

# SYSTIMAX<sup>®</sup>

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## SOLUTIONS

## 21st Century Connection for one of Europe's Oldest Parliaments

### Jersey's historic States Building plans for future decades with SYSTIMAX<sup>®</sup> Structured Connectivity Solutions

With history going back to 1204, the governing body of Jersey has always taken a long-term view, so when it came to refurbishing their Assembly of the States building, the island's Public Services Department wanted systems and materials that were synonymous with their future proof legacy.

A key part of the refurbishment was new network cabling to connect both telephones and computers. To meet its requirement for a high quality system with a life of 20 years or more, the Public Services Department chose a combination of SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED<sup>®</sup> copper and OptiSPEED<sup>®</sup> fiber solutions. The new cabling replaces a mix of old telecommunications and coaxial data cables, providing a fully integrated infrastructure that can support all the building's current and planned systems.

Currently, the cabling supports applications ranging from financial management and Internet access to administrative systems used by the Land Office and Bailiff's Chambers. The States Chamber also has network outlets next to every seat so that an electronic voting system for representatives can be installed in the future.

The new infrastructure will serve every department housed in the States Building, which is located on Royal Square in St Helier. In addition to Jersey's Legislative Assembly these include its courts, judiciary, land office and the Bailiff's Chambers. In total, these have nearly 200 computer users who need fast access to information and computer resources to deliver efficient services.

"Investment to improve communications, making public services faster and more responsive, was a key part in upgrading the States Building," said David Atkinson, building services engineer in the Public Services Department. "The architecture and historic importance of the building made re-cabling more difficult and expensive than most such projects, but the work was vital to efficient government. The GigaSPEED and OptiSPEED cabling we chose provides all the bandwidth and reliability we need, and we are confident it will go on doing so as more advanced systems are installed in the decades ahead."



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*David Atkinson, Building Services Engineer, Public Services Department*

SYSTIMAX SCS provides end-to-end connections at data speeds up to 1 Gb/s combined with the high reliability essential to avoid damaging network downtime. As well as high performance, a key factor in Jersey States' decision was the flexibility that the cable could offer and SYSTIMAX SCS excelled on both counts and offered cost saving extras. Any moves, adds and changes to network connections can now be done by the Building Services Department's own staff, saving the cost of cabling changes by outside contractors. Jersey States' now have network outlets installed throughout the building complex, and these can be linked to any of its telephone and computing facilities making the solution as flexible as possible.

During the phased installation process, employees had to hotdesk within the building so that fitters could upgrade their permanent offices. To facilitate these moves, parts of the old cabling system were kept in operation alongside the new one to ensure the network was still available for employee use. As SYSTIMAX outlets were installed throughout the offices, the process of moving staff became easier since all the telephone and data connections they needed could be connected via any outlet.

Installation of the cabling was completed by SYSTIMAX Prestige BusinessPartner, Jersey Telecom. In all, it installed 30 kilometers of GigaSPEED cable in the three buildings that make up the complex. This cable connects either directly to the central computer room or via a communications room at the opposite end of the complex linked to the computer room with a 4-core OptiSPEED fiber backbone.

Moves, adds and changes to the connections are made at distribution frames using high density SYSTIMAX 110 patching hardware. At the outset of the project, Jersey Telecom agreed a delivery schedule with Anixter, the largest global distributor and logistics services provider of wire, cable and connectivity products and services, to ensure all the cabling infrastructure products - including the patching hardware - were delivered within the tight project schedule.

Since the buildings had no existing risers and few built-in cableways, routing and laying the new cabling was a challenge. The system had to follow paths that caused least disruption to the historic fabric of the building, which meant using overhead trays, baskets and conduits as well as under-floor runs.

Working in collaboration with the Building Services Department, Jersey Telecom designed the most cost effective containment and routing for the complex installation. They also worked out fitting schedules to keep down noise and disruption so that the Assembly, Land Office and Bailiff's Chambers could go on operating during the renovation project.

"Equipping historic buildings with the fast connections they need to provide an efficient workplace for the 21st Century is not as easy as with new offices," said John McCarthy, managing director Northern Europe at SYSTIMAX® Solutions. "But our BusinessPartners have the expertise to meet the challenge, and using high performance SYSTIMAX Solutions™ guarantees that their installations will last for at least 20 years."

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