# Arup Confirms Falling Victim to Deepfake Scam in Hong Kong



British multinational design and engineering company Arup, renowned for projects like the Sydney Opera House, has confirmed it was the victim of a deepfake scam in Hong Kong. In January, an Arup finance employee was tricked into transferring $25 million to fraudsters using fake voices and images. The incident was reported to Hong Kong police.

The employee had initially suspected a phishing email but was convinced to proceed with the transfers after a video call with what appeared to be familiar colleagues, who were actually deepfake representations. The total amount transferred was approximately 200 million Hong Kong dollars across 15 transactions.

Despite the financial loss, Arup's financial stability and operations were unaffected, and internal systems remained uncompromised. The case highlights the increasing sophistication and frequency of cyber-attacks, including deepfakes, affecting businesses globally.

Authorities worldwide are concerned about the misuse of advanced deepfake technology, which creates highly realistic synthetic media. Arup executives have emphasized the importance of vigilance and awareness among their employees to combat such scams. The ongoing investigation continues to unfold as the company underscores the growing threat posed by cyber fraud activities.