

Integrations Branch
Case Study #3
Physical Secure Zone 5 – Operations Centre

Challenge

An industry client required a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) sponsored by the Commonwealth in order to meet the regulatory requirements to house sensitive information. The construction of such a facility would align with the governance required to process, hold, discuss and print sensitive information, as received, and conform with key security policies and frameworks. The SCIF was required to be built in a fully operational corporate office environment.

Constructing a SCIF within a fully operational facility introduced significant challenges, particularly in balancing the need for uninterrupted business continuity with the strict security, safety and acoustic integrity requirements of a high-assurance environment.

Solution

Working around active staff and daily operations required precise sequencing, controlled work zones and tightly managed access to ensure no compromise to sensitive information or operational workflows. To mitigate these risks, rigorous construction-phase security protocols were implemented, including enhanced contractor vetting, continuous supervision, and strict material and equipment control. Detailed communication plans, stakeholder engagement, and staged work packages ensured transparency and minimised disruption, while ongoing inspections and compliance checks maintained the integrity of the build. A lot of the works were scheduled, coordinated and completed outside regular business hours to minimise any disruption to client operations.

The secure facility was designed and delivered using a staged approach with the provision of enhanced site control through the initial construction of an outer Zone 3 perimeter, providing obfuscation of the internal construction of the SCIF.

The SCIF included an airlock to support reception and administrative requirements, as well as a T1A Security Alarm System and Electronic Access Control. All SCIF walls, doors and service penetrations were appropriately manufactured and installed to achieve Zone 5 physical certification and treated to adhere with strict emanation security (EMSEC) requirements and standards.

Outcome

Through disciplined planning and robust governance, the project successfully delivered a fully compliant and accredited SCIF with nil negative impact to business operations or avoidable security risk.

Accreditation enabled appropriately cleared personnel to access sensitive information in a timely and efficient manner, enhancing decision making to support effective planning and successful execution of key operations.

Total Value = \$1.4M

