



Lookers sets its sights on enhanced life safety with SMS Fire Detection

With a history dating back to the earliest motor car, John Looker established Lookers Group in 1908. Based in Manchester, the company originally dealt with the sale of bicycles, parts and accessories, and the occasional used car. However, recognising the huge potential for these new four wheeled vehicles, in 1910 it opened a garage in Hardman Street, which thrived to such an extent that it had to be completely rebuilt to accommodate the business generated by the popular Ford vehicles.

A combination of organic growth and acquisitions has played a major part in the company's progression and its extensive portfolio now provides access to a wide range of used cars from 31 major manufacturers. Lookers' Head of Purchasing Derek Parry, says, 'We take health and safety within our workshops and showrooms very seriously and have commissioned our long-term partner, Data Fire & Security, to upgrade the fire detection systems across our North East sites.'

Newcastle upon Tyne based Data Fire & Security's aim is to give sound advice and excellent levels of service. The company's Managing Director, John Shaftoe, explains, 'We've worked closely with SMS for over five years and have always found its products to be incredibly reliable and cost effective, with superb technical back-up. For the Lookers programme, after carrying out comprehensive fire risk assessments we decided that a solution comprising a fully addressable, analogue addressable SMS SenTRI TWO loop-based system, along with FAAST aspirating smoke detection equipment would offer the best protection for assets.'

SenTRI TWO is an EN54 approved networkable panel, which can be configured with up to two detection loops, accommodating up to 200 devices per detection loop. Asked why aspirating smoke detection was considered the most suitable option, John replies, 'The height of the roofs in the garages and showrooms would have made the installation of conventional systems problematic. Therefore, with reduced potential for unwanted alarms, as well as easier maintenance and testing, it was the obvious choice.'

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10 locations have been completed so far. In some of the remaining sites Data Fire & Security will be installing SMS' recently launched IP67 rated call points and wall mounted sounders in the wash down areas, which protects against access to parts such as electrical conductors, solid foreign objects and the harmful ingress of water.

Lookers' Derek Parry is delighted with the progress made and concludes, 'We don't take any risks when it comes to protecting our staff and customers from the potentially devastating effects of fire and smoke. Therefore, knowing that we have expertly installed and maintained state-of-the-art equipment in place to provide the earliest possible warning gives us valuable peace of mind.'

SMS is part of Honeywell

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