



BROMSGROVE BASED ECL-IPS COMMITS TO HIGH STANDARDS IN HEALTH & SAFETY

BACKGROUND

Educonnect Ltd, trading as Ecl-ips, has developed over more than 20 years to become a leading provider of cutting-edge solutions in security, surveillance, access control, monitoring, power back up and automation systems.

The current business emerged when Aaron Kernaghan joined in 2005, after it was originally set up in 2002 as a data cabling company focussing on the education sector. The IP (internet protocol) side of the business, that Aaron led, grew quickly and he bought out the company in 2007.

Operations Director, Darren Roe, joined Ecl-ips in 2006 to work with Aaron as a Project Engineer and worked his way up to his current position in 2013. In 2009 Ecl-ips moved into its offices in Harris Business Park and over time the company has expanded its workforce and product portfolio.

Listening to customers and focusing on their needs, and combining this with selecting key partners offering IP solutions, led Ecl-ips to offer CCTV and access control. More recently the protection and security product mix has been expanded with intruder alarms, density fog generators and the Halo Smart Sensor, a three-in-one health, safety and vape detector. Ecl-ips constantly reviews the latest technologies and products on offer to ensure they are providing the best solutions to their clients.

WHAT WAS NEEDED AND THE SOLUTION

As Ecl-ips grew many of its clients which include commercial, educational and government organisations, required proof of a high standard of health and safety within the organisation. Having the necessary accreditations were a pre-requisite for gaining these contracts.

Darren Roe, Operations Director comments, *"We did not have a dedicated health and safety representative and we needed to ensure that we were meeting all our compliance needs. In 2013 we approached Sentinel Safety Solutions for advice and assistance. They have an excellent reputation for supporting companies with health and safety so we thought they were an obvious place to start."*



Sentinel initially completed a health and safety audit of the company and then developed a health and safety management manual, employee handbook and risk assessments including general risk assessments, manual handling assessments and a fire risk assessment for the company premises. They also developed various training documents for employees in the form of toolbox talks on subjects from manual handling and PPE to working at height and designed training records so this could all be documented. Sentinel also provided Ecl-ips with access to [SafetyBox, \(health and safety software\)](#) which helped the company to remain compliant with the law and reduce its insurance costs.

Once the foundations were in place this provided the stepping stone to then work towards Ecl-ips achieving [SafeContractor](#) status which the business obtained in 2015. This independent accreditation demonstrates that the company's health and safety documentation is up to date and meets recognised industry standards.

Additionally, Ecl-ips worked with Sentinel to achieve the CHAS, (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme) accreditation. This certification proves that Ecl-ips has demonstrated compliance with the CHAS standards which are in line with UK Health and Safety regulations and the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) core criteria. The [CHAS accreditation](#) also shows that the company complies with the Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2015, which are governed by the [UK's Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#).

Meanwhile Ecl-ips has also enhanced its reputation within the security industry over the years by achieving the [National Security Inspectorate \(NSI\)](#) Gold Accreditation in 2019, having been an NSI Silver company from 2010.

To achieve NSI Gold, Ecl-ips has to demonstrate that it operates a Quality Management System (QMS) and this is compliant with the [BS EN ISO 9001:2015 Standard](#). Implementing a QMS affects every aspect of an organisation's performance and allows Ecl-ips to monitor and manage quality across the business to identify areas for improvement. Ecl-ips is also subject to regular independent audits by the NSI to ensure continued compliance to their industry standards.



THE RESULT

Darren remarks, "We've have been working with Sentinel for 10 years, so that says something! We feel secure knowing that they act as our 'competent person' to manage any health and safety issues. Their 6 monthly reviews and checklists keep us on our toes, to ensure that we keep up our high standards both in the office and out on site. The Directors have also attended the IOSH Managing Safely Course which was extremely useful, and enabled us to deliver Toolbox talks to our employees from content provided by Sentinel. This gives us the ability to train new staff and deliver refresher training ourselves.

Each product we add to our portfolio has its own compliance regulations so it is so useful to have Sentinel on hand for any advice and to keep us up to date with any regulation updates.

We would not have obtained our accreditations without the help of Sentinel, it was a long process but helped us gain new clients and had an impact on the growth of the company.

Implementing SafetyBox, Sentinel's own health and safety software has also been great as it provides our engineers with just one simple portal for all the documentation they need to work on-site, it saves time, cuts down on paperwork and is great for monitoring compliance required for SafeContractor and CHAS. Ecli-ps is all about providing products to create safe working environments, so we have to practice what we preach."

Himmat Rai, Director, Sentinel Safety Solutions adds, "We always aim to build long term relationships with our clients, and are so pleased that we have been able to achieve 10 years with Ecl-ips, it is also a great demonstration of their commitment to achieving high standards of health and safety. They have worked extremely hard and are seeing the rewards. The business is in a successful period of growth, so is very satisfying knowing that we can take the stress and hassle of any health and safety obligations from them, so they can continue running the business. Looking forward to another 10 years working together!"

For further information on Ecl-ips please visit [Intelligent CCTV, Access Control and Monitoring - Worcestershire \(ecl-ips.com\)](http://Intelligent CCTV, Access Control and Monitoring - Worcestershire (ecl-ips.com))