

CASE STUDY

STANDARDISED IT NETWORK FOR HITACHI MEDICAL SYSTEMS EUROPE

HMSE has installed a high-quality cabling solution from Datwyler on all its sites. Following completion of the installation in France, for which Datwyler acted as project manager, the company now has a standardised, high-performance communications network which allows the central monitoring, maintenance and control of IT.

The Hitachi Medical Corporation, part of the Japanese Hitachi Group and a leading supplier of ultra-precision medical equipment and systems, has its European headquarters in Switzerland. Over the past two years Hitachi Medical Systems Europe (HMSE) has renewed the IT network in eight of its nine subsidiaries, carrying out standardisation and centralisation at the same time. The cabling solution, in each case easily adapted to local conditions, was provided by Datwyler. According to Martin Paiert, CIO of Hitachi Medical Systems, one of the reasons for choosing the company was "that it works with certified, standardised products which guarantee high signal quality over long distances".

In July 2010 the French subsidiary, which did not yet had an upgraded IT network, moved to a new site near Paris at short notice. Prior to the move there were only six weeks to install and commission an electrical and communications technology infrastructure of the standard required in the building in Villebon-sur-Yvette. These tight time constraints and HMSE's positive experience with the network rollout at other sites resulted in Datwyler being contracted to manage the project as well.

Challenging project

The remit included planning and installing the passive IT network and the electrical power system for around 100 users, in addition to which the installation of the complete IT infrastructure had to be supervised and coordinated. Thanks to its know-how in international project management and its established worldwide partner network, Datwyler was able to take on the contract overnight.

As the French subsidiary only wanted to use half of the two-storey building, the existing networks, which failed to comply with HMSE's high standards, had to be separated prior to reinstallation so that they could be handed over to the neighbouring company in working order. The requisite infrastructures were then installed together with new cable runs and ducts.

High-performance IT cabling

The new HMSE network is a Class EA communications cabling system with Category 7 cables and Category 6A components which provide high reserve capacity. This means that the company can rapidly and safely transmit data in a wide variety of forms, including large amounts of data from the laboratory systems. Also integrated in the network are the telephones (Voice-over-IP) and the power supply of many end devices (Power over Ethernet). Two connections were created for each user and connected directly to one of the main racks in the server room by way of cable ducts neatly integrated in the walls. The electrical system is of redundant design as a safeguard against power failures.

Strong partnership

For the installation itself Datwyler was able to draw on an experienced partner company in the shape of Evolution Communication Partners (EVP). EVP made a start on the project in mid-May 2010. Thanks to trouble-free installation and start-up together with the good cooperation of all involved, Datwyler



was able to hand over both the active and passive IT network as well as the electrical system on time to HMSE in the middle of June. At the end of June the final finishing touches to the active components and the infrastructure were completed.

Positive result

“Our cooperation with Datwyler as project manager was a success, despite the extremely short time window,” says CIO Martin Paierl. Hitachi Medical Systems is also very satisfied with the cabling solution: “It is always worth investing in a high quality IT infrastructure. This way you can minimise future maintenance costs and the investment holds its value for longer.”

One of the things in which HMSE sees great potential for savings is the fact that laboratories and logistics departments can now do international online work without a time delay. The new communications network also allows the European head office to carry out central IT monitoring, maintenance and control on all its sites.

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