

Full fibre ring for London City Airport

Reichle & De-Massari successfully take on full project, including design and costing

In 2013, London City Airport started up a £15m investment program and drew up a master plan outlining their vision for growth up to 2030. This aims towards an expansion of the airport to a maximum capacity of eight million passengers per annum within its existing boundaries. Furthermore, during his Broadband World Forum keynote last October, Matthew Hall, chief commercial officer of London City Airport, discussed plans to improve the customer experience with technology and connectivity.

Of course, such an ambitious vision brings a number of infrastructural requirements. Clearly, London City Airport needed a considerable amount of future-proof broadband bandwidth...

Recently, a new fibre ring was installed around the airport perimeter. There are a number of drop-off points around the six kilometre perimeter that required resilient connectivity. To design and cost this, R&M UK worked closely with *NATS Services Ltd*. This company provides air traffic control at airports in the UK and overseas, as well as a number of related engineering, technical and education services.

Due to the distances involved, single mode cable and high quality connectivity were proposed. In this case, R&M did business directly with the client, instead of being approached by an installation company first.

CREATIVE APPROACH

It was clear that the project would be challenging due to its high profile nature, the hours of work involved and the level of risk. However, there was sufficient experience in design and project delivery within R&M and ample support from the Qualified Installation partner.

For this project, all work had to be done outside airport hours. There were some health



London City Airport during the installation process

and safety issues, as the airport is on an island and the ducts run around its edges, very close to the water. Also, a creative approach to logistics was required, as there was no on-site storage to speak of.

R&M has been working with NATS for three years now, and had already performed smaller projects with them in Southampton and Belfast. This new project was a complete success and shows this business really works. For the customer, the benefits are clear: significant savings and

direct communications. Also, a manufacturer offers the greatest possible expertise regarding their own materials, as well as longevity and stability.

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Understanding the client's needs has enabled all parties to engage in depth ensuring all aspects were met with a quality solutions deployment. The installer was enthusiastic and is keen to participate in future projects. For R&M, it is important to not just offer the right products and services, but to think along with the client and provide services that make a difference. Working directly on large projects with clients gives more scope for developing a relationship and sets us apart from the competition.

"NATS has many suppliers and manufacturers, helping us provide solutions for the aviation service provider industry," concludes Paul Hatia-Black, Senior Systems Engineer Nav/Met. "In our line of work, safety, service delivery and reputation are key factors. The products we supply must not only be fit for their intended purpose but also innovative, in order to drive safety and costs whilst planning and servicing the future needs of our customers and flying public. This is best served with close working relationships with innovative, forward-looking suppliers and manufacturers, such as R&M."