

Client: The Pirbright Institute  
 Sector: Life Sciences  
 Project: Schneider Continuum  
 Controller Replacement  
 Project Value: £3.6M  
 Date: Nov 2021 to May 2025



## Our Client's Need

The Pirbright Institute had a requirement to replace obsolete Schneider Controllers in their SAPO 4 Virus Laboratory Facility. The controller replacement works had to be planned around grant funded science works, which could not be disrupted. They needed Grationeer Ltd to provide a Project Manager and Site Manager to manage the delivery of the project and ensure minimal disruption to Science Programmes.

## Services provided



## Benefits Delivered

- Grationeer Ltd's in depth knowledge of SAPO 4 buildings to enable the project delivery.
- Commissioning documented and witnessed in line with user and bio-safety requirements, including 100% alarm testing.
- All aspects of the project managed by Grationeer Ltd autonomously, allowing the client to focus on their day-to-day activities.
- Grationeer Ltd produced monthly PM reports and attended monthly Project Board meetings on behalf of the client.

## Works Completed

Since the controllers were being replaced with the same manufacturers equivalent, there was no need to tender the works. Grationeer Ltd did work with the procurement team to negotiate the contract.

Grationeer Ltd set out the plan of works and requested timings for each controller from Schneider. Grationeer Ltd used this information to develop a 3-year programme to carry out the works without disrupting science work. This plan was developed in conjunction with Lead Scientists so it would not impact their studies. The controllers were categorised based on criticality to allow lower criticality areas to be scheduled around high criticality areas. Dates planned for high criticality area were fixed, so these were prioritised in the programme. Then the remaining controllers were planned around these.

Grationeer Ltd set up a Programme Working Group (PWG) and a Technical Working Group (TWG) as part of this project. The PWG involved Science Heads who were given an update as the project progressed and were informed of any changes to allow them to communicate to their teams. The TWG met weekly to discuss any technical items that could impact the delivery.

The critical areas were made up mainly of SAPO 4 high containment labs and the controllers had a direct impact on the containment barrier systems for these areas. Grationeer Ltd produced risk assessments for the site team to review and approve in order to allow the works to go ahead. Prior to this, a SWIFT study was facilitated by Grationeer Ltd to establish and manage risks to containment system, which was used as a basis for the risk assessments.

Grationeer Ltd provided a dedicated Project Manager and a Site Manager for this project. Due to the complexity of this project in terms of the number of science teams being affected, a dedicated Site Manager dealt with the daily activities and resolved any issues at the time. This allowed the Project Manager to focus on managing any technical issues and reporting requirements.

On completion of commissioning, Grationeer Ltd generated the handover documents in line with the site's Project Information File (PIF). This was followed by a presentation created and delivered by Grationeer Ltd to the site to formally handover the project. The project was successfully handed over in May 2025 within the agreed budget.

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