

# State-of-the-art Data Centre

This year saw the delivery of a state-of-the art Data Centre for the University at its new King's Meadow Campus.



- Primary data facility for the University.
- Provides resilient power and network infrastructure.
- Fire cell is rated to withstand 1000°C for 90 minutes.
- 230kw diesel generator is double the size of the existing generator at Cripps Computing Centre.
- Completed in partnership with the Estate Office and suppliers.

central IT systems including its financial database, Student Records, Human Resources, Portal, the central filestores and the access points for the JANET and EMMAN networks.

Key to completion of this project was the partnership between Information Services, the University's Estate Office and a number of suppliers.

The design of the facility was based on industry best practices, the lessons learned from the existing data centre at Cripps and facilities at two global IT solution and service companies, CSA Malaysia (who installed the Data Centre at the University's new Malaysia Campus) and Hewlett Packard, Germany.

It called for the complete clearance of an existing video editing studio at the former television studios at King's Meadow, which took some two months. Once this part of the project was completed, the project team worked closely with suppliers and Estate Office colleagues to develop what is now the primary data facility for the University. It is supported by a second existing data centre at Cripps Computing Centre, University Park Campus in the event of a major disaster.

The new Data Centre has been designed around a fire cell to provide a secure environment and has a perfectly balanced room temperature so that the equipment functions efficiently.

A new equipment preparation room has been provided so that equipment, such as new servers, can be set up, checked and tested before being fully installed in the main data room.

Also included in the design is a room uninterruptible power supply to provide continuous power until the standby generator kicks in automatically. This ensures that critical systems are kept running if there is a power failure.

The new Data Centre is also fully sound and fire proofed.

*"Because the requirements were so specific and detailed, we needed to work very closely with everyone involved in the project,"* explained Chris Tadman, IT Operations Team Leader.

Suppliers on the contract included: Comms Room Services, Cranton Electrical Co Ltd, Power Installations, Clymac and Eaton Electrical Ltd.

*"We were really pleased with the relationships we built with our suppliers. One contractor travelled up every week from Berkhamstead to act as our project consultant and this meant that we could concentrate on our own role in delivering the centre,"* said Chris.

One of the projects within the Information Services Connected Campus initiative, the Data Centre was commissioned in May and was officially opened at a special ceremony in November 2006.