SoFi Stadium needed a complete, end-to-end cabling and connectivity system that could support and connect never-before-seen technology, and an infrastructure for Wi-Fi, digital ticketing and a DAS system.
As the first indoor-outdoor stadium ever constructed—home to the Rams and Chargers—SoFi Stadium has an appetite for innovation.

Part of the Hollywood Park entertainment destination, which will span 300 acres and features shopping, dining, recreation, nightlife, luxury apartments and offices, the venue’s goal was to serve as a one-of-a-kind, immersive fan experience.

SoFi Stadium is set to host NFL games, concerts, awards shows and Esports events, as well as the Super Bowl LVI in 2022, the College Football Championship Game in 2023 and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympic Games in 2028.

Construction of this 3.1 million-square-foot, $5 billion stadium was led by SASCO, a leading electrical construction and low-voltage systems integrator, and managed by Legends, a premium experiences company that serves entertainment and professional sports venues.
Challenge

To create these exceptional experiences, SoFi Stadium needed a complete, end-to-end cabling and connectivity system that could support and connect never-before-seen technology, such as a roof-suspended Oculus video board. It also need infrastructure for Wi-Fi 6, digital ticketing and a highly sophisticated DAS system designed by Belden partner JMA Wireless.

The construction window was small: SASCO, Legends and the stadium expected products that were readily available and fast and easy to install. To meet the demanding expectations of delivering bleeding-edge technology, multiple contractors were needed for the job—and they all needed training so they would be ready to work within minutes of arriving at the jobsite.

The scope of the project also required constant logistical oversight, management and interaction. There wasn’t any room for miscommunication: Everyone needed to be on the same page at all times to reduce mistakes, prevent setbacks and adhere to timelines.
Discovery

With a stadium of this cost and magnitude, nearly every decision-maker on the team needed to trust that the chosen cabling manufacturer and installers could pull off the impressive feat of deploying solutions that were easy to install, were dependable and would support the innovative technology in and around the venue.

After stadium owners and contractors saw the labor savings offered by Belden’s REVConnect® Connectivity line—combined with Belden’s reputation for quality, performance and reliability—the decision was made to move forward.
Solution

Because communication was just as important as the cabling and connectivity solutions chosen for SoFi Stadium, Belden created forums to connect technical staff with owners and contractors for direct interaction and problem-solving. Toward the end of the project, weekly calls kept ownership and contractors updated on product availability, installation and potential delays or other issues.

More than 5 miles of Belden Category 6A shielded cabling were installed inside the stadium bowl (manufactured in a custom Rams blue color). REVConnect Connectivity solutions, such as the FlexPlug, were used indoors and outdoors in applications where the size of a typical field-terminated plug inhibits direct connection of IoT devices.

Once the project was under way, the team realized there wasn’t enough room to support the DAS system they had planned on. Instead of cellular carriers bringing fiber to the stadium, Belden created a meet-me room with massive amounts of OSP fiber where carriers could connect to one another and pick up their traffic from inside the stadium. For this space, 11,000 strands of Belden fiber (totaling 57+ million square feet—enough to circle the moon twice!) were deployed, along with Fusion Splice-On Connectors that combine the benefits of fusion splicing with the simplicity of a field-installable connector to improve installation performance and reliability over mechanical splice connectors.

Belden’s DCX Optical Distribution Frame was selected for the stadium’s broadcast control room and DAS network. It offers the highest per-square-foot fiber termination density available, along with easy patch cord access, cable/patch cord protection, flippable modular cassettes for polarity management and front-access cabinet design for multiple configurations.

To make every square foot inside the stadium’s data center count, Belden created its Flexible Ribbon Cable specifically for this project. The cable’s small OD and superb flexibility make it easier and faster to handle than traditional ribbon cable. Sorting and ribbonization are already complete, which reduces labor resources, costs and necessary tools associated with traditional ribbon cable.

To help fans abide by social distancing requirements, SoFi Stadium integrates mass notification and digital signage to share COVID-19 alerts and reminders. Belden’s cabling is used to connect these systems to the network, as well as for the stadium’s broadcasting efforts, enterprise networks, AV, security and landscape lighting systems.
The cabling and connectivity utilized in SoFi Stadium will help recreate the fan experience and prepare the venue for 5G networks.

Thanks to open communication among SASCO, Legends and Belden—and the time savings and easy installation offered by Belden solutions—the stadium project stayed on schedule despite setbacks and change orders. The venue met its original deadline and was able to host its first NFL game in September 2020.

This stadium project makes up Belden’s largest fiber-strand-count project, its largest Category 6A shielded cable project and its largest REVConnect Connectivity project.

The cabling and connectivity utilized in SoFi Stadium not only help recreate the fan experience, but also prepare the venue for 5G and ensure that it seamlessly becomes part of the surrounding Hollywood Park, which will also include Belden fiber solutions.