

## Case Study

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# CSIRO.

Library services national storage facility.





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Australia’s premier scientific research agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), commands a vast reserve of printed information. Located around the country, the separate libraries that make up CSIRO Library Services support more than 740 activities in thirteen CSIRO research divisions. In addition to servicing internal needs, CSIRO Library Services is an invaluable resource available to ordinary Australians and overseas scientific communities alike.

In 2009 in order to streamline operations, the CSIRO began consolidating its library collections and relocating material to a National Storage facility in the ACT. Seeking a new, secure, high capacity library storage location, the organisation identified an old workshop building at Black Mountain on Canberra’s picturesque western city edge, which offered sufficient floor space and adequate internal height to handle the consolidated library.

Graeme Collin, Project Director at CSIRO

Property Services, was tasked with managing the conversion of the building to its new role as a National Storage facility. Not only did the internal layout of the building need a complete overhaul to accommodate the required amount of shelving, but it also had to be done in a way that would take care of Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) concerns that had been identified with earlier equipment. “The library people had experience with other [mobile storage] shelving on Black Mountain and found that the mechanically assisted, hand wound model was presenting health and safety concerns for staff,” said Collin. “They requested consideration of an electrically operated Compactus to avoid these concerns.”

The open tender process, which called for the installation of no less than eleven kilometres of mobile shelving, attracted submissions from major office and storage equipment manufacturers.

Dexion, offering it’s high-tech, safety first, electrically driven, Spacesaver Eclipse



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Powered Compactus was recommended as the preferred supplier.

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Before the building could become a home for state-of-the-art document storage equipment, however, it would need to be transformed from a substantially different earlier role as a machinery and automotive workshop. Dexion worked closely with leading ACT architects Daryl Jackson Alastair Swain, (DJAS) and fit-out experts SMI Project Solutions, whose job it was to fully refurbish the building. “There were oil sumps in the floor... internal brick walls and a mezzanine floor, which all had to be demolished,” said Gus Beatman, Project Manager at SMI Project Solutions. “We completely gutted the inside of the building.”

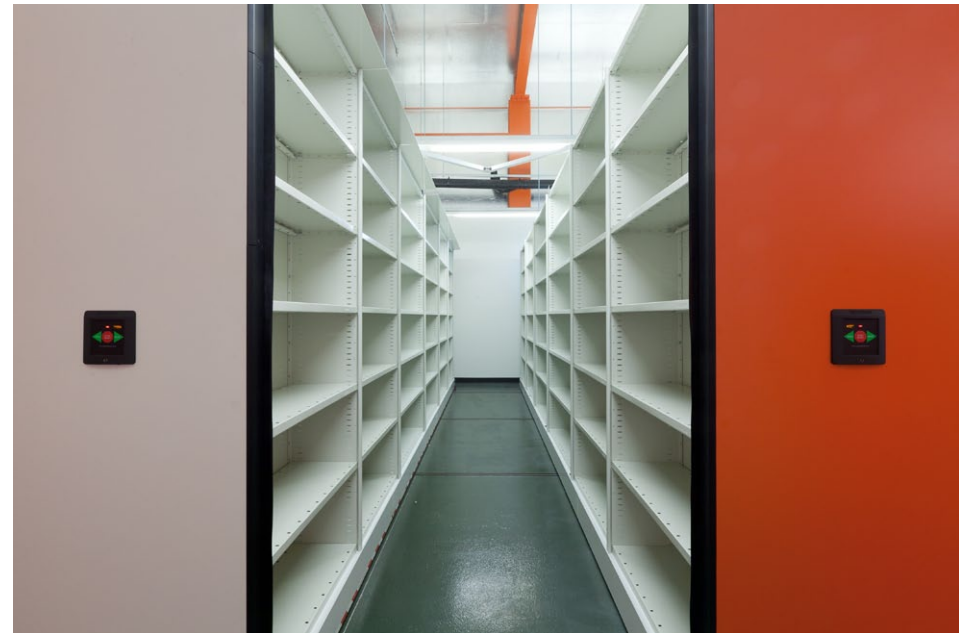
The work carried out by SMI included a full upgrade of electrical and mechanical services, insulation, lighting, and the

installation of an advanced VESDA fire protection system. An important part of the process involved preparation of the floors, where Dexion laid tracks for the Spacesaver Compactus prior to the concrete being poured. Rails were installed onto the existing floor, laser levelled, then a unique cover strip was used to protect the rails during the concrete pour.

The result: a rail mechanism perfectly blended into the new floor, ensuring the highest standards in OH&S.

“We worked in closely with Dexion,” said Beatman. “Once they had laid their rails we came along and topped up and levelled the concrete. A nice, beautifully level floor to meet their track.”

Completing the building’s makeover, SMI clad its front and sides with ALUCOBOND, a proprietary aluminium composite material. Describing the refurbished building and the strong camaraderie between contractors on the project, Beatman’s enthusiasm was obvious. “It’s a really nice conversion of what was a really old workshop into this



nice new storage facility,” he said.

“We enjoyed working with Dexion and would be very happy working with them again in the future.”

Storage on a scale of the CSIRO’s Black Mountain facility required special attention to detail. As CSIRO had stated that its first priority was to maximise capacity, DJAS collaborated closely with Dexion to achieve an efficient use of the space. “A lot of time was spent with the architects,” said Dexion Office State Manager and Specialist Systems consultant Brett Piskulich, “We worked closely with them to resolve the final details.” In the end though, it wasn’t only technical features that made for the winning design: “The colour scheme

the architects came up with looked just brilliant,” added Piskulich.

In all, the CSIRO requirement was for a total of 11,367 linear metres of storage space, to be built in three stages. Work on the first stage, consisting of 4,531 L/metres of storage, began in February 2010 and was followed shortly after by the second stage, consisting of 3,313 L/metres.

A comprehensive storage project by any standard!

### **The new gear.**

Compactus equipment at the CSIRO’s Black Mountain, off-site storage facility is Dexion Spacesaver Eclipse powered carriages fitted with safety sweeps.

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The innovative ‘safety sweep’ concept stops or prevents movement of the carriage whenever an object or person breaks a safety beam. If for any reason a carriage starts moving while a person is within an aisle, placing a foot against the carriage can instantly halt the system. Likewise, any objects such as boxes, ladders or other items that are within an aisle when the drive units are activated, will cut the beam and immediately deactivate the unit.

But Spacesaver’s unique features are not just designed to benefit librarians. At CSIRO Library Services, technical maintenance is made safe and easy by the Spacesaver’s “Works In A Drawer” concept, allowing access to electrical components without the need to climb inside, on top of, or around the carriages.

During the first and second construction phase, more than 8000 shelves of Dexion Ultima CI-80 Roll Post Shelving, manufactured at Dexion Melbourne plant, were provided and fitted to the Spacesaver carriages. Simple, colour coded keypads,

mounted on front panels, enable staff to operate the Compactus with minimal training. Ensuring that material is always accessible, each system is supplied with a portable battery pack to activate carriages in the event of a power failure.

Finally, an aesthetic touch of class - in the form of laminated end panels - brought to life the architectural vision of DJAS. “The alternating colour panels they came up with liven up the space. We’re very pleased with the result - the appearance; and the staff are very happy with the ease of operation,” said Collin.

“It was a significant contract to win to showcase the Dexion Eclipse powered Compactus systems,” said Piskulich. “And it was a good site to operate in because we had plenty of storage and access. We also had a great relationship with the builder and a great relationship with CSIRO. It all worked very well.”

