

Case study

About Philips

Philips is the UK arm of the global brand, Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands, one of the world's biggest electronics companies and Europe's largest.

Philips employs over 2,500 people in the UK. They are deployed across a wide spectrum of business activities that embrace the key platforms of Philips dedication to providing healthcare, lifestyle and technology based products and services.

All UK activities are co-ordinated from a modern head office complex in Guildford, Surrey.

Philips chooses to partner with those organisations that share their environmental beliefs. GK Industrial, one of the leading providers of environment managed solutions, was therefore appointed to manage the internal environmental project at the UK headquarters of Philips.



Philips

The challenge

In recent years, climate change has led thousands of UK organisations to reassess the comfort of their employee environments. Faulty or underperforming air conditioning systems, alongside rising energy usage, have been the catalyst urging companies like Philips to undertake a review of the effectiveness of their air conditioning systems.

Philips had been experiencing issues with its underperforming internal air conditioning system. Lower productivity levels were becoming more evident, as the number of employee complaints relating to the uncomfortable environment spiralled. An internal survey confirmed that the temperamental nature of the air conditioning system was having a detrimental impact on staff performance.

Philips therefore appointed GK as its preferred partner to support its sustainability policy and to help improve the office environment. The ultimate aim was to vastly improve the working environment for employees, whilst minimising the impact on the environment and reducing the cost of utility bills.

The solution

In order to get to the root of the core issues faced by Philips, GK offered to conduct a free survey that would examine the condition and performance of the air conditioning system. During this initial survey, a number of faults were discovered by GK's experienced engineering team. Philips subsequently commissioned GK to carry out a further thorough examination of the system to determine the full scale of the problem. Amongst other issues, the team at GK discovered that the boiler and systems were coming on at inappropriate times during the day and night, leading to cost inefficiencies.

On completion of the comprehensive survey, GK put forward a commercially viable solution that answered the internal and external environment needs of Philips. The options of an expensive upgraded system or a new installation were discounted by GK. The existing air conditioning system was found to be sophisticated enough to be adapted in terms of its usage. The maintenance of the system therefore formed a key part of the solution, leading to significant cost efficiencies that would benefit Philips and the environment over the long term.

Philips subsequently awarded GK a contract to supply ongoing maintenance and management of the existing air conditioning system, a contract reflecting the true partnership between Philips and GK.

The success

The partnership with GK has brought about significant cost savings for Philips as a direct result of eradicating the need for a substantial investment in upgrading the system. Philips has already benefited from cost savings on its energy bills, adding real value to its sustainability policy.

Lorraine Andrew, Group Facilities Manager, Philips UK Headquarters commented: "The investigations that the GK Industrial team carried out meant that we did not need to invest in upgrading or installing a new system, but look to a much more cost-effective ongoing maintenance contract of our existing system, working with GK Industrial."

"The GK team is now part of our facilities management team and we currently have two of their engineers on site full-time dealing with any remedial issues with the system. They also share an ongoing dialogue with our employees to ensure the conditions within the building remain at an optimum level for working conditions."

About GK Industrial

As a specialist installation and maintenance provider of environment managed solutions, GK Industrial Ltd aims to manage climate control and energy efficiency issues on behalf of its many national clients in the retail, food, commercial, industrial and public sectors.

The company's portfolio covers the entire spectrum of installing complete air conditioning, heating, ventilation, refrigeration and energy efficient lighting systems, to providing service maintenance contracts for both GK installed and client adopted systems.

For more information on how GK can benefit your business contact our Business Development Team on:

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