

CommScope and Range Resources Make Fort Worth History



In 1976, the Fort Worth, Texas, skyline was changed forever with the construction of the first of the Tandy Center's twin 20-story towers. Two years later, the second tower was erected. The buildings were constructed to serve as the corporate headquarters of RadioShack Corporation (formerly the Tandy Corporation), but also housed a mall and an indoor ice-skating rink. Over time, the mall began to fall into decline, and RadioShack sold the buildings to move into a new corporate headquarters, leaving the twin towers virtually empty. Six years later, the towers have been renovated and re-developed as City Place. And Range Resources is the first tenant to move in.

Range Resources is an independent oil and gas company that operates in the Appalachian, Southwestern and Gulf Coast regions of the United States. The company practices a balanced growth strategy that targets exploitation of its sizeable inventory of lower-risk development drilling locations with higher potential exploration projects and a complementary acquisition effort. Range Resources seeks to manage risk in every aspect of its business while generating attractive returns.



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The company had outgrown its offices at the Carter & Burgess building in downtown Fort Worth and decided to move its offices to the new City Place office tower, where it will occupy five floors. Because the building had to be completely renovated in order to remove the significant amounts of asbestos in the structure, Range Resources’ new offices essentially had to be built from scratch, which provided the company with the opportunity to upgrade its communications infrastructure from the ground up with a new cabling system. To do this, the oil and gas company looked to KRK Technologies, which recommended the SYSTIMAX® GigaSPEED® XL copper solution from CommScope.

“Any oil and gas company is going to need a sophisticated cabling infrastructure to support their applications, but Range Resources also wanted to implement Voice over IP,” Mark Guajardo, Operations Manager for KRK Technologies said. “CommScope is the leader in our industry in terms of structured cabling and end-to-end solutions, so it just made perfect sense.”

KRK designed and implemented the solution, which included 80,000 feet of the GigaSPEED XL 2071 plenum copper cabling in the horizontal and 5,000 feet of the GigaSPEED XL 2081 plenum cabling in the backbone. Both types meet the TIA/EIA 568-b2-1 Category 6 and ISO/IEC Category 6 specifications and provide the added performance margin required to support high-bandwidth applications – like Range Resources reservoir and 3-D seismic simulations.

The SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED XL Solution is a fully-integrated structured cabling solution including a range of cables, cords, outlets and patching hardware. It was created using new testing and simulation technology developed at CommScope Research and Development Labs, and it exceeds the Category 6/Class E standards in any channel up to 100 meters with six or fewer connectors. Interestingly, it was the unique testing capabilities that encouraged Range Resources to implement the SYSTIMAX cabling solution.

The GigaSPEED XL 2071 cabling transmits reliable voice, data and video, with excellent Quality of Service (QoS). Perfect, since Range Resources plans to implement VoIP in its new headquarters. That will help facilitate moves, ads and changes in addition to cutting long distance costs. The cables feature a patent-pending bi-sector tape that delivers the performance benefits of more traditional cabling without the stiffness and size associated with fluted center members. The GigaSPEED XL 2081 cabling also transmits reliable voice, data and video with a guaranteed margin of 10 db NEXT and PSNEXT. The cabling is an unshielded twisted pair that complements the GigaSPEED XL apparatus for the ultimate in cabling system performance, offering Range Resources’ 140 Fort Worth employees network line speeds in excess of 1 GB/s.

“Our existing solution was just pieced together, and I knew it wouldn’t support the applications we were looking to run, specifically VoIP,” Joe Hale, IT Director for Range Resources said. “We knew coming in that we needed a top-notch product to run the network, and Category 6 made the most sense. KRK Technologies recommended CommScope, but we looked at about four other alternatives. After KRK took us on the tour of the CommScope lab and we got to see the technology in action, we knew we’d found the right solution. KRK Technologies made sure the installation went smoothly, and we’re looking forward to our applications running well for years to come.”

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