The management of the five-star hotel InterContinental in the heart of downtown Sydney opted for a cost-efficient modernization of its fire safety system with the unique, intuitive Cerberus PRO fire protection system from Siemens.

The project
InterContinental Hotels & Resorts is an international luxury hotel brand with a tradition that goes back over 70 years. This tradition is reflected in the elegant InterContinental Sydney, which welcomes its guests to a beautifully restored building dating from 1851. There are 509 air-conditioned rooms, some with a scenic view over the harbor and the famous Sydney Opera House, a heated indoor pool on the thirty-first floor, 15 spacious conference rooms and one of the best restaurants in town. The entire complex provides an ambiance where guests as well as personnel feel safe and comfortable. In order to not disturb this atmosphere with irritating false alarms, and to avoid any unnecessary work and associated costs, a reliable fire protection system was required.

The challenge
In many areas of the hotel, factors like steam, heat and smoke can trigger false alarms; for example, in the hotel kitchen, in guest rooms or in the spa area. This creates unnecessary costs, is irritating for personnel and guests and can harm the hotel’s reputation. For this reason, InterContinental Sydney wanted a fire protection system that reliably detects real fires but which is also immune to false alarms to a very high degree. The existing cabling also needed to be incorporated into the new system in order to minimize costs, impact to guests and interruption to the operation of the hotel. The Siemens Solution Partner AlgoTech Fire Services PTY LTD recommended the Cerberus™ PRO fire protection system to fulfill all of these requirements.

Unique fire protection for InterContinental Sydney with Cerberus PRO
Modernization using existing cabling reliably protects guests and staff while dramatically reducing false alarms
The solution
The Cerberus PRO fire protection system has proven to have no rivals. It is the only system in Australia that can offer the InterContinental Sydney the required high level of immunity to false alarms. This is assured by the patented, unique ASAtechnology™ applied in the fire detectors that reacts sensitively and immediately to real fire situations and more robustly to deceptive phenomena such as steam.

The system consists of 600 ASA neural fire detectors installed throughout the hotel. Additionally, the system is made up of a wide range of different detectors and manual call points, all adapted to the specific needs of each area. The detectors are connected to a network of two Cerberus PRO fire control panels with a single fire terminal, allowing full monitoring of the entire system.

It was also possible to incorporate the entire 20-year-old cabling system as required. A danger management station from Siemens was installed to provide operators easy control of the detection system with graphic support: with a few simple clicks they have full control of each detector.

The benefit
The modernization was completed quickly and almost unnoticed by guests as it did not involve any cabling work. As a result, the InterContinental Sydney not only saved installation costs, they also prevented any loss of bookings. All rooms could continue to be occupied during the entire system modernization. “We’re very happy with Cerberus PRO. Now we can have peace of mind that both guests and staff are maximally protected at all times,” says Andy Goonesekera, Engineering Director at the InterContinental Sydney. “And we can trust that we’ll save the high costs for false alarms.” Since the system has been installed there have been no false alarms generated in the hotel from steam or other deceptive phenomena.

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