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PRESS RELEASE

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ISOVER HELPS TO INSULATE THE O2

Acoustic and thermal insulation from Saint-Gobain Isover is helping to keep noise transference and heat loss to a minimum in the O2 that, now that it is open, is leading the regeneration of London's Greenwich peninsula.

Part of the dry lining package that involved plasterboard from British Gypsum, the Isover APR (Acoustic Partition Roll) and GPR (General Purpose Roll) has been used by RTKL architects for the retail units, cinemas and exhibition areas.

It was also used on the two storeys of high-level glass-fronted hospitality suites around the HOK-designed 23,000-seat arena, which is the first, purpose-built American-style hybrid arena in the UK, and the centrepiece of the O2.

The technical requirements for this were demanding – the arena has to maintain its acoustics (a reverberation time of 1.9 seconds) for concerts of either 10,000 or 20,000 people and host for instance, an ice hockey game the following day.

It also had to be able to operate independently of the entertainment district that is open to visitors throughout the night and day. This takes the form of an art deco-style street that curves around two thirds of the perimeter of the O2 and is as wide and as long as Bond Street.

On both sides of this PTFE-covered street and broken up by large piazza spaces, are large facilities such as a 2,350-capacity music club, an 11-screen cinema with bars and restaurants and exhibition pavilions.

The non-combustible (Euroclass A1) Isover insulation, a glass mineral wool and sustainable product manufactured from one of the earth's most abundant, naturally recurring materials – silica sand - features in the separating walls of the bars and restaurants as well as in the external, metal-framed walls where it not only provided the acoustic rating but also helped thermally.

Mark Aldis, of RTKL, said: "We used British Gypsum for all the dry lining and this was the insulation they recommended. It helped provide the performance characteristics required of the walls, to reduce sound transference.

"Also, all the external Metsec walls contained Isover insulation which had a dual function of assisting the U-value of the external walls as well as provide the db rating. It was also used for the King Tut exhibition building within the external wall to prevent noise from entering the building."



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The O2 draws precedent from the Staples Center in Los Angeles, which was responsible for the resurgence of an area of the city's downtown, and is now the kernel of an entertainment district called LA Live, also designed by RTKL.

It is hoped the opening of the Isover-insulated O2, the first key stage in a master plan for the whole peninsula, will have the same affect on the Thames Gateway.

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