Finding Success with T&S: University of Connecticut

The Background

The University of Connecticut, a public research institution located in Storrs, Conn., was constructing a new 212,000-square-foot, 727-bed dormitory to house students participating in one of eight innovation-centric Living & Learning Communities.

The $105 million construction of Next Generation Connecticut Hall began in November 2014 and was completed in August 2016.

The facility is part of the university’s 10-year, $1.5 billion initiative known as Next Generation Connecticut, which will transform facilities at the main and regional campuses to strengthen research and education capabilities and expand a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs.

The Challenge

The project faced an aggressive schedule to allow the dormitory to be open for the 2016-17 academic year. Another plumbing equipment manufacturer was originally selected for this element of the project, but their production schedule was too lengthy.

In addition, the nature of wear and tear on dormitory facilities meant reliable, durable products were needed to ensure long-term functionality.

“The most critical factors guiding our plumbing choices were quality, functionality, availability and cost-effectiveness,” said Charles Juhasz, manager of mechanical, electrical and plumbing services with KBE Building Corporation, which managed the building project for the university.

“We had to have products that would stand up to use and abuse from college students for years to come.”
— Charles Juhasz, KBE Building Corporation

The Solution

T&S Brass was able to meet the demands of the construction schedule by providing the needed solutions quickly and accurately.
“We started with a basic sensor faucet but needed several modifications to fit our application. T&S was able to work with us quickly to create a custom product with our exact specifications,” Juhasz said.

Working closely with the customer, T&S was able to create a sensor faucet with a custom gooseneck nozzle and vandal-resistant laminar flow outlet. These features allow the facility to provide the needed **ADA accessibility** in the dormitory restrooms.

“T&S Brass and their representatives jumped through flaming hoops for me on this project.”
— Charles Juhasz, KBE Building Corporation

By selecting hydrogenerators as the faucets’ power source, the school also minimizes maintenance needs by eliminating the need to change batteries and ensures reliability, even in the event of power outage.

“Being a dormitory, quality and sturdy components are critical,” Juhasz said. “The T&S products are excellent and known for their reliability, which will keep our maintenance needs at a minimum going forward.”