



BULB-TITE® rivets, SL3/2 fasteners and irius® fasteners  
first direct Arena, Leeds

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the first direct Arena in Leeds at night. The building's facade is a complex, multi-layered structure of metal and glass, illuminated from within, creating a warm orange glow. The architecture features sharp angles and a grid-like pattern of structural elements. The sky is dark blue, and some distant lights are visible in the background.

# first direct Arena

## SFS work with Leeds City Council to create an inspiring venue for a vibrant city

### Situation

SFS specialist fastening systems were used to secure the striking shingled, multi-coloured, metal façade on the first direct Leeds Arena.

Using SFS fasteners resulted in significantly reduced fixing times and helped keep the project on its critical timeline.

### Solution

Comprising of 6,000 square metres of aluminium shingles in five different colours, the cladding was installed in layers onto stainless steel clips and held in place using 35,000 SFS aluminium BULB-TITE® rivets.

In addition, 3000 self-drilling SL3/2 fasteners were supplied to fix the perforated, aluminium mesh rainscreen panels to the structural backing wall. 7000 low profile irius® fasteners were also used to fix Kalzip's Kal-Plank system, at the rear of the building. The design and construction achieved a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating.

The result provides a spectacular display surface for the coloured lighting which transforms the exterior façade at night by reflecting the mood of the concert within.

The 13,000 capacity concert venue features an impressive uninterrupted interior construction, designed to allow all seats perfect sight-lines to the stage. The complex 3500 ton steel structure was topped out by a 45 metre long proscenium beam spanning the width of the building.

Headed up by Leeds City Council, the £60 million project was completed in 96 weeks and opened in September 2013. The venue has helped increase job prospects and the region's economy.

A success story for Leeds, Yorkshire and all involved in designing and building this venue.

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### Project highlights

#### Client

Leeds City Council

#### Architect

Populous

#### Main contractor

BAM Construction

#### Sub-contractor

Lakesmere Limited

#### Location

Leeds

#### OEM Application

Kalzip system: Kal-Plank

#### Application

BULB-TITE® rivets, self-drilling SL3/2 fasteners and low profile irius® fasteners

#### Project value

£7,800,000

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