

New cabling network improves the services at stores in Dutch supermarket group



Sligro Food Group relies on Nexans LANmark-6 solution to provide a stable, reliable data flow for all its supermarkets

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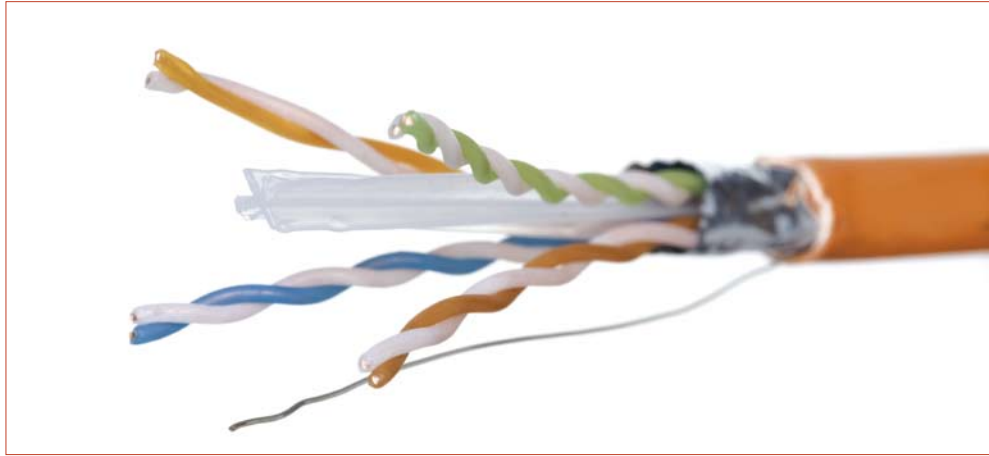
Executive Summary

Customer • Sligro Food Group

Location • The Netherlands

Requirements • Development of a stable and uniform data network in all the group's supermarkets

Material • LANmark-6 F²/UTP, LANmark-6 EVO Snap-in Connector and Patch Panels for 24 Snap in Connectors



Every store in a chain of supermarkets and wholesalers should provide a uniform, quality service regardless of where the customer shops. The same is true for each store's data network, which is why the Dutch Sligro Food Group decided to modernise its cabling network with a single, highly advanced solution by Nexans.

Sligro Food Group is amongst the most successful companies in the Dutch food service and food retail industry. The company has wholesalers (under the Sligro brand name) and a large number of retail supermarkets franchised under the EM-TÉ and Golf names. In total, the group represents some 250 locations across The Netherlands.

Towards a standardised network

Sligro has grown quickly, mainly from taking over a number of competitive supermarket chains. For example, a large number of Edah supermarkets were recently acquired and refurbished to fit Sligro Food Group formulas.

The cabling network is vitally important for business-critical systems, such as till scanners.

"Most of the acquired branches already had outdated cabling," explains Jan van Gelder, Director of X-ICT, a Nexans business partner. "After a number of takeovers, we found a jumble of cables in the stores. In order to guarantee that every one offers a uniform, optimal service, the standardisation of each one's telecommunication network was urgently needed."

The Group decided to contract Nexans Cabling Solutions to modernise their multiple networks. Willibrord van Sambeeck, Manager of Electro Mechanics at Sligro Food Group, says: "We had already worked with Nexans and were very happy with its products. The company also has a very good reputation within the information communication technology (ICT) industry. We never had any doubt about their abilities, and immediately decided on Nexans."

"Together with the Sligro Food Group's ICT department, we first looked into the requirements for the various stores," explains Jan van Gelder, whose company was responsible for the delivery, installation, labelling and certification of the cables. "It soon turned out that Nexans'

Challenges

- Deploy a system-wide cabling network
- Ensure a stable telecommunication infrastructure

Solutions

- 186.5 kilometres of Nexans LANmark-6 F²/UTP PVC cable
- 7664 LANmark-6 EVO Snap-in Connectors
- 236 Patch Panels for 24 Snap-in Connectors

Benefits

- Guaranteed stable network
- No shutdown of business-critical systems, such as till scanners
- The same service guaranteed in every store
- Sufficient bandwidth for the future

“The main advantage of the Nexans LANmark-6 cabling is its highly improved stability. This gives our network the operational safety we need to offer optimal services in our stores.”

Willibrord van Sambeek, Manager Electro Mechanics, Sligro Food Group

LANmark-6 solution was the ideal choice for all recabling. It combines excellent operational safety with speed.”

In total, no less than 186.5 kilometres of Nexans LANmark-6 F²/UTP PVC cable were installed in the different shops, which steer all data in the right direction. 7664 LANmark-6 EVO Snap-in Connectors and 236 Patch Panels for 24 Snap-in Connectors complete the cabling network.

depends on systems that rely on a stable network. Especially the barcode scanning system at the tills. If the data network is not functioning properly, the sales chain just about comes to a halt.”

Willibrord van Sambeek from Sligro agrees. “The main advantage of new cabling is its significantly improved stability. Nexans LANmark-6 gives our network the operational safety we need to offer optimal services in our stores.”

Cabling as backbone

Newly built stores and refurbished branches have new cabling installed. At some EM-TE and Golff branches, the network was so antiquated that it was necessary to replace all the cabling. In total, no less than 80 stores were completed during the first quarter of 2008.

“Obviously, cabling is of great importance in a wholesaler or supermarket environment,” says Alex Manders, IT Manager at Sligro Food Group. “A shop’s proper operation largely

Future-oriented solution

In addition to the bar code scanning systems at checkout, each store’s data automation as well as each one’s telephone system, counts on LANmark-6 to provide reliable, sufficient bandwidth for all applications day and night.

“We’re convinced this solution provides sufficient guarantees to accommodate future growth. All expansions and additional services planned for the coming years will certainly fit within this infrastructure,” concludes Alex Manders.



With energy as the basis of its development, Nexans, the worldwide leader in the cable industry, offers an extensive range of cables and cabling systems. The Group is a global player in the infrastructure, industry, building and Local Area Networks markets. Nexans addresses a series of market segments from energy, transport and telecom networks to shipbuilding, oil and gas, nuclear power, automotive, electronics, aeronautics, handling and automation.

With an industrial presence in more than 30 countries and commercial activities worldwide, Nexans employs 22,000 people and had sales in 2007 of 7.4 billion euros.

In the field of LAN Cabling Systems, Nexans Cabling Solutions offer a complete range of products and value added services providing improved reliability and reduced cost of ownership for Network Managers, together with faster installation times for installers.

In addition to LANmark physical infrastructure cabling systems, Nexans also specialises in the development Intelligent Infrastructure Management (IIM) products under the LANsense brand, including environmental monitoring and control (EMAC) devices and solutions for fully converged IP environments.

Nexans offers an unrivalled choice of LAN infrastructure solutions to a global customer base through an extensive network of regional offices and Key Account Management team.



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