**CASE STUDY**

# NEW NETWORK FOR 100 EMBASSIES

In 2009 Datwyler was commissioned to plan and implement the passive IT networks in over 100 embassies, consulates and UN missions of an Arabian Gulf state. Thanks to professional project management and Datwyler's international partner network, the new IT networks were handed over in December 2010.

As a turnkey supplier of electrical and ICT infrastructures, the Datwyler Cabling Solutions division carries out worldwide on-site analysis, draws up proposals for infrastructure design, delivers the requisite system solutions and – in close collaboration with local partners – takes on the installation, documentation and maintenance of the new systems. The company also provides these services for multisite projects.

It is two years since Datwyler was awarded the contract for a mammoth multisite project, that of equipping over 100 of a Gulf state´s embassies, consulates and UN missions with new passive IT networks. The client was the state's Foreign Ministry. The Foreign Minister appointed an overall project manager of the active and passive IT network including new software, and he in turn awarded the contract to a local subcontractor who brought in Datwyler to install the passive IT network.

### Cooperation with 50 local installation firms
Datwyler first had to draw up exact targets and specifications in collaboration with the clients – the Ministry, the overall project manager and the subcontractors – and agree a practical course of action with them. The wishes and requirements of the ambassador and the embassy staff at all the individual sites then had to be taken into consideration and implemented – in each case after obtaining the Foreign Ministry's consent – with the aid of around 50 local installation firms. At a later stage of the work some adjustments were also made by the Ministry and the subcontractor. The installation involved complying with the strictly limited access times and working hours stipulated partly by the Ministry, partly by the embassies themselves.

Installation encompassed the passive IT networks including the requisite racks and connections as well as raised floors in the server rooms. The embassies are frequently housed in luxurious buildings or buildings of historical importance, so the installation had to be carefully coordinated with the interior. For example, in many places the cables had to be run behind wall panelling and connected to matching flat flush-mounted sockets. Local conditions sometimes required the Datwyler teams to carry out other building and installation work such as running power lines from the transformers beside the street to the racks, retrofitting the earth system and occasional interior finishing.

### Professional project management
Thanks to professional project management, a structured approach and the delivery of standardised products by Datwyler, one after another the 104 sites were cabled with increasing rapidity from December 2009 onwards. A year later the new networks were tested and certified, commissioned and connected to the Foreign Ministry's worldwide network.

### Redundant Class E network
Each Datwyler network is made up of Class EA cables and components and extends over the full embassy range, on some sites in up to three buildings, allowing all staff members fast access to the Internet and the Embassy LAN or satellite network (VSAT) from their work stations. At the Ministry's request these two networks are strictly separate from each other in terms of the hardware and software used, and each is of redundant design.

Today the Foreign Ministry of the Arabian Gulf state has a standardised IT network with very secure and highly available connections which it can use to access any PC in any embassy. Operation of the passive network has been absolutely stable since start-up. The Datwyler products and solutions installed use cutting edge technology and give the Ministry a high degree of future security. Even in the short term the stability and reliability of the Datwyler solution should lead to a considerable reduction in maintenance costs. The cabling was set up to be scalable from the outset, moreover, so all subsequent orders and extensions have been carried out quickly and easily to date.

(March 2011)