



# SALTO Systems & ESS Bring Wireless Electronic Locks to The New British International School of Houston

*British International Schools are known for offering highly personalized instruction in a state-of-the-art environment with the latest in technological advances. Their campuses can include more than just classrooms – there are MIT-inspired learning environments, The Julliard School-designed Performing Arts Centers, and NCAA-sized athletic facilities. After 16 years in its previous location, The British International School of Houston recently moved to a newly-constructed 275,000-square-foot facility on a campus that spans 34 acres. The school serves more than 2,000 students ages 3-18.*

*British International School campuses belong to a global family of 43 private schools run by Nord Anglia Education – the world’s leading premium school organization. With more than 37,000 students from preschool through secondary education, Nord Anglia Education offers no limit to what students can achieve with an approach that supports every child to succeed academically, socially, and personally.*

## CHALLENGE

*Design and implement access control for a new 350-lock, 275,000 square-foot school campus*

The British International School is committed to delivering an unrivaled educational experience – an assurance that also emphasizes providing maximum security and safety for its students, employees, and visitors. When Electronic Security Solutions, Inc., of Chicago was approached to provide access control for several British International School campuses including the newly-built replacement campus for The British International School of Houston, ESS President and Owner Dale Padjen recommended SALTO Systems electronic locks.

A certified business partner of SALTO Systems, ESS provides the very latest in electronic locking technology. From wire-free systems to wireless real-time solutions, Padjen says ESS recommends SALTO because doors in any type of facility can be secured without complex and expensive wiring.

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**Electronic Security Solutions, Inc.**

<http://www.esslockingsystems.com>

[dale@esslockingsystems.com](mailto:dale@esslockingsystems.com) | Phone: 847.767.3100

1225 Shiloh Boulevard, #69 | Zion, Illinois 60099



**SALTO**  
inspired access

The British International School of Houston project presented ESS with an opportunity to design a completely wireless locking solution for a new, state-of-the-art, purpose built, 33-acre campus featuring an impressive array of facilities and exciting learning areas.

“SALTO Systems offered the perfect portfolio of electronic locks and products required to address the varying needs presented by a project like The British International School of Houston,” says Padjen. “While SALTO is perfect for an upgrade for those transitioning from mechanical to electronic locks in an existing building, it’s an exciting opportunity to use SALTO technology to build an entire system from the ground up.”

### SOLUTION

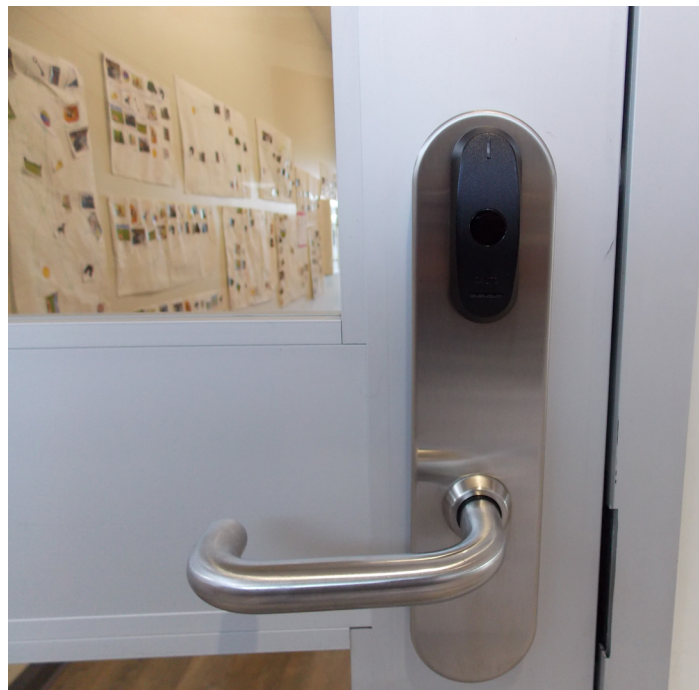
*SALTO wireless real-time access control, XS4 escutcheons, gateways, nodes, ProAccess SPACE*

ESS chose SALTO’s Wireless real-time access control system to secure The British International School of Houston. SALTO Wireless can be used as an independent system or as a complement to SALTO Virtual Network (SVN) and hard-wired IP solutions.

