critchlow underlines the benefits of connecting all of the CCTV elements together as opposed to local review: "Previously each building on campus had its own individual closed system so security staff would have to leave the security offices and physically go to the building that had called in an alert and then if the incident was over they would have to check through the video footage to find out about the incident. Now they can do this remotely from the control room and direct security officers or, if required, the police to an incident."

In terms of the rationale for installing CCTV cameras in lifts and the associated ECO4 DVRs across the campus, said Critchlow: "Having CCTV in place provides vital reassurance during breakdowns and safety and protection for staff and students. Should an incident occur the images can provide valuable information in terms of who is actually in a particular lift and in the event of an emergency their condition."

The NetVu Connected solution developed by DM Fusion installer Security Design Services has been designed with the future demands of the University in mind so it can be easily scaled-up with new cameras or DVRs dropped-in with minimum disruption to day-to-day operations. Other security elements can also be integrated into the solution and already the CCTV cameras act as a backup for the existing access control system.

