

Structured Cabling

£2.5m IIM installation for global banking group



The challenge

Our client, one of the world's leading banking groups, engaged Excel to upgrade their existing Cat 5e infrastructure to a SYSTIMAX intelligent (IIM), GigaSPEED X10D and LazrSPEED 300 fibre solution over three trader floors in one of their main London office buildings.

This major £2.5 million project required a design solution that minimised the loss of valuable space within the trading environment. Careful attention to the existing infrastructure was critical, ensuring it was not disturbed during the project and then, on completion, could be easily removed.

The project had to be carried out within tight timescales but with the flexibility to accommodate last-minute changes to the installation programme.

Crucially, the importance of this live working environment meant there could be no displacement of staff and no disruption to day-to-day business.

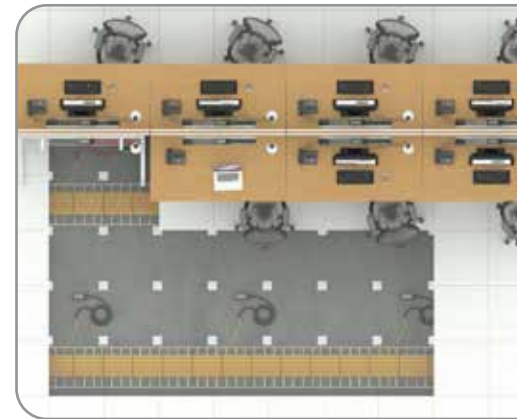
The solution

As a CommScope-approved installer, Excel developed a number of design and installation solutions for assessment, each based around the latest SYSTIMAX iPatch active GigaSPEED X10D and LazrSPEED 300 solutions.

With limited on-site storage and short project timescales to consider, a pre-terminated solution was selected – allowing Excel to produce a programme of works detailing completion within 75 percent of the time of a conventional installation.

In conjunction with the client and builders, we detailed the location of two new telecom interface rooms (TIRs) and cabling routes on each floor to allow for the installation of:

- 4 network cabinets per room
- 6no. 48U patching frames per room
- 16 x 48 port network harness links per room
- 16 x 24 port GigaSPEED X10D inter TIR links over three floors to the main comms room
- 28 x 24 port GigaSPEED X10D backbone links over three floors to the main comms room
- cabling design of a 1.8 meter grid over each complete floor, with GOP boxes cabled back to alternate TIRs to allow alternate desks to be cabled diversely
- 15,888 GigaSPEED X10D data points made up of 1,986 x 8 way GOPs
- 1,152 duplex LazrSPEED Fibre connections over 3 floors on diverse routes to the main comms room.



At a glance

- » £2.5m project to replace infrastructure across three trading floors
- » Full design and build service
- » Live working environment, limited on-site storage and tight timescales
- » CommScope structured intelligent X10D and LazrSPEED 300 cabling solution
- » 'Smart' project management to accommodate changing client requirements and the demands of the programme
- » Offsite copper pre-termination to ensure fast-track installation
- » Successful 26 week completion with no reported issues
- » An intelligent infrastructure solution that enables space occupancy, IT capacity and asset management and enhanced BAU support

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Pivotal to the success of the installation would be the 'smart' approach to project management which allows Excel's teams to accommodate and respond to changes across the wider building project.

Extensive communication, escalation and response plans were also developed in order to help manage and minimise any unexpected disruption, including details such as a 'first aid kit' of fibre splicing materials and copper repair kit to be used in the event of accidental damage.

Implementation

Working closely with the client and builder, areas of each trading floors were cleared in turn to allow for the construction of each TIR.

Only one floor was cabled at a time, with cabling allowed to begin at 19:00 on Fridays and the floor to be handed back to the client at 18:00 on Sunday. Quiet work in TIRs could take place during normal business hours, and GOP outlets could be tested between 8pm and 5am on weekdays. Delivery and collection of materials was permitted between 17:00 Friday and 18:00 Sunday in conjunction with other building services.

Once zone, cable route and GOP location plans were signed off, Excel engineers were able to accurately plan and programme cable installs.

Floors were zoned into 12 areas to allow for cabling to be run from each TIR at the same time.

Before cabling works started our support staff cleared each zone and cabling route of chairs and, where required, desks. Our project managers worked with the builders to ensure that cable routes were lifted and that all safe routes and signs were in place,

and that business-critical systems were not affected. During the de-commissioning period our pre-terminated assemblies were delivered to site and taken to the relevant zones.

Over the course of each weekend, the client team received regular updates from our on-site project managers. Once weekend works had been completed the empty cable drums and waste materials were removed from site; our onsite team checked that all IT equipment was connected and the floor was in a clean and tidy state; and the floor was handed back to the client.

Throughout the project an iPatch database was constructed and updated to keep pace with the installation.

Results

This major project was completed not only within budget but also well within the agreed timescales.

With no problems or interruptions arising as the project unfolded, the client's confidence in the process and programme grew – in turn leading to their request that Excel begin to work over a number of floors at once in order to shorten the project delivery time.

As a result the complete project was delivered in just 26 weeks with not a single adverse issue reported.

The client is now benefiting from the full range of an upgraded copper and fibre structured cabling system, with world-class 'intelligent' management technology delivering benefits such as capacity and usage data and reduced response times on break/fix issues.



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