French Ministry of Economy and Finance: Prepared for decades to come!

NEXANS TECHNOLOGY CHOSEN FOR NEW NETWORKS

Following a tender, France's Ministry of Economy and Finance has chosen a solution proposed by Nexans for the renovation of its Bercy office as well as a new building in Ivry. Although each site will have a different installer, Nexans was picked as the sole supplier for all cabling and connection boxes.

In September 1981, President Mitterrand decided to give over the entire Louvre palace to the Louvre museum. The Ministry of Finance, which had previously occupied part of the building, was relocated to a new, hi-tech facility. In June 1989, more than 6,000 staff and ministers moved to the attractive complex at Bercy.

Thirty years later, 'hi-tech' had evolved considerably and the communications services available to the Ministry of Economy and Finance no longer met current requirements. A tender was launched, with a focus on high-quality components, durability, supplier reliability, environmental quality and more. "We chose Nexans' solution, as proposed by installer Eiffage, as it was the best by far," said Yves Galpy, Project Manager in charge of IT Infrastructure. "From the very beginning, Nexans were closely involved in the project's technical and commercial aspects."

CLASSIFIED PROJECT

Installing a high-performance cable network is difficult enough. However, doing so throughout 5,000 m² of office space, most of which is occupied 24 hours a day all year round, is another thing altogether. "Being discreet was essential, so that everyone could keep on working as usual at all times", says Yves Galpy. "For this 'sensitive' project, I did not push for fast completion. I was far more concerned with discretion and final quality. Mistakes were simply not an option." To satisfy the very specific demands and high standards of this installation, Nexans designed all-new 4 x 4 pair cables, later developed into 6 x 4 pair. These run from the technical rooms through overhead ducts and are more compact, produce less waste and can be installed more rapidly than other cables.

"The chosen LANmark-6A solution uses cabling links in 4 x 4 pairs, between 30 and 80 metres in length, with a 2 metre pitch", specifies Jean-Michel Démirdjian, Key Accounts Manager for Nexans. "The installer provided us with a specific list detailing the length of the links, which allowed us to ensure very precise manufacturing." In the offices, posts with integrated boxes were placed close to workstations during the night. "The team was highly skilled," Yves Galpy notes. "The entire installation took about a year and the system's performance is everything we had hoped for. All in all, a huge success!"

VERY HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS

"As part of our real estate policy, we focus on freeing up prestigious sites in the centre of Paris and moving their former inhabitants to newly-created modern buildings that are far better suited to their current needs," explains the Project Owner. This approach also resulted in the Economic and Financial Ministries' new building in Ivry, where they have been housed since September 2012. "The aim was to realise results of a very high quality at a reasonable cost. The chosen installer, Point-Sys, was the perfect partner on this occasion." Point-Sys, established in 1996, has some fifty employees. "Our key advantages

are our reactivity, quality of execution and our experience", states Nicolas Feuillade, General Manager of Point-Sys. "These factors allow us to fully understand people and products. Nexans was our number one choice."

SITE RESTRICTIONS

"For this 7-storey building, we created 160 km of cables and more than 12,000 RJ45 Nexans Snap-In Category 6A connectors," says Nicolas Feuillade. "These were F/FTP LANmark-6A cables - 1 x 4 pair and 2 x 4 pair - with consolidation boxes for the IT network, Wi-Fi, access control and the telephone system." One might imagine that rolling out a network in an entirely new building would have been easier than at the older Bercy site. However, this was not the case. "The difficulty with this type of development is the fact that different works all take place at the same time, on a restricted site. Materials are subject to major ordeals. In the end, however, we experienced no problems. The combination of high-performance products and rigorous implementation assured a top-quality installation in line with the Project Owner’s demands. The LANmark-6A cabling system ensures data transfer in excess of 10 G/s, which is excellent. We should now be prepared for the coming 20 or 30 years, at least."