



Danfoss keeps things tuned up at the Kennedy Center

Danfoss VLT® Series drives were applied in the new variable volume air handling solutions, to replace the old constant volume motor starters for America's living memorial to President Kennedy at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.



The Kennedy Center was conceived in the mid 1960s, before issues of energy prices and sustainability were even on the radar. Before undergoing major renovations a few years ago, the buildings were completely electric and very expensive to operate.

Danfoss' customer, Johnson Controls, put together a broad solution for lighting, heating and cooling systems in the facility. Danfoss VLT® Series drives were installed in the new variable volume air handling solutions, replacing the old constant volume motor starters. The VLT® drives were also installed on the secondary pumps in fan pumping systems. The application was complex, with about 25 air handlers in multiple zones. 50 drives have been ordered for the project.

Danfoss solves challenge

Chip Aranowski, Sales Manager for Danfoss, says the challenges Johnson Controls faced for this application were ones that he knew Danfoss could solve. The first was the fact that the fans were driven by 1200 RPM motors, which require a larger drive. These motors start up more slowly and place a greater strain on the

system than 1800 RPM motors, which are more typical in these applications.

1200 RPM motors are rare, and it is unique to see so many in one application.

The second issue for the customer was one of space. In existing buildings, the mechanical or electrical equipment room is often very low on empty wall space.

The traditional drives package requires drives to be mounted in horizontal, side-by-side cabinets that take up a large area.

At the time, there were few (if any) drive manufacturers other than Danfoss that offered a narrow vertical configuration for drive installations. This unique capability was a prime consideration in choosing Danfoss, who's tall and skinny integrated drive package fit where side-by-side configurations wouldn't.

Danfoss was also able to adhere to a strict delivery time requirement, which became another key factor in winning the order.

The Kennedy Center is the nation's busiest arts facility, presenting more than 3,000 performances each year.

It opened to the public in September 1971.