



Port Canaveral Safeguards Visitors with Integrated Fire Alarm AND Emergency Voice System

Port Canaveral has been home to many historically significant battles. It's considered one of the world's fastest growing ports, and is at the epicenter of international space exploration. To showcase local triumphs from present and past, the Canaveral Port Authority built a new 23,000 square-foot, seven-story visitor center, aptly called the Exploration Tower. Considering its more than 350 daily visitors, plus weekly events of more than 1,000 guests, the safety of its patrons is of paramount concern.

To meet Florida Building Code and Florida Fire Prevention Code, the Canaveral Port Authority deployed the Intelliknight 5820XL-EVS fire alarm and emergency voice system from Silent Knight.

The Silent Knight Standard

Several years ago, the Canaveral Port Fire Department conducted a review of fire alarm and emergency voice systems, and selected Silent Knight systems as the standard for the entire Port Authority.

"We standardized on Silent Knight to gain compatibility across the port, avoid the finger-pointing that sometimes occurs with multiple vendors, and achieve economies of scale," said Bill Hammond, Chief Building Official at the Canaveral Port Authority. "Silent Knight is equivalent to the Kleenex brand in fire alarm panels – we can go to any supplier and know they are familiar with the product."

A Leader in Cross-Connectivity

The Tower's new system was required to be compatible with other building and security systems, such as HVAC and access control, to meet local codes. "For example, we are required to have pressurized stairwells and elevator shafts so that in the event of fire, smoke won't enter when the door or elevator is opened," explained Hammond.

The facility has its own audio visual (A/V) system used for its theatre, videos and other interactive exhibits. The Intelliknight 5820XL-EVS interfaces seamlessly with the A/V system to enable emergency alerts to take precedent over other general announcements.

"The Intelliknight system can override the A/V system during an emergency so that evacuation notifications can be heard loud and clear throughout the building — critical to protecting patrons as effectively as possible," said Hammond.

To power the speakers and strobes of this robust notification system and meet code-mandated audio intelligibility require-



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ments, Silent Knight amplifiers are distributed on four floors to ensure power where it is needed. By eliminating the common fire alarm configuration where all speaker and strobe wire is home-run to amplifiers, the IntelliKnight amplifiers' ability to be placed where needed greatly reduced wire runs and installation time.

IntelliKnight at Work

As the only high-rise building at the Canaveral Port Authority, the Exploration Tower was required to build a restricted fire command center (FCC) on the first floor, accessible by only emergency personnel and Hammond himself, to house the IntelliKnight 5820XL-EVS control panel and other integrated solutions. The IntelliKnight system interfaces with the facility's stairwell smoke pressurization control panel, elevator status control panel, and the Area of Assistance two-way communication panel, all of which are located in the FCC. This same fire alarm control panel also monitors sprinkler flow switches, as well as a range of smoke and heat detectors and manual pull stations.

According to Hammond, Silent Knight has taken the lead in cross-connectivity with its ability to seamlessly interface with third-party life safety systems. "Silent Knight is as close to an industry standard as there is," added Hammond.

Silent Knight's IntelliKnight systems offer great value when it comes to the line's non-proprietary nature, making equipment readily available, and authorized to be installed and maintained by any licensed fire alarm dealer. For the Exploration Tower, this open platform simplified the system's installation greatly.

"We were able to run the wiring in parallel and share labor and materials between contractors to help us meet our aggressive schedule," stated Hammond.

'Easy to Service, Hard to Break'

Hammond has also been very impressed with the performance and reliability of the IntelliKnight integrated fire alarm and emergency voice system. "The IntelliKnight system has been problem-free since installation and no issues with false alarms to-date," confirmed Hammond. The team has not had to service the system either. "Silent Knight systems are easy to service and hard to break, so it has been a great investment for us."

Intuitive Information

As one system offering full-blown fire alarm and emergency communication functions, the IntelliKnight 5820XL-EVS is both economical and straightforward to operate. The control panel's simple user interface makes it easier to interpret information, which leads to faster and more accurate response times in an emergency. Being an addressable system, it also provides an abundance of details concerning the cause and location of an alarm.

"It delivers a lot of information. We basically cannot miss where the alarm is going off," stated Hammond. "With so much critical information tied into the 5820XL-EVS, our emergency response team can react swiftly and intelligently, in real-time, to direct occupants to safety."

"Our fire department has been so impressed with the Silent Knight solution, and the IntelliKnight 5820XL-EVS in particular, that they will not look at other options at this point"

*– Bill Hammond
Chief Building Official
Canaveral Port Authority*

For authorized personnel and first responders to gain quick access to system information, the Exploration Tower opted to place a remote fire alarm annunciator in the main lobby. The Silent Knight 5860R Annunciator provides the same level of information as can be seen on the fire alarm control panel, along with all of the same control functions, such as alarm acknowledge and silence.

A Strong Endorsement

As the standard fire alarm solution for the Canaveral Port Authority, Silent Knight systems have been installed in nearly all Port buildings and will be the solution of choice for any new builds going forward.

"Our fire department has been so impressed with the Silent Knight solution, and the IntelliKnight 5820XL-EVS in particular, that they will not look at other options at this point," concluded Hammond. "That is a strong endorsement."



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