

CONSTRUCTION

Odebrecht's New HQ Sets the Technology Standard with Intelligent Network Infrastructure from CommScope

The SYSTIMAX® iPatch® System opens the way to efficient remote management of office network infrastructures



One of Brazil's leading companies is using an intelligent network infrastructure to monitor, control and remotely manage its networks in real time. Installations in Rio and two offices in Sao Paulo, now controlled from a single location, set the standard for Odebrecht facilities worldwide.

“ When a problem occurs, it automatically alerts the network administrator through an event notification system. Technicians are informed through the iPatch equipment located on the cross-connect site. So, managers are instantly warned about security intrusions or changes that may cause unexpected downtime and affect business continuity. ”

— Ricardo Mattiello, Senior Sales Manager
CommScope Enterprise Solutions

Brazilian group, Odebrecht, employs 59,000 people in businesses operating across South America, Central America, the United States, Africa, Portugal and the Middle East. It has interests in sectors that include engineering, construction, mining, transport and real estate, and it controls Braskem, Latin America's largest petrochemical company.

Since 2007, Odebrecht has also invested in the emerging bioenergy market. Its businesses in this sector focus on producing ethanol and sugar and co-generating power from sugar and alcohol production.

When the group moved to new headquarters in Eldorado Business Tower in central Sao Paulo, it took the opportunity to gather several Odebrecht companies under one roof. These are now housed in more than 12,000m² of office space distributed over seven floors of the landmark building.

As part of its move to the new HQ, the group also installed systems technology that would be a model for all its offices. The voice and data network that underpins these systems is a key part of the group-wide IT infrastructure standard that Odebrecht has now established.

To provide structured cabling for the network, the company turned to the Sao Paulo based Policom Group for supply of materials and to Servline for installation work. The solution delivered by Policom and Servline was provided by CommScope Enterprise Solutions from its SYSTIMAX range.

More than 4,000 voice and data outlets in the HQ are now connected via SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® XL copper connections, which comfortably exceed specifications of the Category 6/Class E standards. SYSTIMAX LazrSPEED® laser optimized fiber conforming to the OM3 standard is used in the network backbone.

At the heart of the installation is the SYSTIMAX iPatch System. This provides real-time monitoring and control of copper and fiber connections in the network infrastructure. It provides network administrators with comprehensive knowledge and vision of the network, and gives cabling technicians information to optimize network efficiency to reduce downtime.

As part of the SYSTIMAX Intelligent Infrastructure Solution, the iPatch System saves time and improves network security. It also opens the way to remote monitoring and management of the network Infrastructure from a central IT facility.

Since their installation in the new HQ, similar SYSTIMAX solutions have been installed at Odebrecht's offices in the Villa Lobos area of São Paulo and in two buildings in the Botafogo district of Rio de Janeiro. Through the iPatch System, the network infrastructures at these locations are remotely administered via a 34Mb/s links to a control center near Sao Paulo's Guarulhos airport.

All connections to more than 1000 outlets at Villa Lobos can now be monitored in real-time and up-to-date change documentation and network diagrams are maintained on the iPatch System. Connections to more than 2000 outlets in the HQ building are monitored in the same way.

The iPatch System enables constant monitoring and checking of every port, and records of moves, adds and changes are stored in a central database. Electronic service orders raised using the system eliminate the need to fill in forms, improving productivity and speeding up moves, adds and changes.

To help technicians work more quickly with fewer errors, an iPatch display at the patch panel gives them step-by-step instructions on the connections required. Visual and sound signals also indicate where connections should be made and confirm when they have been successfully completed.

The overall results for Odebrecht are more reliable, trouble-free IT applications. Illustrating this, Roberto Inoshita, IT manager for ETH, an Odebrecht operating company, said: "In the past, there was an average of two cabling-related calls a day. Thanks to the modifications introduced, cabling calls have stopped and the activation of new access points is a simple, organized process. The cabling team no longer has to trace the whole cable run to verify where it is connected."

The iPatch System is the only one of its type able to detect and alert managers about intrusions or physical patch-cord disconnections by sending e-mails, SMS or SNMP messages. The response time is so fast that, in many cases, problems are resolved before users are aware of the issue.

Commenting on the benefits of the iPatch System, Ricardo Mattiello, Senior Sales Manager, CommScope Enterprise Solutions, explained, "When a problem occurs, it automatically alerts the network administrator through an event notification system. Technicians are informed through the iPatch equipment located on the cross-connect site. So, managers are instantly warned about security intrusions or changes that may cause unexpected downtime and affect business continuity."



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