

# SYSTIMAX®

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## SOLUTIONS

## World-Class Infrastructure for World-Class Education

### FSFR data cable underpins Notre Dame's IT standard for international studies facilities

The University of Notre Dame's reputation as a leader in higher education extends beyond its American homeland. In its world-wide international studies programs for its students, the University sets the same, uniformly high standards. A central part in this is played by the technology available to faculty, staff and students to support the educational process.

At the Notre Dame London Center, close to the city's famous Trafalgar Square, networked systems give the same access to information enjoyed on its US campus. The key to this is a network infrastructure that integrates US and UK IT facilities. On both sides of the Atlantic, SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions (SCS) was chosen to support Local Area Networks (LANs).

"We have standardized, worldwide, on SYSTIMAX components including cables and the 110 connector system," said Shawn P Sexton, Director of Network Engineering in the University's Office of Information Technologies. "When contracting cabling projects, specifying SYSTIMAX SCS, end-to-end, ensures a high quality product and fully trained installers."

Separate LANs in London, Notre Dame and other sites are connected via leased line links to provide e-mail, server access and interaction between administrative



Marian Kennedy Fischer Hall  
- Home of Notre Dame's London Classroom/Office Building

systems. The total solution is able to carry voice services and even supports streaming video. In London, the 200-outlet local network also supports building access control and a security system that includes networked security video cameras.

In addition to setting worldwide quality and performance standards, the University also applies common safety criteria to the cabling it specifies. In the US, its LANs are based on SYSTIMAX Fire Safe Flame Retardant (FSFR) data cable. This uses fluoropolymer insulation that has high ignition temperature and burns slowly at low temperature. These features reduce the risk of flame spread in spaces through which cables are routed.

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*Shawn P. Sexton, Director of Network Engineering, Office of Information Technologies, Notre Dame University*

Across North America and Mexico, FSFR type cabling is mandatory when unenclosed cable runs in spaces that also serve air conditioning and ventilation systems. In Europe, this is not the case. The University of Notre Dame, however, would not accept a different standard for its London Center.

"FSFR cable offers a familiar safety standard for similar applications in the US and UK," said Shawn P Sexton. "In addition, we have found it is robust and easy to install."

The London building, which is listed as being of historical importance, houses both academic and residential facilities. During the day, up to 150 students may be using classrooms, computer labs, galleries and common rooms on the premises, so fire safety is a priority. Even when empty, a serious fire on the site could be particularly costly. The building itself is of architectural significance, and there has been major investment in its systems and facilities.

Slow flame propagation with FSFR data cable allows more time for buildings to be evacuated and fire fighters to arrive. Its low temperature burning also reduces heat damage and the rate at which other materials are ignited.

The margin of safety this provides ensures that cabling, on which advanced systems depend, will not bring extra risk to users. It can also have economic benefits in the form of lower insurance premiums and less damage if a fire occurs.

"Technology afforded by the systems in London is an enabling factor for our faculty, students and staff," said Shawn P Sexton. "They enjoy comparable levels of information access to their counterparts in the US, and also benefit from the same level of cable fire safety."

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