



Making lighting connection work for you

Flex Connectors has been involved in lighting connection and control schemes for many different types of buildings, including offices, schools & colleges, retail outlets, hotels and hospitals. Yet however different the schemes, the basic rules for success remain the same.

1) Pre-wired systems

Recent research has shown that pre-fabrication makes for more efficient construction. However, offsite solutions are still assumed to refer to modular buildings, with many people unaware that pre-wired lighting connection is also available.



Systems such as the flex 7 interconnection range, which can be designed, assembled and tested offsite, deliver considerable benefits and savings. The more elements that are connected together beforehand, the greater the potential to eliminate errors and reduce installation time and labour costs.

2) Energy-efficiency

Energy-efficiency is now an essential consideration in all lighting installations. Using a lighting control range that has been awarded Energy Technology List status proves the products have been independently assessed to ensure they meet specific energy-saving criteria.



Businesses which install them may then be able to claim Enhanced Capital Allowance on their spending. In addition, energy-efficient products like flex 7 networking sensors, which do not require complex programming or on-site commissioning, can help to make energy-efficiency a more achievable, less complicated and less costly goal.

3) The right products

Choosing the cheapest, lowest specification product is not always the best way to save money. Selecting the most appropriate, and easiest to install, product for each job is the best way to optimise the effectiveness of the installation.

For an industrial or commercial environment, it makes sense to use products designed specifically for that purpose. If a building's usage is likely to change in the future, choose a flexible range where all the products are compatible and a complete upgrade path can be achieved without altering the fixed components.

4) Added value

Some lighting connection manufacturers such as Flex Connectors offer a range of services which 'add value' to the products they offer and which can enhance the effectiveness of an installation.

"Some manufacturers offer services which 'add value' to their products and enhance the effectiveness of an installation".

These can include training seminars and product demonstrations; a quotations service for larger projects; technical advice on product selection and usage; and packaging and labelling of products to meet installation requirements, for instance circuit-by-circuit or room-by-room.

flex 7 news is designed to update you on the extensive range of plug-together lighting connection and control solutions available from Flex Connectors Limited to meet all your lighting connection and control needs. If you would like more details on any product or service mentioned in this newsletter, please contact us (see address details on p.3).

NEW - flex 7 extender range launched

As part of their interconnection portfolio, Flex Connectors has launched a new flex 7 extender range, consisting of single and twin extender leads, panel mount plugs & sockets and flexible interconnection units.

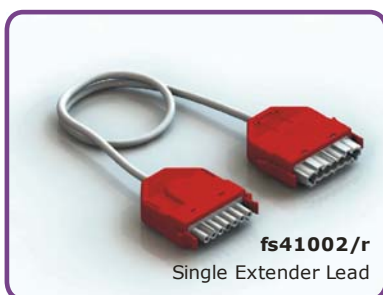
All items feature the unique flex 7 interface, are 16 amp rated and have all the advantages – flexibility, adaptability and ease of installation – associated with the flex 7 lighting connection range.

Designed specifically for industrial and commercial use, the flex 7 extender range plugs together quickly and easily. Fewer connections and less hard wiring reduce potential errors, saving time – and cost – on the installation.

The new flex 7 extender range comprises the following products:

- Single extender lead

The single extender lead eliminates the need to wire a lead to a luminaire before installation because the correct length is selected and fitted after the luminaire is in place, using a panel mount plug.



The flex 7 single extender is available in a choice of: white, red or black; pre-wired with 1.00mm² or 1.50mm² IsOh flexible cable; 3-core to 7-core; and in 2m, 3m and 5m lengths.

Other lengths are available to special order, as are metal or plastic flexible conduit and Flexishield™ leads.

- Twin extender lead

With all the advantages of the single outlet, the twin version also has a second outlet available to continue the circuit to the next fitting, using a second lead.

Where other products have a separate T-connector – doubling plug & socket connections and therefore potential faults – the flex 7 twin extender benefits from having an integral perpendicular second socket.



Where an occupancy sensor or ELV switch is used to switch the circuit, it can be plugged-in to any outlet in place of a luminaire or in the 'spare' end socket.

The twin extender is also a versatile way to assemble lighting chains on site, when the variable spacing of luminaires or restricted ceiling access make pre-wired chains less suitable.

The flex 7 twin extender is available in black; pre-wired with 1.50mm² IsOh flexible cable in a choice of 3-core to 7-core; and in 2m, 3m and 5m lengths.

Other lengths are available to special order, as are metal or plastic flexible conduit and Flexishield™ leads.

“Fewer connections and less hard wiring reduces the likelihood of errors, saving time and cost on the installation”.

- Panel mount plug and socket

Available in 3-, 4- and 7-pole versions, the panel mount units enable the flex 7 interface to be added to luminaires or other equipment, allowing flex 7 leads to connect to and from the equipment.



Panel mount plugs are designed for any equipment that requires a power input. They will accept either a single extender lead (socket end) or a twin extender lead (either socket or twin socket end).

Panel mount sockets are intended for any equipment that requires a powered output. They will accept either a single or twin extender lead (plug end).

- Flexible Interconnection units

A range of un-wired interconnection units with up to 20 outlets. The units are pre-fitted with plug & socket interfaces, so any length of pre-wired extender lead can be used for interconnection.



