

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

New System Helps Cut Energy Costs And Improve Privacy At Warwick Hotel

BY MICHAEL BILLIG

NEW YORK— Looking to find a viable energy- and cost-saving solution, The Warwick Hotel is in the process of implementing an infra-red sensor-based technology designed to fulfill its needs.

In fact, the West Side property is working to become the first hotel in this city to fully imple-

ment the Energex SentryWatt occupancy system, though not the only lodging facility to buy into the Vancouver, BC-based vendor's room-monitoring set-up. Other locations within as well as outside the U.S. borders said to have experienced the system include: the Los Angeles Westin Bonaventure; the Sheraton Palo Alto; the Holiday Inn Vancouver Airport, as well as the

Holiday Inn Seattle; and Shorecrest Vacation Villas.

As for why the system is attractive to The Warwick, the obvious answer is that of projected energy savings related primarily to in-room temperature and lighting settings, ultimately leading to operational cost-savings. To this end, the system depends on special sensors that— by monitoring room occupancy— can

reduce energy consumption when rooms are empty.

The new Energex system is based on a passive infrared occupancy sensor located in each room and connected via low-voltage wiring to a small energy management unit installed in the wall cavity behind the room thermostat.

When occupancy is detected by the sensor, HVAC functions

are maintained according to the wishes of the guest. However, when the sensor determines a guest has left the room for longer than 30 minutes, the energy-management unit maintains the last-selected temperature and "holds" it for approximately 12 minutes each hour. As such, this procedure is designed to result in HVAC energy savings of 35% to 45%.

According to Energex, the sensors also report their findings to wireless palm pilots held by hotel staff.

Charged with helping make good on the goal of added savings at The Warwick is Chief Engineer Manuel Cartagena. Overseeing the installation of the sensors as well as the "brains" of the system, initially beta-tested by covering the top three floors of the hotel, Cartagena noted the system's server is Internet-accessible and can handle up to 20,000 points of information, thereby widening the set-up's overall functionality considerably.

Along these lines, it was pointed out by Warwick General Manager Wanda Chan the new system enhances on-site privacy, security and service... in addition to energy consumption. Additionally, she maintained the system is showing itself to be exceptionally hotel- and guest-friendly. "Using the room's ther-



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