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AZ SINT-JAN AV CONNECTS ADVANCED CARE PROCESSES THROUGHOUT ENTIRE CAMPUS WITH 10 GBPS NETWORK

Bruges hospital optimizes care processes with large-scale LANmark OF3xt-cabling, allowing for fast information flow up to 550m from server room

The AZ Sint-Jan AV hospital in Bruges has made an important investment in its data network, using LANmark-OF3xt cables to build a new glass fibre network that delivers 10 Gbps throughout the whole campus. This allows for a smooth and efficient flow of information.

Executive Summary

CUSTOMER AZ Sint-Jan AV

LOCATION Bruges, Belgium

REQUIREMENT Provision of a new cabling infrastructure to transfer 10 Gbps in 6 connector-channel

EQUIPMENT LANmark-OF3xt cables, 420 patch panels, 12.000 connectors

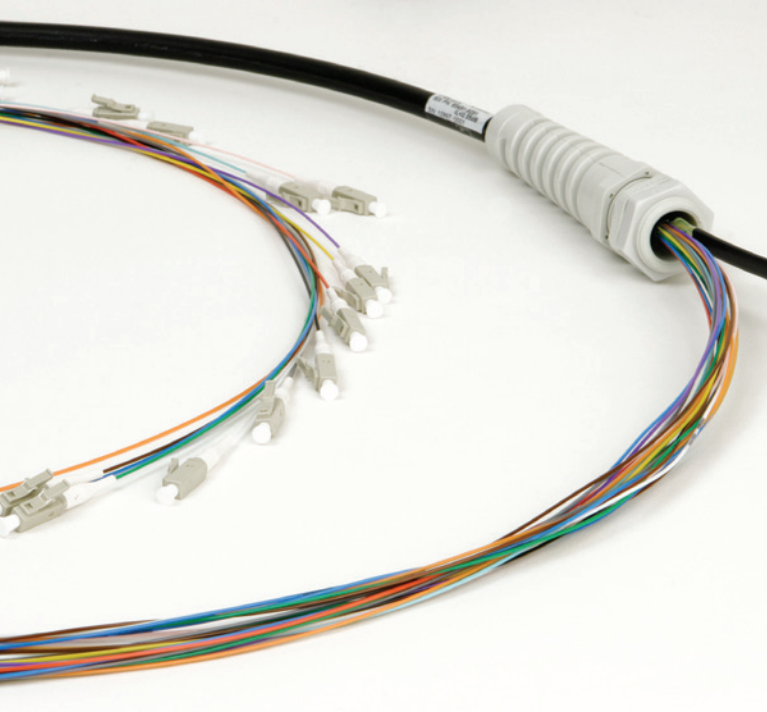
Hospital with an ambitious mission

AZ Sint-Jan AV in Bruges is a public hospital that offers high-level care for every patient. It has close ties with other hospitals in the region and works with them to further develop its patient care and efficiency.

Need for a network with a bigger capacity

It is vitally important for the hospital to be able to exchange data between departments and medical applications. To provide a faster flow of information, AZ Sint-Jan AV recently updated its network installing a new cabling infrastructure.

The core switches on the backbone of the hospital's data network, which were ten years old and thus 'end of life', needed to be replaced by more powerful ones.



“The deciding factor was that Nexans guaranteed a transfer of 10 Gbps over 550 metres, even with six connectors in-between.”

Koen Rommens,
Data Communications Manager,
AZ Sint-Jan AV

Challenges

- » Core switches 'end of life' – need to be replaced
- » Need for network with greater capacity, e.g. for CIS and PACS
- » More network security for backbone, secured wireless network and multimedia bedside terminals for patients and doctors
- » More bandwidth and redundancy on the perimeter of the hospital's network
- » New redundant server room

Solutions

- » LANmark-OF3xt cables
- » 420 patch panels
- » 12,000 connectors
- » Pre-terminated assemblies

Benefits

- » Faster flow of information
- » Easy installation

At the same time the information backbone of the hospital was adapted: the ring structure was replaced by a more controllable star structure.

In May 2005, AZ Sint-Jan AV contracted Nexans Cabling Solutions to install a new cabling infrastructure. "Electro Entreprise, our integrator, offered us Nexans material because it satisfied our requirements," says Koen Rommens, Data Communications Manager at the hospital. The deciding factor was that Nexans guaranteed a transfer of 10 Gbps over 550 metres, even with six connectors in-between. All active parts of the core switch are linked up to the cross-connect patch panels. In this way, there is no more (re)patching on the core switch, but only on the patch panels, which is the reason why there are six connectors.

Glass fibre cables for larger bandwidth

The glass fibre cables were chosen for their flexibility. There is a great variety of buildings on the campus and Nexans' LANmark fibre solution was able to offer an ideal combination of high bandwidth, easy installation, and support for 10 Gbps across distances of over 500 metres. In addition, LANmark-OF snap-in adapters have made installation quick and easy.



Nexans provided glass fibre cables, 480 patch-panels and 12,000 connectors. "In the beginning we were most often in contact with our installer, Electro Entreprise (EEG) and with Cebeo, Nexans' dealer that was in charge of the realisation of the project. We only had direct contact with Nexans near the end of the project. We are very satisfied about the cooperation with our three partners," says Rommens.

Faster flow of information

Nexans' glass fibre solution has delivered significant benefits for the hospital by enabling a much faster flow of information. It has also enabled more integration between different applications being used across the hospital. Physicians have access to the central patient file, from which they can go to other applications such as CIS (Cardiology Information System), PACS (Picture Archiving and Communications System) or lab results. As a result, they can work faster and more efficiently.

"It is not the central patient file that requires a large bandwidth, but applications like CIS and PACS", Rommens explains. "We have many medical appliances connected to our data network and the new cables are a perfect solution because they fulfill the high bandwidth need. These appliances used to be 'stand alone', but that's not the case anymore.

This is the reason why the glass fibre network is so important for our hospital," explains Rommens.

Another advantage of Nexans is that they offered preterminated cables," Rommens continues. "The connectors were already fixed at both sides of the cables and had already been tested, saving a lot of time during installation."

Physicians have fast and efficient access to patient data thanks to LANmark-OF3xt glass fibre cables from Nexans Cabling Solutions.

Neat and high-quality installation

The project has been evaluated very positively. The installation run very smoothly. "The whole installation is of a very high quality and we would certainly be willing to cooperate with Nexans Cabling Solutions again", Rommens concludes. ☑

