

**Industry: Building Management**

**Products Used: FX PLCs /// SCADA**

# PLCs help Futures and Options trading

A network of Mitsubishi PLCs controls the incoming telephone call system at the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (LIFFE). At its offices on Cannon Bridge in the City of London, LIFFE has the largest trading floor in Europe. Its daily turnover is £133 billion and there are over 600 dealing booths, all equipped with telephones.



Booth managers need to monitor the trading pits and take telephone calls. LIFFE approached Sipher, data systems specialists, to supply an intelligent system to alert traders of incoming calls. It needed to be easily reconfigured and versatile to suit changing trading patterns.

Sipher designed and installed the entire Incoming Call Light Control System (ICLCS) that basically uses a large flashing beacon on the top of each booth to alert traders of incoming calls. Even if traders go into the trading pit, they can still see when a call is waiting, giving them greater control and coordination when doing transactions.

The system design is based on a network of 54 Mitsubishi FX Series PLCs. A Mitsubishi Electric SCADA package operates and oversees the entire network from a central PC. The PLC network interfaces with the telecommunication system in a simple but effective manner. When a call comes in the telecommunication system sends a signal onto the network

to the appropriate PLC, which then activates the beacons. The SCADA software allows engineers at LIFFE to view all dealing booth configurations graphically and in full colour, and lends itself perfectly to remote reconfiguration of the booths via the intuitive screens.

According to Phil Hall, Manufacturing Director at Sipher, the PLCs perform excellently, "We were very impressed with the FX PLCs. They are compact, but powerful, and extremely easy to use. Mitsubishi Electric's local distributor Prolocon have been very helpful and provided superb technical support throughout the project."

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Prolocon recommended the FX because of its many built-in features. Steven Dockree, Sales Director at Prolocon comments, "For the complex logic involved in changing booth patterns LIFFE needed a PLC with a large memory and fast processing speeds. We originally looked at larger units, but the FX's 2K step memory proved more than enough. Its built-in special functions made the system's complex design extremely easy". The Incoming Call Light Control System has proved extremely reliable and LIFFE are very pleased with its performance.

*Application story first released January 1996 by Mitsubishi Electric UK*