

The Expanding World of Nanofabrication – *an update from NanoFabrication Kingston*

May 11, 2023

Good day,

You are receiving this important update as a user of NFK, as a supervisor of a user, or as someone who requested to receive these updates.

Construction

Construction activity in the building is ramping up in the space between the main doors on the east side of the building and NFK on the west side. I have not been told of any official disruptions to access, but often there is work in the hallways that impedes passage or can make users feel uncomfortable walking by it. The workers are typically responsive, so if you run into this situation, just ask them how you can proceed.

For construction activity that impacts sensitive work, such as vibrations with e-beam lithography, I try to warn users what may impact their work when booking time. However, my notice is often short, if they tell me at all, so there is no good way to coordinate this kind of work effectively. If you are particularly concerned about environmental impacts on your work while at NFK, let me know when booking and I will try to convince the workers to avoid disruptive activities during that time.

I will continue advocating for what I think our users need, but please let me know if construction is causing you undue problems and we can consider how to make things better for you.

Badge readers

The building is converting to a new badge reader system. The readers at the main east doors (Door 2 and Door 3) were changed this week, and NFK's entrance door reader was changed months ago. Your existing security badge should still work on the new readers, and your experience should not be much different than it was before. There are two main differences:

1. You no longer need to badge out when leaving the building. The new system will not be tracking who is in the building at any given time.
2. You no longer need a PIN to access the building after hours.

With the new system, they will no longer be printing security badges. Instead, new users will be given FOBs that must be returned when you stop being an NFK member. In the coming months, all users will eventually move to FOBs. Watch for further information about this.

One consequence of the new FOBs is that they will not work with the badge reader inside NFK that tracks users going into the cleanroom. We are working with the building manager to replace this reader with one that is compatible with both their system and ours. There may be changes coming to how we handle entry to, and tracking time inside, the cleanroom. Watch for further information about this.

Telephones

The phones at NFK have been migrated to Queen's University's new VOIP system. The situation at NFK should not change very much, though. Each phone was replaced with a new phone in the exact same location with the same extension number. Like before, NFK's external number (613-533-2139) rings at all extensions. There are three main differences:

1. The phone in the office now has a unique extension, and none of the phones are directly assigned to the external number.
2. You no longer need to press "9" before dialing an external number.
3. The phones will not work in the event of a power outage or network failure. If either of these things happen, you will need to locate the nearest cell phone to make a call. We are working with the building manager and Queen's to minimize risk in these events.

We want to hear from you

NFK is always interested in hearing about your research. Has your work at NFK led to a publication or conference presentation? If so, please let us know. We are constantly updating our [list](#) of peer-reviewed journal articles showcasing work done at NFK. We also welcome feedback about our tools and services. Feel free to forward your questions, concerns, complaints, or praise to [me](#), and I will do my best to respond.

See you at the lab!

Graham Gibson

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