Interconnection unit (fi06p)

- Multi units

In response to the increasingly complex lighting installations which public buildings such as schools and hospitals now require, special flex 7 multi units for 2, 3 & 4 switches/sensors have also been introduced.

Available as interconnection units or with terminals, 2 – 4 pairs of

outlets allow 2 – 4 switch drops, ELV switches or occupancy sensors to be plugged in to control up to four chains of twin extender sockets or interconnection units. Up to four rows of lights can then be controlled separately.

- Common Interface

The unique flex 7 interface allows complex circuit layouts to be

constructed by mixing interconnection units, single and twin extenders and plug-in control devices.

If you would like to know more about the new flex 7 extender range, please call Flex Connectors on 020 8580 1066 or email marketing@flexconnectors.co.uk.

Educational standards

The flex 7 range includes many products and features which make it a particularly appropriate choice for the lighting and energy-efficient requirements of educational environments.

As a result, flex 7 is being specified and installed in many schools and colleges throughout the country. Recent projects have included the new Tresham Institute in Kettering; Matthew Boulton College in Birmingham; Aberdeen University; St Joseph's School in Swindon; and six new secondary schools in Kent.



St Joseph's School, Swindon

For classrooms, flex 7 can provide occupancy or absence sensing with override switching options. The installation of an absence detector ensures that lights will go off when the room is unused, but can also be manually switched on and off by a retractable wall switch.

For larger teaching areas, using a special flex 7 multi unit for four switches/sensors means up to four rows of lights can then be controlled separately. Other multi units are also available if required.

In regions where local education authorities prefer mains switching to ELV controls, this can be achieved simply and easily by replacing the sensor controllers with plug-in mains switch drops.

Where daylight linking is required, the addition of a daylight sensor controller adjusts the output of dimmable fittings to maintain a constant light level, compensating for available daylight.

All sensor and switch controls can be networked together, allowing different circuits – in a large laboratory, library or open plan space – to operate as one.

By networking sensors with the flex 7 timer unit, a simple-to-operate lighting management system is established. This is particularly useful in schools where the lights may need to be on all day, with

the sensors operating only in the evening and during the night.

The unit also incorporates a socket for an override switch to provide manual control if, for instance, the building is to be used for an evening event.



flex 7 sensor timer unit (ftu100)

Additionally, output from sensor control units can be plugged in to a corridor hold unit, which will ensure that an exit route remains illuminated whilst any space is occupied.

If you would like more information and advice on solutions for education environments – or have a project you would like to discuss with us – please contact Flex Connectors on 020 8580 1066.

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Growing connections...

As befits accommodation for young businesses which focus on the energy sector, the new Technium building at Pembroke Dock incorporates a range of energy-efficient lighting control products from Flex Connectors.

The £13 million facility at Cleddau Bridge Business Park is part of the Technium business innovation network. Its objective is to provide young technology-led, high-growth businesses in Wales with the support and facilities they need in order to achieve long-term growth.



The electrical contractors, Havenkey, installed flex 7 occupancy sensors and daylight-linked digital sensors, ELV switch leads and 7-pole connection units and plugs throughout the hub building and research facilities.

As well as the energy and cost savings which flex 7 lighting connection and control delivers, the flexibility of the range made it an ideal choice for an environment where the needs of the occupants are likely to change as the companies develop and grow. Every product shares a common interface, which makes it possible to construct a complete upgrade path without altering the fixed components.

Technium Pembrokeshire was developed as the result of a partnership between

the Welsh Assembly Government, Pembrokeshire County Council and the University of Wales Swansea and is the newest of ten Technium Centres, currently housing more than 80 companies, across Wales.

... and growing numbers

The last few months have seen four more members of staff joining the existing team at Flex Connectors.

On the sales side, Steve Sutton is now Specification Development Engineer for South West England and South Wales. As well as looking after existing customers, Steve is responsible for developing sales of the flex 7 range to other M&E consultants, specifiers, contractors and wholesalers in the region.

Paul Bellamy has re-joined the company as Project Support Engineer for Northern England and Scotland. He will provide technical advice and support – including quotations, information and training – to consultants, specifiers and contractors across the region.

On the manufacturing side, John Glyn-Woods has joined the company as Production Engineer and Jonathan Chaplin as Design Engineer. John's role is to design and develop production equipment and to look at ways to improve existing production processes.

Jonathan Chaplin, who is a recent product design graduate, will be working on new products and enhancements to the existing flex 7 product range.

Steve Garton, Technical Director, commented that "Flex Connectors has a reputation for innovative lighting connection and control products which help customers meet the challenges presented by modern building environments. These two new appointments on the technical side of the business will help us develop that reputation as the company continues to grow".

Comprehensive information

If you have not yet requested your copy of the new flex 7 catalogue, you could be missing out on a useful source of information.

As well as providing product details on flex 7 connection units, single socket outlets, plugs, plug & socket sets and pre-wired leads, the catalogue contains useful additional information and guidance for contractors and consultants.



Also included are diagrams and instructions for installing or wiring flex 7 or flex 7v connection units, plugs and single socket outlets; circuit diagrams for value connection units, multi connection units and 7-pole connection units; and a typical specification for a flex 7 lighting connection system.

To receive a copy of the catalogue – or our new interconnection and lighting controls brochures – just phone Flex Connectors on 020 8580 1066 or email marketing@flexconnectors.co.uk.