

ADR Tel, Rome:

# FLYING HIGH

with a powerful partner

For five years the two airports in Rome have relied on high-performance Datwyler network solutions. They were thus able to significantly improve their passenger services.



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*Tancredi Biancatelli, Network Engineer at ADR Tel*

The Italian capital city Rome has two international airports. Rome Fiumicino uses two passenger terminals and is dedicated to business and leisure customers on domestic, international and inter-continental routes, while Rome Ciampino, the smaller one, is mainly used by low cost airlines, express couriers and General Aviation operations. In 2018, both airports handled 48.8 million passengers who used the approximately 100 airlines to travel from Rome to over 230 destinations worldwide.

The operating company of both commercial airports is Aeroporti di Roma S.p.A. (ADR), a company of the Italian Atlantia Group since 2013. One of ADR's subsidiaries, ADR Tel S.p.A., has been the telecommunications operator on both airports since 2002. The company's mission is to provide, manage and develop the telecommunications networks and solutions at the airports and deliver all related services.

#### High safety requirements

At Rome Fiumicino airport ADR Tel manages about 150 technical rooms which serve to provide many services: flight information, advertising, video surveillance, access control and sound system, for example. In short, ADR Tel takes care of everything that is mechanized and remote-controlled, and has been investing more and more in the network for a long time to cope with the ever-increasing demand for functionality and security, particularly with regard to





air-traffic control and passenger management as well as internal and external airport security.

The particular attention to safety – and therefore to the redundancy of the various systems – has led ADR Tel always to select products which ensure the high long-term reliability of active and passive network solutions.

#### Avant-garde system solutions from Datwyler

“For the protection and efficiency of the systems we are relying more and more on suppliers and brands which are capable of offering security and reliability”, emphasises Tancredi Biancatelli, Network Engineer of ADR Tel. “Datwyler, which has been supporting us together with its partner GFO Europe for over five years, actively participates in the identification of increasingly sophisticated and avant-garde products and systems. And this happens both in the structured building cabling and in the extensive optical network, such as the one for our three airstrips covering a distance of more than 40 kilometres in total. We are increasingly in need of quality solutions to which we can entrust our AVL systems, air-traffic control and remote control of lights and strips with an ever-increasing degree of reliability, such as we are gradually gaining thanks to our partner Datwyler.”

In all these years Datwyler and its distribution partner GFO Europe have supplied

Category 6 copper cables and systems, indoor and outdoor cables as well as complete fibre optic systems in both single-mode and multimode OM3 versions. From July 2017, when the European Construction Products Regulation (CPR) came into force, only Class B2<sub>ca</sub> cables have been supplied which comply with the directives issued by the Comitato Elettrotecnico Italiano (CEI) with regard to application in airports. For new projects, extensions and changes over 25,000 copper links and more than 3000 fibre connections have been installed, distributed among various buildings, data centres and external infrastructures.

Because of the continuously growing demand for both the performance and dimensions of the infrastructure, ADR Tel is evaluating the transition to shielded Class EA/Cat.6<sub>A</sub> cabling solutions which would be suitable for a transmission speed of 10 gigabits per second.

#### Significant improvements

In recent years Fiumicino airport has received several accolades and awards for its services, for example from Skytrax and the Airport Council International. “At Fiumicino we have increased the quality of passenger services to the point of obtaining the 2018 Best Airport Award for the optimization of Wi-Fi services, baggage delivery and the flow of landings”, explains Giovanni Badiale, Network Manager of ADR Tel. “The recognition of recent years is also a consequence of the improvement of the data

network and the tripling of the number of access points inside the airport. We can track people’s movements inside the building, see if the passenger management flows are correct, and further enhance our services. In addition, we provide all passengers with free WLAN of more than 2 MB bandwidth which they can use as if they were at home.”

“Our airports are constantly evolving, and in the coming years we will have to face further challenges”, Badiale continues. “A new pier will be created at Fiumicino, ›Molo A‹, and Terminal 1 will be completely modernized. Additional investments will be approved and new facilities will be built outside the terminal.” These too will be supported via an advanced data network from which ADR Tel will demand an even greater degree of performance and reliability. (lud) ■

