

COLLEGE OF EUROPE FUTURE PROOF NETWORK WITH NORDX/CDT'S GIGABIX SOLUTION

NORDX/CDT's revolutionary GigaBIX Cross-Connect System provides students with a new high-speed network for internet access that will help them to prepare for success in an increasingly technological world.

Formed in Bruges in 1948, The College of Europe has provided post-graduate academic programmes which closely follow the move towards European integration. With a student body of some 300 graduates spanning 35 nationalities, the college is characterized by its independence, its bilingualism (English and French), the diversity of teaching staff and its multiculturalism environment creating a real European microcosm. In response to the opening of Central and Eastern Europe, the College founded a second campus in Natolin, Poland in 1994. The College needed to move their network technology into the new millennium and be ready to face the challenges involved in providing a high-tech education.

College administrators felt the skills that their graduate students needed to acquire and master were quickly changing. Rapid changes in technology require students to learn and apply these new skills in their academic and career endeavours. In order to provide students with state of the art technological facilities, each student room in the Bruges residence was to be equipped with an internet connection and an IP telephone.

Net-Construct, a NORDX/CDT Certified System Vendor (CSV), had significant previous experience in installing structured cabling systems in older buildings throughout Europe and seemed to be the obvious choice for the installation at this learning institution.

In an initial phase, four of the seven residences were provided with the budget to install entirely new cabling systems for both the active and the passive kit. Net-Construct was given not only the task of delivering Gigabit Ethernet to each of the students' rooms but also to make this installation completely tamper proof. The obvious choice for this installation was NORDX/CDT's revolutionary GigaBIX Cross-Connect System with NORDX/CDT IBDN System 1200. This network would bring unparalleled reach, convenience and flexibility to the College's network infrastructure.



IBDN *Success Stories*

GigaBIX Cross-Connect System

NORDX/CDT's GigaBIX Cross-Connect System allows for an unmatched high density installation and provides significant space saving benefits for the College of Europe. It offers the best price-to-performance-ratio and fits well within the College's budgetary requirements.

The cabling systems in all four residences are similar in terms of structure. There is one single concentration point where all horizontal cables terminate onto GigaBIX mounts. The connection to the active, RJ45 based equipment is accomplished by terminating single ended line cords onto GigaBIX mounts. In between those two sub parts of the GigaBIX set up, a four pair cross connect wire is used.

Installations in older buildings, often classified as Historical, are sometimes quite challenging. In this project, there were issues in finding the right spaces to accommodate the cabling system. For instance, in the "Oude Zak" residence, the advantages of the ultra space saving features of the NORDX/CDT's GigaBIX solution were unmatched when compared to other competitive systems. The hallway of this residence included a small built-in closet. As this was located centrally, being able to incorporate a telecommunications room in a small space represented a big

advantage for the College. As for the active equipment, it was neatly installed in a 19" wall cabinet and placed in another location where it did not present any obstruction for the people passing directly underneath. Indeed, because it was only needed for the active equipment, a smaller wall mounted cabinet was selected. This was mounted in a passageway to the cellar of the building. A full sized 19" cabinet would block this passage but not so for the wall mounted version. It was simply mounted high enough so that people could walk underneath it.

This is but one of the many reasons why GigaBIX has so much more to offer than conventional solutions, even in relatively small installations (max 150 drops per residence). Needless to say, Pieter Corneillie, the College of Europe's IT Manager is extremely happy with this cabling solution.

In each residence, every room has a double Cat 5e connection. This option was selected over IP phones with integrated switches that allow PC's to be interconnected through them and thus requiring one less outlet. The cost comparison, however, showed that even in these hard to cable buildings, the extra outlet was the more cost effective solution, another major reason to select the IBDN GigaBIX Cross-Connect System.



IBDN *Success Stories*



IBDN System 1200

The NORDX/CDT IBDN 1200 System is installed throughout the residences at the college. In turn, this is fed back to the telecommunications rooms where the GigaBIX Cross-Connect System is housed. This end-to-end structured cabling system easily provides bandwidth capabilities of 160MHz and exceeds the category 5e standard. As part of the system, the IBDN 1200 cable offers greater signal power and signal-to-noise-ratio. Working in conjunction with the IBDN 1200 cable is the series of IBDN EZ-MDVO modules to provide a complete CAT 5e solution.

... IBDN 1200 cable offers greater signal power and signal-to-noise-ratio.

IBDN *Success Stories*

Outstanding Security and Superior Warranty

Not only does NORDX/CDT's GigaBIX Cross-Connect provide increased levels of security against a traditional RJ45 solution, it also provides a much more cost effective cabling system for the educational sector of the market where budgetary restraints are the norm. However cost constraints do not impact quality as there are no compromises on performance with NORDX/CDT's IBDN 1200 system.

The IBDN components installed in the IBDN structured cabling system have been "certified" to be warranted for a period of 25 years on parts and labour from the date of installation. This is one of the industry's strongest warranty programs. Components are also warranted to meet or exceed the specifications of Standards Organizations such as ISO/IEC, CENELEC and TIA/EIA for the category of IBDN system installed.

To further protect their installation, NORDX/CDT offers an exclusive Lifetime Assurance Warranty. This means that the IBDN Certified Structured Cabling System is guaranteed to operate with the applications which the System was originally designed to support, as well as any new applications, for as long as the College of Europe owns the system in its original place of installation.

The College of Europe plays an integral part in the community. Likewise, the community has an impact on students, faculty and staff. A solid networking infrastructure was key in strengthening this relationship and improving on the availability of the technology. As the College of Europe is preparing their graduate students with advanced high-tech skills NORDX/CDT, an industry leader in high performance network infrastructures is pleased to be a part of this important project.

Organization

COLLEGE OF EUROPE

Location

Bruges, Belgium

Vertical Market

Education

Number of Sites/Buildings

1

Cabling System

IBDN System 1200
GigaBIX Cross-Connect System

For more information about NORDX/CDT Structured Cabling Systems visit us on the web at www.nordx.com or contact the NORDX/CDT office in your area.