

The Siemens logo is displayed in a teal, sans-serif font within a white rectangular box. The background of the entire top section is a photograph of a multi-story brick building with many windows, and an American flag is visible on the right side.

SIEMENS

The MXL[®] to FireFinder[®] XLS Total Migration Solution

Modernizing to an advanced fire safety system saves
the Federal Government time and money

usa.siemens.com/mxl-migration

A Federal government facility on the East Coast needed to add a fire alarm system to a new building on their multi-building network, creating the perfect opportunity to upgrade the campus' existing fire alarm control panels to more advanced, state-of-the-art technology. The aging installed system would eventually require replacement and was limited in compatibility with new technology and emerging life safety advances. Furthermore, the components used in the existing system would only become more difficult to secure, resulting in higher procurement and maintenance costs.

Customer objectives

The customer had to balance operating under tight budget constraints, leveraging past investments, and ensuring buildings, people, and assets remained safe. Due to the nature of the customer's business, it was critical to preserve the continuity of business operations; the system needed to be fully operational at all times during the upgrade. Also, the installed base of MXLs at the facility had a lot of required hardware in the existing panel cabinet that would have to be accounted for in the new system.

Siemens solution

Because the customer wanted to standardize on a single fire safety platform, the Siemens Solution Partner managing the project recommended the MXL to FireFinder XLS Total Migration Solution. This would allow them to realize their preference to have a system that could handle the "latest and

greatest" life safety advances while maintaining consistency across their fire system. More importantly, it would cost the customer far less than taking out the installed system in order to install a common system across the network. The Siemens Solution Partner was able to help the customer apply and receive funding for the project by leveraging the installation of the new panel with the economies gained from reusing the equipment, wiring and devices in the existing system. This made it financially feasible for them to upgrade to a premium system.

Since downtime was not an option at this mission critical facility, the Siemens Solution Partner prebuilt and pre-programmed the FireFinder XLS panels. This included creating a replica network in a controlled environment to ensure that all panels were communicating properly, that the proper panel operation was occurring, and that all necessary material was included prior to performing the system change out.

The migration then began, one area at a time, from the MXL to FireFinder XLS platform, ensuring minimal disruption to daily business. The Style 7 network supported the simultaneous operation of both networks and ensured that the facility would provide non-stop fire protection even while the migration was being implemented.

Answers for infrastructure and cities.

Obtaining the “latest and greatest” technology without the cost

The FireFinder XLS solution allowed the customer to migrate all existing devices into one standardized platform. This provided the customer with a cost-effective solution that would ensure code compliance, continuity of communications, and the opportunity to expand in the future.

In addition to a new fire panel and upgraded fire system, the Siemens Solution Partner also recommended the addition of an NCC management station. This would give the customer a centralized point from which to view and respond to events on the networked panel. The faster processing speed of the FireFinder XLS also allowed voice paging, smoke control and fire detection to be integrated on the same panel.

The project also included the installation of new intelligent detectors with **ASAtechnology™** that can quickly and reliably analyze the environment for fire, smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide while providing protection against false alarms. The new system was faster and stronger and had features to ensure business continuity without unnecessary and costly interruptions.

Customer results

The migration addressed the customer’s requirement for the most advanced technology available. It also provided the customer with a wider range of detection from which to select when they need to change or add an area to the system in the future. The Siemens Solution Partner was also able to ensure the continuity of business operations during migration and that the upgraded system was compatible with a planned Mass Notification System (MNS) expansion. This allowed for the customer to develop a long-term budget for future projects. It also allowed the customer to obtain the “latest and greatest” technology without the cost of replacing all the initiating devices. This was critical in making this project a success as it allowed the Siemens Solution Partner to present a project solution that delivered premium features at an affordable price. To provide the same functionality, any other company would have had to install a new system that would have cost more in time, money and overall resources.

Existing materials were used, preventing landfill waste, and ionization detectors were replaced with environmentally friendly, RoHS-compliant detectors in support of sustainability practices promoted by the Federal government.

Highlights

- The MXL to FireFinder XLS Total Migration Solution allows the reuse of existing MXL wiring and devices
- Preserves initial fire alarm system investment and saves on projected costs allocated for equipment maintenance
- Full system functionality and coverage is maintained throughout the upgrade process
- Migrated system more easily supports advanced technologies such as MNS
- Upgraded system is compatible with intelligent devices for more precise detection options
- Siemens devices align with Federal Government sustainability initiatives

- Use existing backbox (in most cases)
- No construction or heavy equipment is required
- Specially designed adaptor plates allow the MXL backbox to accommodate FireFinder XLS electronics
- Inner & outer doors are replaced for MXL compatibility
- Retain existing devices
- Import MXL device information from CSGM into Zeus
- Adapt remote annunciators



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