



Fix8 Group, Manchester

Heat recovery creates ideal climate for event technology specialists.

A move to newbuild premises gave leading event technology specialist Fix8Group the opportunity to produce a working environment well-suited for its creative and technical team. Central to the overall solution is a Dakin air conditioning system, delivering a steady 22°C all year.

The building was one of the first UK installations to benefit from Daikin's Commission With Confidence service. In addition to technical support, this enables installers to avoid cost variations arising from volatile pricing in the refrigerant gas market. This pricing stability is possible because Daikin also manufactures refrigerants.

Fix8Group creates boundary-stretching visual productions, combining creativity and technology. The new premises provides a centre where complex live environments and detailed productions come to life.

Performance and efficiency were important considerations in the choice of air conditioning system, but company founder and creative director Neil Trenell was more concerned that the system should encourage staff engagement and complement the high-tech nature of their work.

Success was soon apparent. "We've only been here for three months, but the team is already much happier," says Neil Trenell.

"It's refreshing to have a team that is properly engaged so that all their potential can be unlocked. It's our home. It's about creating the right environment for our people, so that they can give of their best.

"Our clients love it too. It's not really about them, but they should feel as comfortable as we do." As a visual communicator with a keen interest in workplace psychology, he's addressing temperature variations with lights. "Our air conditioned 22°C is actually a perfect temperature – but we have LED lighting, so if people start to feel cold we can turn up the red, and if they feel hot we add blue."

After 14 years in Stockport and outgrowing that address, the company has moved three junctions round Manchester's M60 orbital. It now occupies a three-storey factory/office unit, one of three developed by Neil Trenell at Denton.

In developing specifications for the new premises, Neil called on his brother, John – managing director of Cumbria-based Tailored Heat Supplies – to suggest a renewable energy solution for heating.

Year of installation

> 2019

Project requirements

- Air conditioning
- Air curtain
- Air purification
- Control
- Heating
- Hot water
- Refrigeration
- Ventilation

Installed systems

- > VRV IV Heat Recovery
- > Fully Flat Cassettes
- > Wired Controller
- > Round Flow Cassettes
- > Sky Air Condensing Unit



Neil Trenell says: "Having everything on show for our staff and visitors is an expression of our brand – our DNA."
 "This project was certainly an eye-opener for our engineers," says Marcus Thomson, HLA's Cumbria HVAC manager, whose office is in the same building as Tailored Heat.

"This was a 'hands-on' customer with a very clear idea of what he wanted and an attention to detail that was second to none. But it showed that with good communication it's possible to accommodate all sorts of customer requirements."

"We wanted to put in a heating and cooling system on a sensible budget. And that's why we ultimately decided to use the Daikin VRV IV heat recovery system. We chose Daikin because we had worked with them previously – and we have faith in their products and support." *John Trenell*

Kit List

Code	Description	No of units
First and second floors		
REYQ-T	VRV IV Heat Recovery Condensing Unit	2
FXFQ-A	Round Flow Cassette	9
FXZQ-A	600x600mm Fully Flat Cassette	4
BS1Q-A	Single BS Box	12
BRC1E53A	Wired Controller	11
Ground Floor		
RZSQG-L3V1	Sky Air Condensing Unit	1
FCAG-A	Round Flow Cassette	2
BRC1E53A	Wired Controller	1

John Trenell, a member of the MCS Working Group and the Heat Pump Association, says: "The initial brief was to put underfloor heating into the offices, but I quickly identified that with the chosen style of construction this would not have been appropriate and that a cooling load was equally important.

The Daikin system serves a mix of Round Flow Cassettes and 600x600mm Fully Flat Cassettes on the first and second floors. A Daikin Sky Air system serves Round Flow Cassettes in offices at the rear of the ground floor display area.

The outdoor units are mounted on a raised platform at the rear of the premises. John Trenell says this was to get the units as close to the building as possible, simplifying installation. And for a small additional investment in steel when the building frame was being erected, it made good sense.

The systems are controlled by wired controllers in each area of the building.

The installation, by Daikin D1+ Partner HLA Services, is a visual expression of the technical ethos Neil Trenell espouses. All the indoor components are exposed – industrial style, but with a difference. There is great attention to detail so that cables are fitted neatly in their trays, pipework is precisely straight, and branch selector boxes are sprayed black – then mounted above their fan coil units.

