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### **Royal Festival Hall re-opens with symphony in fire safety**

The iconic Royal Festival Hall in London has re-opened to the public following a £91 million two-year refurbishment project to improve the auditorium acoustics, technical requirements and audience comfort and facilities.

As with any large public venue of this scale, improvement of the Hall's life safety systems were of paramount importance, which is why Prysmian's market leading FP range of fire resistant cables were specified to power the life safety and fire alarm systems.

Prysmian's armoured FP600 cable was specified in a range of sizes from 10mm<sup>2</sup> up to 95mm<sup>2</sup> for the sub-mains power distribution for essential life safety systems including the emergency lighting.

FP600 is the first of a new generation of enhanced cables to meet much more arduous fire survival requirements now demanded by regulators and specifiers, and is ideal for applications such as life safety systems, property protection and fire fighting systems in large complex buildings that must remain functional in the event of a fire. It is certified by Lloyds British Testing Ltd as compliant with the cable test requirements of BS7346-6:2005 and achieved the maximum 120-minute rating.

Project engineer, Mark Nutley, of environmental engineering consultancy, Max Fordham LLP explains: "Historically MICC was always used as the benchmark in the Technical Standards of Places of Entertainment regulations (Yellow Book), but FP600 is more cost effective as an installed product and saves both time and space because

it's a multicore cable. If we had opted for MICC, which many contractors are not keen to install, we would have needed to draw in additional cable."

Scott Moody, electrical technical services manager for main contractor ISG continues: "Working to strict time constraints on listed buildings requires accuracy and is helped by products that are easy to install and save time. FP600 halved the installation time than it would've taken using MICC cable and, because it's a newer cable, the bending radius is much better and it doesn't need to be clipped every 300 mm."

In addition, 35,000 metres of Prysmian's FP Plus Flex, an enhanced pliable fire resistant cable was also employed on the fire detection system, which includes a voice evacuation system.

"With almost 3000 people seated in the Hall at once, we needed an enhanced cable to meet the required survival time of 120 minutes in order to comply with BS5839-1:2002," explains Mark. "We chose FP Plus Flex over MICC because its semi-flexibility makes it more pliable and quicker to install in difficult installation routes."

For further information email [cables.marketing.uk@prysmian.com](mailto:cables.marketing.uk@prysmian.com)

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**Image caption:**

Royal Festival Hall Auditorium - image taken at the acoustic tuning concert on 28 April 2007, featuring the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Prysmian's FP600 fire resistant cable

**Note to editors:**

Prysmian Cables & Systems Limited (formerly Pirelli Cables) is the UK's largest manufacturer of power cables and accessories from low to extremely high voltage, for use in underground, overhead and submarine systems. Prysmian is the market leader in products for specialist applications, including hazardous area, fire performance and low smoke zero halogen. In a highly competitive and demanding market, Prysmian is able to call upon its world class research, design, manufacturing and distribution capabilities to meet the constantly changing needs of its customers. Prysmian is a supporting member of Voltimum.

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