



8 Canada Square - HSBC headquarters



8 Canada Square – HSBC headquarters cradle replacements no tall order for PTSG



8 Canada Square is the global headquarters of HSBC Group, a 45-floored skyscraper standing 200 metres high. When two of the building's maintenance units (BMUs) became defective, PTSG's London-based Access and Safety division, Integral Cradles Ltd, was commissioned by HSBC to replace the existing units with warranted replacements.

This huge glass building is home to over 10,000 employees, and so this project had to be carried out at night to avoid disruption to its operations. The operation posed unique challenges for the project team; due to foundation restrictions around the building, a mobile crane could not be used and as such all materials had to be sized and moved using the goods lifts.

The two new BMUs were installed to comply with current safety and quality requirements and the existing track system was refurbished. The previous systems were removed and environmentally disposed of, while the new machines were designed to fit within the goods lift to be transferred through the building during the night.

Access to the roof was challenging for the project team, as a significant amount of other plant and equipment is situated on top of the building. With this in mind, the project team worked on a design using scaffolding to lift the equipment from the upper floors to the roof, without disturbing any of the existing plant.

Key to the success of this project was the pre-testing of the units, which took place at the product manufacturer's factory in Madrid, to ensure the BMUs were safe and fit for purpose.

Working closely with HSBC's project teams meant the replacements were delivered in a timely, safe and environmentally conscious manner to the satisfaction of this key client. The project's successful completion resulted in excellent feedback from the client, with a positive response given to both the product manufacturer, GiND of Madrid, for the quality and reliability of products, and also to PTSG's technical team, for its safe and timely delivery.

As a result of delivering this unique project, PTSG has been awarded a five-year ongoing maintenance contract with JLL to look after the equipment for its lifespan. The partnership the team has developed with HSBC and its building partner has led to the Access and Safety division now being responsible for the whole access portfolio at 8 Canada Square, and is a further testament to the team's expertise.