

SYSTIMAX®

SOLUTIONS

Allied Irish Banks Standardize on SYSTIMAX® Solutions

Ireland's biggest corporation invests in new, high performance connectivity for its headquarters and branches across Ireland and UK

Allied Irish Bank (AIB) Group is Ireland's leading banking and financial services organization with more than 22,000 people across 750 offices worldwide. To ensure its workforce has fast, reliable communications, the company is rolling out a new Local Area Network (LAN) infrastructure at its branch offices and headquarters. The largest of these installations, at its head office in the financial district of Dublin, will have nearly 10,000 information outlets, making it one of Ireland's biggest LANs.

Before standardizing the cabling for its new networks, AIB looked carefully at every option.

It needed a solution to meet all the foreseeable connectivity needs of its systems for the next decade and beyond. Added to this, it wanted guarantees of performance, reliability and global support. The cabling infrastructure it chose to meet these needs was the SYSTIMAX® GigaSPEED® XL Solution, which exceeds the Category 6 cabling standard and comfortably supports gigabit networking.

Paul O'Farrell, Manager, Network Design, headed the team that designed the Banks' new LANs and selected the infrastructure, including cabling. Commenting on the cabling choice, he said: "We wanted a solution that would satisfy the current and future needs of all our operations worldwide. SYSTIMAX Solutions™ was able to satisfy the technical requirements with its GigaSPEED XL cabling and it also has a global network of support offices and certified BusinessPartners."

To plan the installation of its new LAN infrastructures, the Network Design and Network Management Center departments, part of AIB's Finance and Enterprise Technology division, are cooperating closely with the Banks' Property Department. Together, they are working with local SYSTIMAX BusinessPartners who are completing the re-cabling of the buildings.



“ We wanted a solution that would satisfy the current and future needs of all our operations worldwide. SYSTIMAX Solutions was able to satisfy the technical requirements with its GigaSPEED XL cabling and it also has a global network of support offices and certified BusinessPartners. ”

Paul O'Farrell, Manager, Network Design

In the first phase, 400 branches in Ireland and Britain are migrating from Token Ring to Ethernet LANs. The sites include branches of AIB's subsidiaries, First Trust Bank across Northern Ireland and Allied Irish Banks (GB) across Britain. The project to roll out the new cabling infrastructure to 250 of these branches began in 2004 and is headed by Gerry Feighery, Engineering Services Manager.

A second project to re-cable a number of the Banks' head offices was started in Spring 2005. In addition to the 10,000-outlet LAN in the Ballsbridge, Dublin office, this head office project also includes a 2000-outlet installation in their Adelaide Road building in Dublin and at the First Trust Center in Belfast.

In some cases, existing communications rooms are being used to house new SYSTIMAX patching hardware that is an integral part of the end-to-end GigaSPEED XL Solution. However, since the cable, connectors and patching hardware are much more compact and efficiently packaged than the old system, only half as many communications rooms are needed. In the Ballsbridge building, this will free a significant number of rooms for use as extra meeting or office space.

"With large systems for offices located in areas where real estate is expensive, small form factor connectors and thin cables can make a big difference," said Paul O'Farrell. "Even though our Ballsbridge building is being doubled in size, the space freed by the new cabling is a valuable extra benefit."

The new LANs will support a range of major applications currently used in AIB's retail and corporate banking operations. The LAN infrastructure also has the bandwidth needed by new, network intensive applications such as voice and video over IP, that may be introduced in the future.

Commenting on the installation, Wally Blennerhassett, Sales Director of SYSTIMAX Solutions Ireland, said: "AIB's growth and success depends on its IT systems, and the foundation for these systems is high performance connectivity. The company wanted strong guarantees that current and future networking applications would run over its new cabling system - to satisfy this requirement, SYSTIMAX Solutions could offer its industry-leading SYSTIMAX SCS 20-year Extended Product Warranty and Application Assurance."

SYSTIMAX[®]

SOLUTIONS

© 2005 CommScope, Inc.
All rights reserved.

Visit our Web site at www.systimax.com or contact your local SYSTIMAX Solutions representative or SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner for more information.
SYSTIMAX Solutions is a trademark of CommScope. All trademarks identified by ® or ™ are registered trademarks or trademarks, respectively, of CommScope.

This document is for planning purposes only and is not intended to modify or supplement any specifications or warranties relating to SYSTIMAX Solutions products or services.