



National Air Traffic Service



National Air Traffic Services (NATS), has recently had built a new BCO award winning 23,000 sq. ft. Technical & Corporate facility at Southampton in order to support the 1000 strong air traffic control centre at nearby Swanwick.

Part of architects Aukett Fitzroy Robinson's brief was to design a building that had large areas of glazing to provide a high level of natural light and colour.

To comply with part L2 of the Building Regulations and to prevent excessive heat gain, it was decided to cover the glazed areas of the new facility with external aluminium solar shading aerofoils that reflect the short wave radiation from the sun away from the glass thereby preventing overheating within the building in the summer months. As well as being functional, the aerofoil louvres provide a stunning architectural feature that creates a hi-tech look to the building.

2800m of 'Paragon' louvre system was fixed though the façade directly onto the curtain wall mullions. These vertical louvre arrays were made up of tear-drop profile 350mm deep blades finished in Ral 7037 powder coating and canopy blades amounting to 330m, were 250mm deep.

The new 'Parafix' bolt fixing system was utilised on this project to ensure that thermal expansion and contraction was allowed for in extreme temperatures, thereby eliminating the possibility of buckled heat stressed metal.

Par Louvre Systems worked closely with the architects to ensure that the right louvre aerofoils were chosen for the project and were awarded the contract to supply and fit the system by Waring Contractors Ltd the main contractor working on behalf of the client.

"We were very pleased with the installation that Par Louvre Systems carried out on this project," pointed out one of the project architects from Calvin Grant.

Par Louvre Systems - Bespoke by design.