“SALTO’s wireless electronic locking solution is an incredibly efficient system that creates a completely wireless user experience that is reliable and easily managed,” says Padjen. “It’s perfect for the education environment with its variety of employees, students, and visitors who need the ability to easily come and go at different times.”

SALTO Wireless connects battery-powered electronic escutcheons and cylinders by means of low power radio transceivers (2.4 GHz). These interact with SALTO XS4 Gateways, which are connected by Ethernet/WiFi to the central management computer. If needed, SALTO Nodes can also be used. Nodes serve as a bridge between the gateway and the escutcheons, where the distance to the escutcheon – or where the number of escutcheons that must be linked to the gateway – exceeds what is possible with a single gateway.

With a single click of a mouse, changes can be made to the SALTO Wireless network in real-time using SALTO’s ProAccess SPACE access control management software. End users can download



audit trail information for real-time control, delete users remotely and securely, collect battery status for maintenance, and more – all from a single PC and all in real-time.

The British International School of Houston Principal Andrew Derry says the transition from the mechanical lock and key system that they had used for 16 years in the former building to the new electronically-controlled campus was exceptionally smooth. The newly-constructed 275,000-square-foot facility includes more than 350 electronic locks.

“I would highly recommend switching from mechanical to electronic locks,” says Derry. “SALTO’s software and electronic locks have improved safety, helped facilitate learning, streamlined operations, and is so easy to manage.”

Prior to using the new SALTO wireless system, Derry says parents and volunteers had to sign in at the front office any time they visited the campus – a lengthy process that took administrators and educators away from important tasks.

With SALTO’s access control system in place, however, the school runs background checks on parents and regular visitors, and, if they are cleared, they are issued an access credential which gives them the freedom to enter the campus without

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having to request assistance.

Derry says the ProAccess SPACE lockdown feature is also a key addition to the campus' crisis management plan.

"In just a couple of seconds we can lock down the whole school building which, as educators, gives us security and peace of mind," says Derry.

Padjen says that many schools and universities specifically convert to electronic access control due to the ability to quickly lockdown entrances, exits, and classrooms.

"In a crisis situation, the SALTO wireless system offers an emergency lockdown, emergency close, and emergency open," says Padjen. "The only people that can open those doors are those that have the privileges to override the system — administrators, security officers, or first responders."

SALTO's ProAccess SPACE is easy to use which makes it an excellent solution for education.

"In education, you have a variety of end users. You have those that manage the system, such as administrators or security officers, who may need more training. You also have those that need very little training like teachers and visitors," says Padjen. "What makes SALTO's system preferable is that it is very easy to learn and use no matter if you are a frequent or an infrequent user."

At The British International School of Houston, Derry says employees use a variety of access credentials including photo ID cards, key fobs, and RFID wristbands which are favored by gym teachers and maintenance workers as they are safer than an ID card on a lanyard around the neck.

In addition to The British International School of Houston, ESS will provide SALTO Systems electronic access control products for several new construction projects for Nord Anglia, including The British International School of Chicago-South Loop and additional campuses in Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

"ESS has had great success in optimizing locking solutions for a variety of end users," says Padjen. "It's always rewarding to be able to provide a high quality, affordable, and easy-to-use electronic lock solution for important customers like The British International Schools and the children they serve."



### About SALTO Systems

*We're driven by innovation. Guided by our insights into customer needs, we deliver industry-leading, next-generation electronic locking solutions without wires and without mechanical keys. By continually being first to anticipate market needs in a rapidly evolving marketplace, we set new standards in security, manageability, and scalability.*

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