

# AN IDtech ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR SUEZ GROUP BUILDINGS: AN ENVIABLE REFERENCE

## Electrabel

GDF SUEZ



*Interview with Marc Brohez, technical manager for the Electrabel Suez building in Avenue Ariane in Woluwe-St-Lambert near Brussels, which houses the group's engineering activities. Marc Brohez is a key person in the running of the building. He is responsible for all the technical and low-voltage aspects, with particular expertise in checking the installation, operation and maintenance of access control and intrusion detection systems.*

One of his tasks has been to standardise the system and the access control in the Ariane building on behalf of the people working in the building and of the many members of staff from other Electrabel sites who regularly visit.

### **IDtech, SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF INTEGRATION**

In collaboration with the security integrator responsible for coordinating the operation, Securitas (since renamed Niscayah), Electrabel launched an invitation to tender to identify specialist, recognised partners able to satisfy the requirements of a company like Suez Group in the area of access control and video surveillance. What was needed was a platform to integrate the access control, intrusion detection and video surveillance systems. Having carried out a number of on-site tests, IDtech was selected for its access control expertise and the technological possibilities for integrating its systems with all the other systems for monitoring the building. IDtech also had the advantage of already having installed other access control

systems, gaining the potential for trust and knowledge of the structures of the Electrabel Suez group.

Collaborating with the security integrator, IDtech developed and adapted programs to enable the access control system to be used in accordance with the company's needs together with video surveillance and intrusion detection.

As IDtech had already worked on similar projects in the past, and has a team of programmers specialising in the field, it was able to fulfil the requirements to perfection.

### **EQUIPMENT WITH NATIONAL SCOPE TO VERIFY AND AUTHENTICATE PRESENCE**

Most of the group's buildings are equipped with IDtech systems - in Namur, Antwerp, Ghent and other towns, and all the buildings in the Brussels region.

All new and renovated buildings are automatically equipped with the system. 5000 employees, and the group's suppliers, use the tools (cards, card readers, keyboards) in place on an almost daily basis to ensure the perfect organisation of access control.

The priority aim is to verify, filter and authenticate the people present in the buildings, car parks and meeting rooms. Occasional visitors are given a card valid for a limited period. The system does not include time management facilities.

In general, there are three levels of access zone, classified according to the following criteria: general zone, accessible to anyone, sensitive zones with restricted access and very sensitive zones reserved for a few individuals. The cards, supplied by IDtech, are programmed by Suez.

The centralised surveillance of the video, intrusion detection and access control systems takes place either at a monitoring centre within the building or at the Niscayah remote surveillance centre, depending on the time of day and the building. Most buildings have external surveillance in the form of physical or virtual guards linked to the monitoring centres.



According to Marc Brohez, "This kind of system provides real convenience in terms of surveillance and controlled mobility for our staff and authorised visitors in our buildings across several sites in Belgium. Standardisation, with a single system in all the buildings, has replaced the variety of systems installed by different suppliers in our buildings, providing a number of advantages. For some of our staff, who have to travel between different sites within Belgium, a single card now gives access to all our buildings, and they no longer have to request authorisation to access each building separately. Generalising this integrated solution across all our new sites and adapting it to older buildings undergoing renovations provides real added value in managing our access control. We can quickly manage our data and authorisations can be modified, added or withdrawn with a single click. Each department controls its own card requirements for new members of staff or suppliers. Requests are centralised and acted on immediately."



### SECURE I-CLASS TECHNOLOGY IN SERVICE OF INTEROPERABILITY

The i-Class contactless memory card technology makes access control more powerful and provides security backed up by encrypted authentication.

This does not mean the system becomes more complex to use - quite the opposite. The convenience and reliability of the proximity card technology ensures it is easy and secure for all staff members and visitors to Electrabel and Suez buildings.

Optimised to increase the power of physical access control, the i-Class 13.56 MHz read-write contactless chip card technology provides flexible interoperability, and is used in a variety of applications, such as access control, network access security, verifying motor vehicles, managing events and biometric verification.

The use of the i-Class technology eliminates the risk of cards or personal data being copied. All the data transmitted between the cards and the readers is encrypted using secure algorithms.

i-Class complies with the ISO 15693 standard for memory card technology, enabling software developers to create multiple secure applications and invent a variety of extensions to the systems in place.

Card, tag and keyring authentication systems are perfectly suited for companies preparing for an upgrade from proximity technology and for applications using high-frequency chip card solutions.

The Suez Group is one company which has chosen this solution, offered and implemented by IDtech.

[www.idtech.eu](http://www.idtech.eu)



#### IDtech in brief

IDtech develops and markets high-tech solutions in the fields of access control, time recording, centralised alarm management and personalised badges.

75% of IDtech's staff is dedicated to customer service. IDtech has a considerable sales network made up of approved installers throughout Belgium. In addition, the company has a large network of international distributors, based in Thailand, Malaysia, India,

Pakistan, Hungary, Austria, France, Romania, Turkey, Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Ethiopia, Togo, Kenya, Malta, Morocco, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Cameroon and the United Arab Emirates. Its customer portfolio now boasts more than 6,000 companies. The number of people making daily use of IDtech's identification equipment worldwide is estimated at 3,000,000.