CASE STUDY

MODERN CABLING SOLUTION FOR THE SWISS PARLIAMENT

In the Parliament Building (Bundeshaus) in Bern, symbol of Swiss political life for over 100 years, communications now travel via a high-quality system from Datwyler. Since mid-2008 the high-performance multimedia cabling can be used to transmit data, telephone, radio and TV signals.

To avoid an ongoing sequence of small-scale repair and maintenance tasks, the Parliament opted for a total renovation of the national monument. Work on the Bundeshaus, for which there was a budget of nearly 100 million Swiss Francs, is due to be completed by the end of 2008. The motto for the building project is "Restored to its former glory". In addition to the careful renovation, restoration and upgrading of the existing cultural heritage, the Parliamentary Services Department would also like to cut energy and operating costs by installing the latest building services.

Future-proof communications infrastructure

The planning by the Parliamentary Services Department included creating workstations with high-performance and future-proof technology for the members of the Council, the political groupings and its own employees. It was in light of this that the department opted for cabling from Datwyler.

The fibre optic cabling fitted in the Bundeshaus links the external data centre to a central server room. Six floor distributors are connected to this via optical fibres and coaxial cables. At the tertiary level, a Prime Solution (PS GG45) from Datwyler is used to connect the workstations – about 250 terminals in the chambers of the Nationalrat and the Ständerat (Upper and Lower Chambers) and the offices of the Parliamentary Services Department. In addition, all telephones (Voice over IP, VoIP), the printers that the members of the Council can via WLAN connections during their meetings, the notice boards for members of Parliament and press representatives and a number of WLAN hotspots are all incorporated in the communications network.

Altogether, some 100 kilometres of Uninet 7150 4P multimedia cable were installed in the Bundeshaus. This Category 7 copper data cable and the PS GG45 modules are among the most efficient on the market and have made it possible to set up a network in the new Class FA up to 1000 Megahertz. When the authorities were evaluating cabling systems to operate today's applications, the high reserve capacity available for future applications played an important role.

Infrastructure for all services

Installing Datwyler´s multimedia cable and special panels in the floor distributors means that the parliamentary services department can also use the LAN cabling to transmit radio and TV signals up to 862 MHz and, if necessary, distribute them to every workstation, with no need for a separate coaxial cable network. This means that there is only one network infrastructure to be operated and administered for all services, which also offers even greater flexibility.

The Datwyler system that has been installed is also used to supply end devices with energy remotely (Power over Ethernet, PoE). Since there is no need for power cables for VoIP telephones, WLAN hotspots or other devices, this system reduces both the complexity of the cabling infrastructure and the costs for the building´s operator.

"With its new, high-performance cabling solution, Datwyler is making an important contribution towards achieving the ob-

jectives of the renovation work in the Bundeshaus", explained Hans Peter Gerschwiler, Deputy Secretary General of the Swiss Parliament. "Thanks to this cabling concept, we have been able to avoid a great deal of additional investment, for example for a coaxial overlay network. What's more, the investment by the Parliamentary Services Department is protected because of the considerable reserve capacity in the cabling system".

The individual users benefit from the flexibility and reliability as well as from the increased bandwidth of the Datwyler cabling system.

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