



## PTSG Building Access Specialists Ltd – Interserve/MITIE

### BBC Broadcasting House





PTSG Building Access Specialists Ltd offers specialist high-level cleaning, installations and reparations to commercial, industrial, residential and public buildings.

Its technicians recently completed an extensive clean of all the windows at the famous BBC Broadcasting House.

## About the building

This iconic building is located in Portland Place and Langham Place in central London. The first radio broadcast from the building was made on 15 March 1932, and the building was officially opened two months later, on 15 May. The main building is in the Art Deco style, with a facing of Portland stone over a steel frame. It is a Grade II\* listed building and includes the BBC Radio Theatre, where music and speech programmes are recorded in front of a studio audience.

With its accentuated front section bearing a clock tower and aerial mast, the building has been compared to a ship. The Architectural Review of 1932 described it as the «new Tower of London». It is strangely asymmetrical, because designer G Val Myer had to adapt his first plan when local residents complained about the shadow the building would cast on houses in Langham Street, and their loss of natural light.

Broadcasting House was restored after being bombed twice during the Second World War, and has recently undergone further extensive renovation and extension. New Broadcasting House is now open, and is one of the largest live broadcast centres in the world, with facilities including 36 radio studios, six TV studios and 60 edit/graphic suites. It houses BBC Radio, News and World Service.

## PTSG's specialist services

As the photographs show, PTSG used a combination of methods to access all windows in the nine stories above ground level. The windows at the higher levels are generally accessed by our abseil experts.

Abseil – or rope access – is widely recognised as the safest and most effective method of accessing the façade of a building. Rope access equipment has the great advantage of being lightweight and is therefore easily mobilised on site. This enables PTSG's engineers to install and remove all equipment quickly, causing minimal disruption and saving valuable time. Another advantage is that it is less obtrusive physically and visually, compared to scaffolding, for example.

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In this project at BBC Broadcasting House – as with many other projects – rope access was used in combination with reach-and-wash poles to reach all windows.

PTSG also utilises mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs), ladders and, where necessary, scaffolding to perform a variety of specialist services including cladding cleaning, graffiti removal and high-level installations.

