

ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER PATIENT PAVILION, NY

Commissioning

Summary

Founded in 1849, the 734-bed Albany Medical Center provides the widest range of medical and surgical services in the region with 450 doctors. The Medical Center contracted Willdan to commission its 400,000 ft² state-of-the-art facility. The 6 story facility includes patient rooms, 26 operating suites, a neo-natal care unit, intensive care unit, and isolation rooms.

Highlighted Result: The building incorporated many energy saving measures and sustainable design features, receiving LEED Gold certification.

Goals and Challenges

The scheduling of functional and performance testing for the building required coordination with the construction manager and facility, as much of the testing needed to take place after the building was occupied. Willdan worked with the facility and contractors to conduct testing on holidays and off hours to minimize the impact on staff and patients.

Because of the high performance envelope, the building was extremely 'tight.' Although this is desirable for energy efficiency, it made balancing the system very challenging. This impacted pressurization issues across secure areas and interconnections to existing buildings.

Solutions and Results

Recommendations by Willdan included: use of a hybrid chiller plant that relied on natural gas-driven chillers and electric centrifugal chillers with variable speed motors, variable speed drives for chilled water pumping, thermal energy recovery from gas engine-driven chillers, and optimization of chiller dispatching based on real-time energy costs. Willdan focused on providing solutions that were both energy efficient and cost effective.

Project Budget:



\$360 Million

Improvement Details

Provided fundamental and enhanced commissioning services:

- Design review
- Submittal review
- Inspection and testing
- Warranty phase services
- Operator training



Featured Solutions

- System Optimization
- Engineering Design
- Inspections and Compliance
- Energy Efficiency