



Smoothing the UNISA registrations



The need to handle around 250 000 students registering for its various courses each year induced UNISA to build the new Es'kia Mphahlele Registration Hall, which opened recently on its Sunnyside Campus in Walker Street, Pretoria.

To provide an efficient and easily accessible floor that would house the data and communications cabling required for the numerous computers used by the students to register, and to provide the flexibility of layout and ease of maintenance required by this busy registration centre, a raised access floor was specified.

As a result, over 7 000m² of the Penta Floor FS 800 Bare Panel Cornerlock raised access floor system, which is both freestanding and antistatic, was installed by Peter Bates Flooring, who also installed Nexbac Kaleidoscope needlepunch floor tiles that were provided by Belgotex Floorcoverings.

The Penta Floor FS-Panel system used on this project comprises a welded structural steel assembly designed to accommodate ultimate and dynamic loads, making it ideally suitable for a wide range of applications.

Its specially formulated cementitious fill and powder-coated epoxy finish gives the 600mm x 600mm FS panels a quiet and very solid feel underfoot.

In addition, the high-strength stringers utilised with this system deliver unprecedented strength because of their unique solid tube design.

Architect Marco Zietsman of Pretoria-based HMZ Architects says this is the first time she has been involved in the use of Penta Floor access flooring, and found the system to be efficient and relatively simple to install.

"An interesting aspect of the surface of this floor is that all the major colours within the Nexus Kaleidoscope tile range were used to represent and designate the various UNISA departments, thus enabling the students to readily identify where they should register," she says.

The access floor was required to carry data cabling, and although electric power or lighting cabling is run on a busbar in this installation – with lights individually logged on a database and having their own identity, dimming and switching capability – power cabling and busbars were also installed in the plenum of the floor.

Penta Floor is one of the leading suppliers of high-quality access flooring in South Africa, where experts have applied their individual experience and expertise in the design and manufacture of these unique patented products.

Over 500 000m² of Penta Floor Access Flooring is manufactured and installed worldwide each year, produced in an ISO 9001-certified production facility with strict quality controls, including ISO 4001 environmental management system certification, on all components to ensure that the highest international standards are met at all times.

As one of the fastest growing access flooring suppliers in the country, Penta Floor offers five different types of systems to meet almost any requirement, although they can also provide custom designed solutions for any heavy duty system up to a 2m plenum.

Anyone wishing to know more about these technically advanced access flooring systems should contact Penta Floor on the numbers shown below, or visit the website www.pentafloor.co.za.

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