

CASE STUDY

DEFENCE COMPANY, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG: TWO FROM ONE – WHILE STILL OPERATING

For a company that had to sell one of its divisions, Datwyler IT Infra recently split the existing IT infrastructure into two completely autonomous systems.

A multinational company operating in Germany, mainly in the fields of Public Security and Defence, recently divested one of its business areas. A consequence of this step was that the premises at its headquarters in Baden-Württemberg had to be divided. The network and data centre infrastructure also had to be completely separated physically.

At the end of September 2024, the owner of the building complex gave Datwyler IT Infra in Hattersheim the contract to create two separate, completely autonomous IT infrastructures for the existing tenant and for the new occupant – without stopping operations.

The order went to Datwyler, because there was a need for swift action and the team in Hattersheim was already familiar with the technical conditions – in particular the special backbone cabling. This consists of a flexible conduit system with air-injected fibre optics, some of which extends to the workstations. Datwyler had installed this solution itself in 2013/2014, at that time as a subcontractor, at the request of the end customer – and everyone involved was extremely satisfied with the service provided.



Expansion of computing capacities

The company's data centre was spread over three sites within the building complex. The racks inside were supplied with electricity and cooling through the raised floor. The company retained two of these data centres, the main site and one backup site. Datwyler expanded the main site by four racks to create capacity for future growth. Because there was enough space, the raised floor and cold aisle containment could be extended without any problems. Greater power and cooling capacities were also needed. New outputs were provided and the existing busbars in the raised floor were given additional fuses.

Instead of 14, the company now has 18 racks available, two of which are data racks with patch panels. Some of the additional space was used for active components that were originally installed at the other sites.



The new tenant, who took over the divested division, now uses the third data centre site, which Datwyler has also upgraded. It consists of 16 enclosed racks with circulating air cooling – and is completely autonomous.



Separating the IT network

When the network within the building complex was separated, it was still possible to keep using the existing data distribution rooms (floor distributors). Two of them remain with the original user and one was handed over to the new tenant.

To connect the workstations on the one side and the data centre on the other, in places Datwyler used the existing tubing system and in places new fibre optic and copper cables were laid.

Datwyler carried out the work between February and October 2025, without interrupting operations.

Top security requirements

During the whole physical separation of the IT infrastructure, as well as all of the upgrading and expansion work, the strict security requirements that are normal for a company in the defence field, applied: a lot of the work could only be carried out after 5 pm or at weekends; the teams involved could only move within the building under supervision; and “normal” work, such as drilling and hammering, could only be carried out when the security systems were turned off because, otherwise, the slightest amount of just or the slightest vibration would have triggered the alarm.

Not a day's downtime, no problems

Nevertheless, Datwyler IT Infra and the subcontractors involved were able to complete the contract on time and according to specification – with only one false alarm, for which they were not to blame.

Since then, the systems installed have been running smoothly on both sides. Small jobs on the various storeys should be completed by the end of 2025. The client is accordingly satisfied. Not a day's downtime and no problems – as well as new capacities for the future. Follow-on contracts have already been awarded to Datwyler.

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