

RESILIENT, ROUND-THE-CLOCK BROADCASTING



INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST CENTRE/MAIN PRESS CENTRE LONDON, UK

Built to form part of the 2012 London Olympic Park, the International Broadcast Centre and the neighbouring Main Press Centre were designed to transmit the Games to over 100 countries.

BuroHappold Engineering worked closely with the rest of the project team to ensure the centres remained resilient throughout the Games. With communications going out all over the world, it was essential that both centres had the ability to remain in operation in the event of a power outage. In order to achieve this, we incorporated a central power generation plant that provided 32MVA of standby power, arranged on a two storey temporary gantry designed to ensure availability of 99.99%.

Flexibility for the future was a key requirement for the Main Press Centre, so we designed a space that could be easily adapted after the Games. Our team developed a modular grid that allows full flexibility, enabling the building to be configured to suit the requirements of future tenants.

Both buildings were constrained by tight budgets, a strict schedule and the complication of limited site access, which influenced our engineering approach. By prefabricating the structure and MEP plant off site, we were able to minimise the use of on-site labour and compress the overall design and construction programme to less than 24 months.

To meet ambitions of creating a sustainable, low energy Olympic Park, our team integrated a number of solutions to achieve an emissions target of 20% less than building regulations requirements. The facade design used regulates exposure to solar gain, while solar panels supplement the energy supply to the buildings. In the internal spaces, our team integrated 'smart' building technology to monitor the building's performance. The use of passive chilled beams cool and ventilate the internal spaces.

Following the development's success as part of the Olympic Park, BuroHappold was appointed to transform the Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre into Here East, a new digital quarter for London.

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