



NEXANS HELPS UNIVERSITY OF A CORUÑA STEP UP TO 10 GIGABIT PERFORMANCE

Future-proof, reliable and robust cabling enables students and staff at Spanish University to enjoy the benefits of high speed communication access



Global expert in cables and cabling systems

When the University of A Coruña in Spain wanted to update its network, a stable and reliable cabling infrastructure that would support 10 gigabit performance was essential – Nexans Cabling Solutions provided the perfect answer.

Innovation and high standards

Situated in the very north-eastern tip of the country, the University of A Coruña is one of Spain's leading higher education establishments. With a campus both in A Coruña

and in the nearby town of Ferrol, it accommodates 25,000 students who come to read a wide variety of different subjects including biology, law, philosophy and architecture.

The University is especially renowned for its civil engineering course. To ensure that this reputation is upheld and enhanced, the college is constantly looking for ways in which it can innovate and deliver higher standards. The Internet plays an increasingly vital role in engineering studies so providing both students and staff with connectivity of the highest quality and reliability is very important.

Executive Summary

CUSTOMER University of A Coruna

LOCATION A Coruna, Spain

REQUIREMENT Robust, reliable and future proof network, 10 gigabit performance,

EQUIPMENT LANmark-6 10G cabling, 24-fiber OM3 cable, 2000 connectors

Long-term benefits

The increasing amount of rich content and multimedia now available on the network means that higher bandwidth and levels of performance are demanded. With this and its future needs in mind, in 2004 the University decided it was time to upgrade the cabling infrastructure within the civil engineering department. The new cabling would need to be capable of supporting bandwidth-intensive applications – both today and in the future. It would need to accommodate further increases in bandwidth and traffic so that the University could be certain of getting a good long-term return on its investment.





Nexans has installed 67 kilometres of Category 6 10G to provide the University of A Coruña's engineering faculty with high speed internet access and communications – and pave the way for future development and applications.



Nexans LANmark-6 shielded cabling has provided a robust, reliable and future-proofed infrastructure for one of Spain's leading civil engineering centres of learning at the University of A Coruña.

Challenges

- » Large-scale engineering department requiring high performance
- » Network must be robust and reliable – and resistant to interference
- » Need to deliver 10 gigabit performance on limited budget
- » Essential to provide future proofing and solid return on investment

Solutions

- » LANmark-6 10G shielded solution
- » 67 kilometres Category 6 10 gigabit cable installed
- » Seven racks serving over 1000 network points
- » 24-fiber OM3 cable also deployed
- » 2,000 Nexans connectors deployed

Benefits

- » Robust, reliable network & Internet connections
- » High performance improves access to learning resources
- » Scalable, future-proof installation delivers investment-protection and enables easy deployment of new applications with no degradation in performance

Detailed requirements were drawn up and an invitation to tender issued to accredited suppliers. These set stringent performance and reliability criteria as well as budget limitations. The University wanted to upgrade its existing network to deliver up to 10 gigabit performance throughout the civil engineering department. It wanted to guarantee the highest levels of performance and availability to all students and lecturers.

High performance, scalability and future-proofing

Few companies were able to put forward a proposition that met these criteria and only one was able to meet all the University's needs on all counts. Nexans Cabling Solutions proposed the use of its LANmark-6 10G solutions to provide the precise combination of high performance, scalability, future-proofing, and low cost required. In addition, Nexans stipulated that it would work closely with the University throughout the whole planning and installation process.

Significantly, Nexans was already a trusted supplier to the University of A Coruña so there was a high degree of confidence in the company. Nexans had performed a number of LANmark-6 installations for other departments. This also meant that compatibility with other systems across the campus could be guaranteed.

The University's IT Manager Mr Jesús Salceda, comments: "The University knew it could rely on Nexans Cabling Solutions and had complete trust in both the company and its comprehensive solutions. Their in-depth knowledge of

the University and our good experiences with other cabling projects made it the right choice to suit the University of A Coruña's needs."

No disruption to day to day operations

During the course of the year, the cabling was installed within the engineering buildings. The process took just three months to complete and was achieved within the pre-defined budget.

It was carried out without any disruption to the University's day to day operations. This had been a stipulation set out in the original tender and constituted one of the main challenges for Nexans in completing this project. Old cabling had to be taken out and replaced with the new LANmark-6 shielded solution.

This was achieved thanks to careful planning by Nexans' expert installation partner, Sarpel and Cableados e Instalaciones Especiales (C.I.E.). "The whole of the process was fast, efficient and smooth", says Mr Salceda.

Meeting connectivity needs

A total of 67 kilometres of Nexans LANmark-6 10 gigabit cable was installed in the civil engineering faculty. Seven racks were used – three in the administration building serving 292 network points, and four in the lecture rooms and laboratories, serving 704 points. Over 2000 connectors were installed along with high quality 24-fibers OM3 cable. The civil engineering network is connected to the main IT building with SM and MM fiber.

In total, the University's engineering department has 1035 gigabit Ethernet connection points, distributed through 44 panels. This meets the establishment's immediate connectivity needs and provides plenty of room for future expansion.

A solid and dependable framework

In operation, the Nexans LANmark-6 solution has proved to be robust and reliable. It is also fast and secure and the carefully designed infrastructure ensures that it will go on meeting the needs of the University of A Coruña for many years to come. "The Nexans solution has given the University a solid and dependable framework upon which it can build and grow its capability, keeping pace with new developments and technologies", says Mr Salceda.

Students and staff users have responded very positively and are taking full advantage of the high speed connections to access research and course material and to run software models and tools. The high bandwidth availability also ensures there is plenty of room to run today's software applications and those that the University expects to adopt in the future.

Room for growth

The IT management team at the University is now planning the further installation of Nexans LANmark-6 solutions in new faculties that are now being constructed. The deployment of Nexans' advanced management software, LANsense, is also being given serious consideration. With plenty of room for growth, the installation of Nexans LANmark-6 cabling at the University of A Coruña looks like being a success story that will continue for many years to come. ■

