

EDF partners with Nexans



Électricité de France (EDF) chooses to capitalise on the experience and know-how of Nexans and business partner RJ45 Technologies for a major extension of its main Data Centre.

The EDF Group, one of the leaders in the European energy market, is an integrated energy company active in all areas of the business: generation, transmission, distribution, energy supply and trading. In recent years, it has provided 22 per cent of the EU's electricity. In January 2010, EDF issued a call for bids to extend its main Data Centre in Val-de-Rueil, which was won by RJ45 Technologies for a proposal centred on Nexans performance.

Challenges

- Major infrastructure upgrade for EDF Noé's main Data Centre network
- Highly mission-critical data needed 24/7. No downtime during recabling
- Entire upgrade to be completed in 30 days
- New infrastructure of highest quality; built to easily handle data needs for decades

Solutions

- LANmark-OF OM3 cables pre-fitted with MPO connectors
- MPO cassettes

Benefits

- Pre-connectorised cabling helps speed installation
- Complex network upgrade successfully achieved under tight deadline with no downtime
- New infrastructure highly reliable; meets data needs for decades to come
- Data Centre's operating efficiency kept at peak levels

AN ALREADY-PROVEN PARTNERSHIP

Called Noé, the project involved the complete infrastructure extension of six of the Data Centre's eight rooms. RJ45 Technologies provided full backbone support using Nexans' LANmark-OF OM3 cables pre-fitted with multifibre push-on (MPO) connectors. MPO cassettes were also provided, consisting of MPO connectors at the back and 12 traditional LC connectors in front. There was a particularly tight, one month deadline involved to ensure minimal downtime of critical data flows, not only for network design, but installation as well.

EDF was already familiar with the RJ45 Technologies/Nexans partnership. In 2007, the firms teamed-up to win an EDF contract to provide new and upgraded services in EDF's telecommunications and computer networks supporting industrial and non-residential sites in the Northern and Ile-de-France regions. Selected from more than 60 applicants, the deal particularly stood out due to the quality of the Nexans OM3 preterminated cables proposed.

Based in Champigny-Sur-Marne in France, RJ45 Technologies' experience and know-how in the industrial and non-residential sector also appealed to the EDF Group. Since then, the pair has covered considerable distance alongside EDF and won large copper-network contracts including the FOX project in Bois-Colombes in 2008 (equivalent to 1,400 workstations linked using LANmark-6 foil untwisted pair (F/UTP) copper cable and 8,400 RJ45 connectors), the Pacy-sur-Eure computer room renovation project (LANmark-6 F/UTP with 4,000 RJ45 connectors), and the Noisy-le-Grand project in 2009 (7,500 RJ45 connectors and 200 km of screened LANmark-6 F/UTP cable).

INCREASED PERFORMANCE IN RECORD TIME

The Noé project involved recabling the group's main Data Centre west of Paris that manages and stores records from different corporate applications including administrative and R&D. This was a project requiring long-term vision to ensure the continuity

of the functional technical equipment as well as anticipate the group's increasing bandwidth needs.

The site consists of 8 computer rooms, each having 500m² of operating surface area. EDF was once again drawn by the quality of Nexans Cabling Solutions' infrastructure, such as pre-connected MPO links and sliding fibre panels. As for RJ45 Technologies, their vital know-how and methodology, as well as their unique ability to manage costs and adhere to very tight project deadlines, were highly valuable benefits. It was in fact a real challenge to meet EDF's deadlines, since for legal reasons, the technical teams were unable to access the site before the Data Centre extension works were completed. "So we battled against time to lay down the cabling, completing the project in four weeks instead of the normal six months," said Bujar Marevci, CEO of RJ45 Technologies.

A HIGHER THAN 99% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION RATE

Offering a flexible, economical solution that was quickly implemented, RJ45 Technologies has enhanced the foundation for an even more sustainable relationship with EDF. The integrator boasts a higher than 99% overall customer satisfaction rate, based primarily on consistent quality service.

Exploiting Nexans cabling expertise, RJ45 Technologies installed new fibre cabling equivalent to more than 172,000 traditional connectors. "This approach was a real advantage for EDF, who had the added benefit of reduced down time for its staff with no service interruptions. The site's operating efficiency was never compromised", comments Bujar Marevci. The Noé project is still alive; the extension of other buildings at the site lies ahead for 2013.

"There were no service interruptions and the site's operating efficiency was never compromised"

Bujar Marevci,
CEO RJ45 Technologies