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NHN Corporation Headquarters, Bundang, South Korea

Monday 12 Apr 2010

Eco-llaboration



NHN has just taken delivery of a 28-story building in Bundang, south of Seoul



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EDITORIAL

NHN Corporation opens 'green factory' building in Bundang

A collaboration between UK company Flexible Office in London Ltd, Samoo Architects and Engineers, construction management company HanmiParsons and Hyundai Engineering and Constructionis now complete. The completed structure in Seoul's business zone will act as the headquarters for Korea's premier internet company, NHN Corporation. The new complex provides a range of open plan meeting points and high density work areas. As NHN Corporation's request was to 'create outdoor areas inside the building', all communal areas of the building have been designed to receive fresh air throughout the year.

A bespoke WM Protek intelligent underfloor air-conditioning system was installed within the structure, specifically designed for the individual building. The stringent master plan design criterion was met by Flexible Office, who matched an array of natural materials and colours, whilst designing a range of work and meeting spaces which reflected the demand for an ecofriendly environment. The Flexible Office team was headed by Jackie Blanden and Rofu Miah – the only English speaking operatives on site, creating a further challenge to the development team.

Jackie Blanden, Export Sales Director said: "The work schedule was punishing with each day starting at eight in the morning and going through to seven at night - including the weekends. The day's work was usually followed-up with putting into action design and production issues during the evening." Rofu Miah, who was responsible for the inspection of all installations, testing and monitoring the units and commissioning before handing over to the building owner explains: "The work load and pressure were enormous with two months more-or-less on site - something that I had never experienced before. While communication was initially hampered by my lack of fluent Korean it also proved stimulating in as far as I had to make myself understood on some pretty technical issues - this obviously worked well as we delivered the installation on time and to budget."

Sian Disson Editorial Assistant

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