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MEDIA RELEASE

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Simplify installation with high quality, innovative products

With intense work schedules and mounting labour costs, the business productivity of electrical contractors can be hampered by limited time and money. In an effort to help them complete projects on time and within budget, contractors should be seeking new products and innovations that can help them achieve these outcomes.

There are numerous electrical systems and solutions available that have been designed with productivity and safety in mind. In order to keep up with – or even better, ahead of - the competition, it is important to be fully aware of these advances. Choosing quality products for installation and maintenance of electrical systems can make installation easy. This in turn can save time, increase profit and productivity and grow the business.

Cable distribution

Cable installation can be a tedious task for contractors using standard ducting products. If the cabling is difficult to contain within the fixture when trying to attach the cover, installation time can be impacted.

For cable distribution in retro-fit installations, *DL Plus Trunking (Ducting)* is an easy and simple solution for discreetly and safely housing cables. Its Cablegrip feature has a webbed function that holds the cables in place during installation.

DL Plus Trunking also has a unique base that's slightly wider than the cover. This lets a contractor position the base directly against corners, cornices and other fixtures without having to worry if the cover will clip onto the base.

Cable distribution using DL Plus Trunking can be efficient and improves the aesthetic appearance of the installation, further promoting a quality finish for contractors and customers.

Wire mesh cable management systems

The investment in cabling for new developments such as commercial buildings and major infrastructure projects can be enormous. From datacomms and low voltage power distribution cabling to heavy-duty armoured and high-voltage mains cables, the cable management system must be strong, safe, versatile and uncomplicated to install.

In virtually any type of installation, the inclusion of wire mesh cable trays, such as *Cablofil*, proves to be the ideal choice for cable management. The steel-wire welded mesh trays are a labour saving system in comparison to the more conventional ladder and perforated trays.

Wire mesh cable tray systems, like Cablofil, offer the benefits of simplified specifying and ordering procedures due to the flexibility of components and a reduction in the number of individual parts.

Wire mesh trays adapt to the most complex configurations and its structure gives maximum strength for minimum weight. Instead of bolting pieces together, systems such as Cablofil have a fast click mechanism, which saves time on installations. The ease of creating fittings and the wide range of unique accessories gives complete freedom in routing.

Productivity benefits extend beyond the tray itself. Support systems for wire mesh trays have been engineered for fast and secure installations with no screws, bolts or special tools required. For substantial or repetitive wiring projects, these systems offer significant productivity benefits.

The simplicity of Cablofil and the level of skill required means that apprentices and junior workers can install the job correctly. This not only addresses labour skill issues but also results in fewer errors, less reworking and less wastage.

Another advantage of cable mesh systems is the reduced possibility of occupational health and safety issues. Normal cable ladder and perforated tray systems tend to have sharp edges causing productivity loss when injuries occur. Cable mesh systems have smoother edges with some systems, like Cablofil, having a smart edge design eliminating these issues along with making it easier and faster to run cables without tangling and risk of sheathing.

Cablofil is suitable for all applications and environments including commercial buildings, data centres, food processing plants and infrastructure projects. Complying with fire test certification AS/NZS3013:2005, Cablofil meets all requirements for the most stringent and up-to date fire standards in Australia.

Track-based power system

Mainline is a cost-effective, innovative and flexible way of delivering power anywhere. Once connected to a power supply, this safe and simple busbar system creates a circuit around a room allowing access to power at any point along its length. For offices, retail stores, education facilities, hospitals and health care centres, as well as large scale residential projects, Mainline offers flexibility that traditional solutions don't and minimises the need for power boards and extension leads in any commercial environment, reducing potential safety hazards.

Mainline offers the flexibility of being able to safely add, remove or reposition 240V sockets as needed, saving on time taken with installing extra power outlets. It can be easily integrated into all interiors, including new constructions and refurbishments.

Track can be cut on-site and installed in a fraction of the time it takes to fit traditional fixed sockets. It can be installed as part of a ring or as a spur and is extremely durable with copper and recyclable PVC components.

With a number of installation options available, including surface mount, in-trunking and in-wall, Mainline can save time and money as well as offering the flexibility of being able to rearrange the layout of a room without having to worry about where the fixed sockets are positioned.

Track based power systems are a great solution when working on projects that have areas with restrictive options for running cables. Concrete walls are a common area where it's always been difficult to supply power outlets for clients. Track based power systems not only let you supply power outlets to clients, they also give the flexibility to move them when required.

Wireless switches

ZigBee* wireless switches maximise flexibility and control of everyday tasks. As no special wiring is required, ZigBee is the ideal choice for updating conventional installations where it is difficult to run new cabling. It gives contractors the ability to complete installations that would normally be rejected due to the difficulty of the installation.

For example, it allows switching from more than one point without the need for additional cabling, such as when you want an extra switch in the hallway of a unit block, or heritage building, with concrete and brick walls.

One installation option is to use an existing wall mounted switch as the actuator that receives signals from a battery-powered transmitter allowing two way switching.

* ZigBee international protocol design for control and sensing applications.

Another installation type is the remote mounted switching receiver that lets you place the unit in a remote location, such as a roof space, while using a battery powered transmitter switch to activate the receiver. The remote receiver can be used in any installation where you have restrictions with running cables from the lighting point to the location of the switch or when you want to locate a switch in a position where cables aren't an option either viably or aesthetically. This is common at the moment with glass walls being a regular fixture in many residential and commercial projects. All that's required to mount Legrand Arteor ZigBee switches on glass walls is double-sided tape.

The key advantage of the ZigBee system is the time saving benefits to contractors and the ability to complete jobs without having to either use visible cable conduit or outsource work to building contractors to patch walls and ceilings that had to be altered to run the required cables to allow switching. With no additional wiring required between the lighting point and the switch, the time to complete the task is significantly reduced.

Lighting management sensors

With energy efficiency being a key topic due to the increasing cost of resources, coupled with more stringent building regulations, lighting management has become not only more popular but a necessity in offices, hotels and educational facilities. Lighting management sensors ensure there is just the right amount of light when and where it is needed, reducing energy wastage associated with unnecessary lighting.

Where the standalone switch sensors are suitable for managing single or multiple areas, a networked Simplified Cable System (SCS) with sensors and room controllers are ideal for easier management of larger areas, such as an entire floor of an office building or a whole building.

Compatible with most lighting technologies, the setting and monitoring of the sensors is done via a remote control that allows two-way communication. This two-way communication not only lets the contractor make wireless adjustments to the unit, it also lets them download settings and upload them to the next unit. In the past, manually programming each unit individually was time consuming but this is no longer necessary. Once the settings are exactly as desired, simply download, hold in memory and then upload the settings to the next unit. All settings can be uploaded simultaneously saving considerable time. Larger commercial developments will receive significant benefits from this system, which can also be used in residential and industrial projects.

Using quality and innovative products offer many advantages to electrical contractors. Not only can they save significant amounts of time on site, they can help with labour management, as they can often be installed by less skilled workers. Simplifying installations can also reduce the health and safety implications sometimes associated with more complex products and systems that require additional reworking and labour.

Quality, innovative products can help improve productivity, letting contractors complete jobs effectively and efficiently. It is vital to consider these advantages when choosing electrical systems and to look beyond the initial cost of a product. There can be ongoing, long-term costs associated

with using cheaper products, which makes quality systems and solutions more attractive to the bottom line at the end of the project.

Tosh Bourke – HPM Legrand national commercial manager, is a former electrician. He has been with HPM Legrand for 11 years where he works closely with category managers to ensure suitable and viable products are launched to meet the market's requirements. He is also responsible for implementing strategies to promote these products into the market.