SELF-TEST FOR
DATA CENTRES

BACKGROUND

In line with escalating market demand, many data centre operators are developing their global expansion programs – stretching from the Americas to Europe and Asia. Fire protection services are a vital, and often complex, piece of the puzzle when designing and building new data centres, so working with the right partners and the latest technology is key to ensure centres are safe, secure, and can continue to operate effectively without interruption from system downtime.

GBE Converge provides expert, independent, and bespoke Fire Solutions covering all aspects of system design, installation, and support.

GBE were chosen to work with a global data centre end-user to develop fire protection solutions for a new data centre project in the Outer London area. As a Honeywell partner for more than 20-years, GBE has expanded from a UK footprint to become one of Honeywell's preferred data centre partners in the whole of Europe. The choice to bring Honeywell in to facilitate this project was well-founded.

"GBE Converge recognised during the tender period that the Honeywell GENT and Xtralis Product ranges would be the ideal solution for this type of project."

– DAVE COLLINS,
UK CONTRACTS DIRECTOR
FOR GBE CONVERGE

"It's great to see our partner and the end-user have the confidence in the new technology that we are deploying in critical infrastructure projects."

– JURGEN VAN GOETHEM,
VP/GM BUILDING AUTOMATION EUROPE

Honeywell

THE CHALLENGE

Fire protection systems prevent incidents that could take a data centre offline. These systems are governed by strict regulations, including a requirement for periodic functional fire system testing. Fire engineers typically perform manual tests on each detector, but this process has some limitations. Testing detectors one by one during commissioning takes time and can delay data centre deployment. Once online, data centres have strict access control protocols. This complicates the task of reaching each detector for mandatory compliance checks.

THE SOLUTION

Honeywell Self-Test detectors use physical smoke and heat to functionally test each detector automatically. An engineer can launch the Self-Test process using the CLSS app on their mobile device without being physically present in the same room. The system records the results for each detector and indicates potential causes for a failed test, making it easy for engineers to plan and execute repairs.

Self-Test technology is scalable for different size data centres and can provide a standardised approach to fire protection across all the facilities in a portfolio.

"Although not in our original design brief, an internal decision was made during the pre-construction period to engage with Honeywell GENT and introduce their Self-Test detector range to the project due to the construction commissioning time constraints and complexities of future maintenance access within a data center environment."

– DAVE COLLINS,
UK CONTRACTS DIRECTOR FOR GBE CONVERGE

"Honeywell has been a provider of fire protection solutions for decades, with VESDA Aspirating Smoke Detectors an already established standard in the data center industry. Our commitment to ongoing innovation has led to Self-Test technology with the potential to improve operational efficiency during commissioning and maintenance."

– JURGEN VAN GOETHEM,
VP/GM BUILDING AUTOMATION EUROPE

THE OUTCOME

Honeywell Self-Test detectors substantially reduce the total cost of ownership for fire protection systems by saving time on commissioning and maintenance tests. They also solve the accessibility problem of data centres to make it easier for operators to comply with regulations. Self-Test technology lowers the risk of a fire incident and the associated data centre downtime.

"Rely on our technology because it is mission critical. Every second that the data center is down, the cost to the end user is incredible. We are trusted to provide reliable detection technology that lowers fire risk to eliminate down time."

– JURGEN VAN GOETHEM,
VP/GM BUILDING AUTOMATION EUROPE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Data centres around the world fire up the answers to every Google search request you make!

- The AI market is growing at 37.3% per year and data centres serve as the critical infrastructure supporting the AI ecosystem.[1]

- Over 60% of data centre outages result in at least $100,000 in total losses.[2]

- A single minute of downtime costs tech companies an average of $9,000[3]

- The global Meta-outage in 2021 cost the company $164,000 per minute[4]

1. https://technologymagazine.com/articles/the-new-era-of-ai-and-its-impact-on-data-centres
2. https://uptimeinstitute.com/about-ui/press-releases/2022-outage-analysis-finds-downtime-costs-and-consequences-worsening
3. https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2024/04/10/the-true-cost-of-downtime-and-how-to-avoid-it/?sh=2eda66bb5a1e
4. https://www.marketwatch.com/story/facebook-outage-by-the-numbers-largest-outage-ever-tracked-could-cost-millions-11633387093

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