



EFFICIENTAIR SAVINGS FOR HBOS AT SIGHTHILL

HBOS Card Services was formed in September 2001 from the merger of Halifax and Bank of Scotland. By offering a range of competitively priced credit and affinity cards it is now the UK's largest issuer of new cards. During 2003, HBOS Card Services opened 1 million new credit card accounts. Efficient Air is working with HBOS to help the organisation to reduce energy costs.

HBOS (Halifax Bank of Scotland) has reduced the electrical energy consumption of its air handling units at its Sighthill credit/debit card making facility in Edinburgh by a calculated 76 percent with the installation of high efficiency type direct driven "Rotavent" fans and ABB ACH 550 inverters to vary the air volume.

The savings are the result of a comprehensive energy management appraisal carried out by Energy Management company Efficient Air on behalf of HBOS.

Efficient Air replaced 18 supply and extract belt driven centrifugal fans in the existing air handling units with new high efficiency Double Inlet RZA direct driven aerofoil bladed backward curved fan impellers. The existing air handling units were retained to minimize costs.

Changing from conventional belt drive to direct drive has created savings for HBOS on belt maintenance, as well as removing the frictional energy losses associated with belt driven systems. Efficient Air also recommended the installation of ABB ACH 550 frequency inverters as a means of varying the airflow to the required demand.

The combined fan and inverter package has reduced energy consumption at Sighthill by a calculated 76% and also provides additional air flow volume capacity to meet planned future occupancy growth within the complex.

Gareth Fox from Efficient Air explains: "Once we presented the facts to HBOS and its facilities team in the context of day to day savings and the CCL implications, we were able to set clear objectives that put the project into a very important perspective."

He adds: "With potentially punitive CCL charges on the horizon, and the prospect of offsetting the cost of energy saving systems by enhanced capital allowances, companies who do not bring this kind of measure to the top of their agenda will see money in the form of escalating energy costs simply drain away."

Chris Kelsall, HBOS Energy Surveyor, comments: "Efficient Air has made an immediate impact on the bottom line. The inclusion of energy efficient fans and variable speed drives in this major HBOS refurbishment project coupled with the guaranteed provision of a comfortable working environment at all times and at all occupancy levels demonstrates the commitment of the organization to energy efficiency."