

## Quality Cabling Infrastructure Gives Yorkshire Water Information on Tap



“ In deciding we needed a world class data center, Yorkshire Water chose to use the latest cabling technology and opted for the SYSTIMAX® GigaSPEED® X10D Solution. We used the SYSTIMAX iPatch® intelligent infrastructure management platform as the integration solution. As well as ensuring that we could deliver the data center without disrupting the business, with this cabling infrastructure we are confident of meeting the organization’s future needs knowing that we are also standards compliant, meet regulatory requirements and conform to best practice for data center implementation. ”

— Mike Buck,  
Assets and Architecture  
Manager for Yorkshire Water

Yorkshire Water is the principal UK subsidiary of Kelda Group plc and provides water and waste water services to more than 4.7 million people and 140,000 businesses throughout the Yorkshire and Humberside areas of the UK. Every day it supplies 1.3bn liters of drinking water which is equivalent to a glass of water for every person on the planet! The water company is also responsible for collecting, treating and disposing of around a billion liters of waste water each day. It operates more than 700 water and sewage treatment works and 120 reservoirs.

Employing 2,200 people, Yorkshire Water aims to be 'clearly the best water company in the UK'. Its IT infrastructure is an essential element of reaching this goal so when the company decided to create a new data center it wanted world class.

Working with STS Communications, its long standing partner in Information Transport Systems, Yorkshire Water moved its data center and IT and customer services departments out of an older town center location to a new purpose-built two-storey center.

The new data center is truly mission critical as not only does it serve the needs of basic business functions such as desktop computers and laptops, servers, backups and business systems and applications such as SAP but it supports some of the automated systems that control the quality and distribution of water and associated services. In addition, it was vital that the data center be future-proof and therefore capable of handling additional telemetry systems and business applications.

Knowing that there had to be a smooth migration from one location to another and that ongoing monitoring of the network was paramount, STS Communications was confident in turning to CommScope, a global leader in infrastructure solutions for communications networks.

It chose CommScope's SYSTIMAX iPatch System which uses intelligent patching technology to help cut network management costs, provide insight into the physical layer and give real-time results in order to automate change management and help prevent downtime.

Yorkshire Water was able to see the SYSTIMAX iPatch solution on a smaller scale at CommScope's demo facility. The company then implemented the solution at a smaller site 18 months before choosing it for the data center.

As STS Communication's operational director, Ian Hollingworth, explained: "Yorkshire Water was able to experience the SYSTIMAX iPatch Solution in one of its own environments before adopting it for the mission critical data center. Its experience of the solution convinced the company that it was making the right decision in choosing it to manage the networks within the data center and that CommScope was the infrastructure partner of choice."

Where information flow is crucially important, the SYSTIMAX iPatch Solution provides Yorkshire Water with real time infrastructure management which means the company can be confident it has access to the information required to run a heavily regulated business. Using the iPatch Solution, Yorkshire Water has 20/20 vision into its physical layer infrastructure and can become automatically aware of unexpected changes in connectivity and can even make changes to the network from remote locations.

It was the high level of transparency to the system that persuaded Yorkshire Water that the SYSTIMAX iPatch Solution was the solution for its new data center.

In addition to choosing the SYSTIMAX real time infrastructure management solution, Yorkshire Water also chose the SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED X10D Solution which was specifically designed by CommScope to support emerging 10 Gigabit Ethernet requirements. The GigaSPEED X10D UTP Solution complies with the ratified IEEE 802.3an 10GBASE-T standard and fully complies with the Class E<sub>A</sub> cabling channel specifications and Category 6A cabling specifications. Important for Yorkshire Water was the fact that the GigaSPEED X10D Solution supports both its high bandwidth needs, a mission-critical data center and the requirements of more demanding telemetry applications.

The final installation comprised of over 100 kilometers of cabling, 420 GigaSPEED XL Category 6 outlets and 4,100 panel-to-panel GigaSPEED X10D interconnects. The complex seven-month project which included migrating around 300 development, QA and other mission critical servers from the old town center data center to the modern premises was conducted with no downtime. The 12-strong project team was made up of STS Communication's engineers and Yorkshire Water's own in-house team.

Mike Buck, Assets and Architecture Manager for Yorkshire Water who managed the data center project, said: "In deciding we needed a world class data center, Yorkshire Water chose to use the latest cabling technology and opted for the SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED X10D Solution. We used the SYSTIMAX iPatch intelligent infrastructure management platform as the integration solution. As well as ensuring that we could deliver the data center without disrupting the business, with this cabling infrastructure we are confident of meeting the organization's future needs knowing that we are also standards compliant, meet regulatory requirements and conform to best practice for data center implementation."



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08/09 CA-A-24