SAFE AND DEPENDABLE KONE MONOSPACE® 500 ELEVATORS MAKE THE GRADE AT UNT DALLAS

The University of North Texas at Dallas (UNT Dallas) empowers students, transforms lives and strengthens communities. With more than 4,000 students, UNT Dallas is the fastest-growing public university in Texas and the most affordable four-year university in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. As the only public, accredited four-year university in the city of Dallas, UNT Dallas operates from a state-of-the-art campus complete with its own DART Light Rail station. But elevators in one campus building were definitely not on the fast track.

Located in a three-story building housing a student lounge, administrative services and the university president's office, the two hydraulic elevators were notoriously unreliable. When the units were in operation, they were slow, noisy and jerky. During shutdowns, service was interrupted for days and the possibility of entrapment was a concern.

The elevators needed repair for several reasons, most importantly to secure the safety of students and employees. In addition to presenting an ongoing headache for the Facilities Management team, there was also the possibility that the slow and noisy elevators weren't leaving the best impression on visitors.

COMBINING ECO-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY WITH RIDE COMFORT AND DESIGN INNOVATION

Wayne McInnis, UNT Dallas Facilities Chief, says the old hydraulic elevators were a constant challenge. "We were always dealing with leaks and pumps failing. Then the phase sensors failed and the elevator would bounce from side to side. We upgraded the controllers, and that worked for a while. But then they'd fail and get stuck, and they were very slow."

Johnny Bullock, Director of Risk Management Services at UNT Dallas, said safety concerns were paramount. "We have several students with disabilities here, and we were always worried about them getting stuck," he says. "The old elevators weren't dependable. It was time for an upgrade."

Prioritizing safety and reliability, UNT Dallas chose KONE MonoSpace® 500 for elevator replacement. A flexible solution for elevators in new and existing low- to mid-rise buildings, KONE MonoSpace® 500 combines proven eco-efficient technology with ride comfort and design innovations. Because it is a machine room-less elevator, KONE MonoSpace® 500 is a highly space-efficient solution for elevator replacement projects.

THE CHALLENGE:

- Passenger safety was compromised by unreliable elevators.
- Slow, jerky and noisy elevators were inconsistent with the university's forward-looking image.
- Dated hydraulic elevators were plagued by leaks, pump failures and potential need for costly cylinder replacement.

KONE SOLUTION:

- Two KONE MonoSpace® 500 elevators offer enhanced reliability and dependability.
- Blending eco-efficient technology with ride comfort and design innovations, KONE solution targets new and existing buildings.
- Replacement of hydraulic elevators with innovative KONE gearless traction equipment eliminates messy and potentially costly service needs and delivers a sustainable, space-saving solution.
- KONE MonoSpace® 500 installation includes new entrances, elevators, cabs and doors.
- Turnkey project, including all general contractor work.

FAST FACTS:

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

- 264-acre campus serving 4,000 students.
- Installation completed spring 2021.

KONE MONOSPACE® SOLUTION "HAS BROUGHT US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY"

The decision to replace hydraulic elevators with traction equipment enhanced safety and reliability, eliminated the complications of hydraulics and dramatically improved ride quality.

"The KONE MonoSpace® solution has brought us into the 21st century," McInnis says. "It's like night and day. The ride is much smoother, the technology is updated and the new elevators are quicker, cleaner and sleeker. And we don't have to worry about people getting stuck."

For years, McInnis reported to work early, allowing himself half an hour to "warm up" the old elevators. That's a thing of the past. The worry of leaks, failed pumps and cylinder replacement – a particularly costly hydraulic maintenance issue – is also eliminated, permanently.

QUIET, SMOOTH AND FAST ELEVATORS- WITH MINIMAL CONSTRUCTION DISRUPTION

Minimizing the disruption of elevator installation in an operating campus environment was a key concern early on. Pandemic-related closures negated much of that challenge, but KONE crews – acting as general contractor for the project – demonstrated a high level of professionalism throughout and completed the job ahead of schedule.

"The crews were really good about containing the project," says Tracy Jones, Campus Project Manager and Senior Facilities Planner. "They were very conscientious about maintaining a clean work area. Even when no one was around, they still followed all the appropriate protocols."

When installation of the first elevator was complete, Bullock says he was immediately impressed by how quietly it operated. "The old elevators groaned and creaked," he says. "And, because of the history of entrapments, every time I used them, I figured, 'This will be my turn to get stuck.' The new elevators are quiet, smooth and fast. It's been a good experience across the board."

ABOUT KONE

At KONE, our mission is to improve the flow of urban life. As a global leader in the elevator and escalator industry, KONE provides elevators, escalators and automatic building doors, as well as solutions for maintenance and modernization to add value to buildings throughout their life cycle. Through more effective People Flow®, we make people's journeys safe, convenient and reliable, in taller, smarter buildings. In 2020, KONE had annual sales of EUR 9.9 billion, and at the end of the year over 60,000 employees. KONE class B shares are listed on the Nasdaq Helsinki Ltd. in Finland.