CASE STUDY

SIEGFRIED LTD RELIES ON DATWYLER SYSTEM SOLUTION FOR NEW LABORATORY BUILDING

In autumn 2009 the Siegfried Group put communications cabling by Datwyler into service in the new laboratory building at its headquarters in Zofingen, Switzerland. The cabling system provides Siegfried a long-term investment protection.

At the headquarters of the Siegfried Group in Zofingen, a global player in the life industry, the three-storey glass volume of the new laboratory building stands out prominently. Since September 2009 it has been serving over 100 of the 700-some employees at Zofingen as a state-of-the-art environment for analyticcal and chemical research and development. Siegfried describes the new building as "a successful symbiosis of modern technology and cost efficiency".

State-of-the-art standard

This description also applies to the new communications infrastructure by Datwyler, which is so powerful that it represents a well-protected long-term investment for Siegfried. "When we planned the communications cabling for the new lab building, we adapted the current standard to the state of the art," says Rainer Keller, Head of IT Operation at Siegfried Ltd. Like the previous standard, it prescribes a qualified infrastructure for all new buildings and rehabilitation projects – meaning completely measured and recorded – but one that provides much higher transmission rates. The 20-year Datwyler system guarantee underscores the long-term quality standard. Besides the high reserve capacity, the new cabling system offers the option to integrate voice over IP (VoIP) and power over Ethernet (PoE).

Complete solution from one source

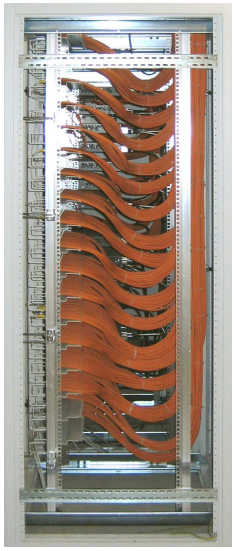
A Datwyler Modular Solution (MS) was used. The system, according to Keller, was chosen for its good connection technology and electrical and mechanical properties: "Shielded Category 7_A S/FTP cables offer such high performance that the whole system can be relatively easily extended to Class F_A if ever required." For the connection technology Siegfried defined a Category 6_A RJ45 module (in accordance with IEC) from Datwyler as the new standard.

Other aspects were also important to the life sciences company: "We want a complete solution from a single source. This includes, for example, mounting rails and fasteners, IP67 outlets and connectors," tells the Head of IT Operation. "And last but not least, we were also satisfied with the clear naming conventions and descriptions of all system components and the short delivery times by the manufacturer."

Siegfried handled the design and engineering of the system itself. Datwyler acted as a consultant, contributing its know-how to help define the requirements for the new system and produce the user specification. Alpiq InTec West AG installed the new network and was responsible for quality control. The team led by Thomas Bitterli specialises in solutions in the field of building systems and facility management as well as in transportation technology and power-supply systems.

One infrastructure for all applications

The Alpiq InTec team installed floor distribution racks for the generic cabling system on two floors. Like the other 36 rack locations on the Siegfried site, these two are connected to both data centres with redundant 12-fibre OM3 or OM/3+ fibre optic cable from Datwyler. 1000 copper ports are available for the network in the lab building. Horizontal cabling was executed, in conformance with the standard, with some 60 kilometres of Datwyler 7702 4P data cable, which offers reserves of up to 1200 Mhz. Workstations are served via raceways beneath the windowsills. The typical work-station has three outlet boxes, some of which are built into special lab equipment.



"Connected to the network in addition to PCs and VoIP telephones are printers, digital clocks, and laboratory devices. The latter are also directly connected to a great many mini-servers," explains Rainer Keller.

The cabling system carries all the fixed-line voice and data traffic including specific laboratory applications and the SAP, access control and time-clock systems, currently with up to 1 Gbit/s.

"We also installed DECT transmitters and WLAN access points. Thus we've covered the entire new building with wireless technology", says Daniel Capiti, IT Project Head at Siegfried, in charge of telecommunications, time-recording, access control, and security systems. The PoE-supported equipment, such as telephones, is powered through the communications network.

Positive result

Keller says that the installation and validation of the network went very smoothly. In spite of the tight deadline, the system was handed over on schedule, along with the desired system guarantee from Datwyler.

That is due to the track record of "very good co-operation" not only between Siegfried and Datwyler, but also, as Keller points out in retrospect, between the manufacturer and Alpiq InTec during the installation works and while measuring the links, of which there are about 1000.

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