



Francis Crick chooses Open Minds HAS solution to provide redundancy of their BMS system giving them less than one-hour downtime per year

Kendra Energy Solutions supply Schneider Electric: Continuum and StuxureWare EBO server with Open Minds HAS solution

Introduction:

The Francis Crick Institute opened in 2016 as a brand-new Biomedical Research Institute. The facilities operate to investigate the fundamental biology that underpins human disease in the 21st century. With over 1,553 rooms, 12 floors and around 1,000,000 square feet it is the biggest biomedical research facility under a single roof in Europe.



Based in the heart of London, it brings together over 1,250 scientists from over 70 countries around the world. Using an industry-approved building management system was vital for such a large building; however, it was equally important that the BMS solution stayed up and running with minimal downtime. Francis Crick and their BMS partner Kendra Energy Solutions used Open Minds HAS solutions to make this happen.

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[Sarel Cilliers from Kendra Energy Solutions.]

The Solution:

Being a state-of-the-art building means having a reliable building management system, so when a trusted BMS solution was required the decision was taken to install a Schneider Electric BMS solution. Owing to the size of the facility, this comprised of a hybrid system where the control layer was built around the established Continuum platform of controllers, and the supervisory layer was built around the StuxureWare Enterprise solution (EBO).

The Continuum servers control the settings of the site; however, nothing is viewable through them. The EBO server sits on top of Continuum controllers - this is where the graphics reside, and it is the actual user interface into the system. The EBO server is where an administrator or technician would log in to see what is happening.

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Said Sarel Cilliers from Kendra Energy Solutions.

What would happen in the event of downtime of EBO and Continuum servers?

In the event of a failure of the EBO Server the technicians would know straight away as the system is monitored 24 hours a day. Nonetheless, no one would have any access to information, this includes the scientists working in the one of the 1553 room, depending on what has caused this outage, be it the power, network, software issue, there would be no visibility of the site for the duration of the outage.

"As we have split up the function of the site onto the Continuum server the site would continue to run as per its last settings. The danger lies in the fact there would be no visibility going forward and you would not know what it is doing."

Said Sarel

If the Continuum servers were to fail too, this would be catastrophic as the whole site would grind to a halt. So, using the Open Minds HAS solution on both the EBO server and Continuum servers gives us the extra resiliency required in a site like this which requires 24x7 365 uptime.

Open Minds HAS solution ensure the site has four nines uptime (99.99%), this level guarantees less than one-hour downtime for the entire BMS system over a year – that quite something when you think about it!

Bipin Patel – Open Minds

To give an example; the EBO server also monitors the freezer farm. "If we look at this in context, the farm contains biological samples from experiments - some of these go back years." The farm interfaces with the EBO system where an alarm alert is activated should there be a problem with the temperature control. The first port of call would be a trigger of this alarm alerting someone to logon to the freezer farm webpage to review and resolve this issue. "If this alarm does not work, it could lead to denatured samples and render them useless"

- Sarel, Kendra Energy Solutions.

Working with Open Minds?

Open Minds are a specialist team of individuals who have outstanding knowledge when it comes to High Availability and Disaster Recovery solutions. Their Open Minds HAS Solutions has been tested, validated, documented, and approved by the Schneider test labs in Andover to work with the EBO server. The solution has been part of the Schneider portfolio since 2001 and has been used on a whole host of Schneider BMS solutions from Sigma, Vista, Continuum and now power monitoring expert (PME) and (SturxureWare/SmartSturxure) EBO.

“As a company Open Minds provides a personal experience, knowing who to go to for support, even knowing the engineers by name, this makes it easy for us when recommending their solution as we know we are going to get full support through the entire process. No need to go through layers and layers of support people, being given various ticket numbers and response times. You talk straight away to highly skilled technology-minded people who know what you are talking about, exactly how the site is implemented and how the products are used. Open Minds breaks down the whole process very quickly.”
Sarel Cillers – Kendra Energy Solutions.



[About Francis Crick Institute](#)

The Francis Crick Institute dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease. Our work is helping to understand why disease develops and to translate discoveries into new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, infections and neurodegenerative diseases.

An independent organisation, our founding partners are the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, Wellcome Trust, University of Central London, Imperial College London and King's College London.

In the words of the director Paul Nurse of The Francis Crick Institute.

“ Sometimes I look up at what has been achieved here, and I can't quite believe it. To produce what is probably the most advanced, interesting, and exciting biomedical research laboratories in the world a cathedral of science that will push back the boundaries of our understanding to help society tackle and deal with human disease. All under one roof in the heart of London”



[About Kendra Energy Solutions](#)

Kendra Energy Solutions is a leading provider of Intelligent Building Energy Management Systems controlling the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning services within large commercial and high-end residential buildings.

We provide smart solutions to help customers optimise the intelligent control and performance of their buildings.

We offer a comprehensive portfolio of BeMS project installations, maintenance support services and energy solutions throughout the whole life of a building.

As a result of our close partner relationships with leading Building Energy Management System manufacturers and the experience within the business, we can deliver substantial year-on-year energy savings to your business.

[About Open Minds High Availability Solutions](#)

Born in 2001, Open Minds High Availability Solutions Ltd was a thriving solution centre for the UK, Ireland and Gulf region. Our initial offerings included SIOS Technology, a High Availability and Disaster Recovery solution, and we swiftly added to this with OP5, an enterprise-class monitoring solution.

Since then, it's been an incredibly satisfying journey defined by providing a rich and ever-growing client network with full sale cycle, Lead generation, software development, implementation, training and consultancy.

Along the way, we have diligently developed bespoke apps and value-adding tools to optimise the solutions we provide our delighted customers.

The road has been paved with achievements, and we're adding to these advances daily. Now we look ahead to the next exciting chapter in the unique journey of Open Minds. We're adding new products to our portfolio including ServicePRO (a highly acclaimed work-flow process and help desk solution) and further focusing on introducing pioneering new technologies to the EMEA market.

www.openminds.co.uk