

# Building Acoustics Award

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## SRL Technical Services & Ramboll

Manchester Engineering Campus Development (MECD)

**This £400m development is the largest, most ambitious single construction project completed by any UK higher education institute.**

The specialist engineering buildings enable a co-located community of 8000 academics to work alongside each other in a world leading research and education facility. The functionality of MECD is dependent on its exemplar acoustic performance. The seven faculties must operate alongside each other without impacting on each other's ground-breaking research; a challenge given much of the work is exceptionally noise and/or vibration sensitive.

Of note are the basement electron microscope suites, multiple laboratory spaces, with heavy duty labs, a plethora of "meet and teach" rooms (from 10 to 600-person capacity), and the enormous interconnecting atria some 200m long and 7 storeys high.

It is a model for collaboration between acousticians. In the

eight years it took to complete this project, personnel changes inevitably happened, and it led to two acoustic consultancies working together on the same team to ensure successful completion. Adapting to the challenges presented by the project, is something that both consultancies are proud to have excelled in.

The judges appreciated this was a massive project which had required a lot of co-ordination and project management. In terms of consultancy and co-ordination it is an impressive piece of work in which all the objectives are fully achieved, as well as an example of collaboration between two acoustic consultancies. With vibration issues to consider and the different faculty's requirements, the judges recognised the challenge that this presented and the engineering conflicts which had been worked through.

The Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering said:

*"By bringing together different faculties from various locations and co-locating them in one facility, suitable acoustic environments were an important consideration in the design. The contractor's acoustic team were engaged early in the project and helped to shape the provision in the various areas. They used language we could understand and presented auralisations so we could make informed decisions. Overall, we are delighted with the acoustic environments and functionality of our new buildings and the level of engagement throughout the design process."*

Image above and cover photo: BDP: Nick Caville