

# SYSTIMAX®

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## SOLUTIONS

## Broadband Connectivity for Leading Edge Medical Research

**Italian research leaders choose SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions for new infrastructure that dramatically improves communications throughout laboratories, hospital wards and administrative offices**

The National Institute for Cancer Care in Milan, one of Europe's leading research establishments, has installed a new high performance LAN built with SYSTIMAX Structured Connectivity Solutions (SCS). SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner, Getronics, completed the installation over an eight-month period without any disruption to the daily work at the Institute, which incorporates a 600-bed hospital.

"It required very precise coordination since technicians had to work in every part of the hospital without disturbing its continuous operations," said Dr. Sini, supervisor of the project for the Institute. "Installation schedules always had to fit in with the routines and requirements of the medical staff, particularly where vital equipment like CAT scanners was involved - so much of the work was done overnight and on Sundays. In areas such as operating theaters, technicians also had to work in sterile gowns, hats and masks."

The institute, founded in 1925, has 2,500 staff divided equally between research and care for cancer patients. It makes extensive use of new technology in both these areas with diagnostic laboratories, in particular, having many advanced systems that generate increasingly large amounts of data.

There are nine interconnected buildings, dating from 1925 to 1980, forming the Institute's campus. Each of these originally had its own network, which was not fully compatible or integrated with the others. This disparate infrastructure clearly limited the Institute's ability to manage its data and communicate within its organization. Network bottlenecks were also hindering cooperation with other European research establishments and, together with limited Internet access, restricting collaboration with all external organizations.

To find a solution, the Institute issued a request for proposals for an integrated broadband network as a replacement for its existing mix of obsolete infrastructure. Getronics won the contract with its proposal for an installation based on the SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® Solution. This would allow communication at gigabit speeds and, since SYSTIMAX® Solutions develops all its cabling and components to work efficiently together, this performance would be maintained from end-to-end, even under adverse conditions.

"With medical applications, network availability and performance may be critical to patients' well-being," said Giampiero Sforte, Business Development

**SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions**

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*Dr Sini, Supervisor of the project for the Institute*

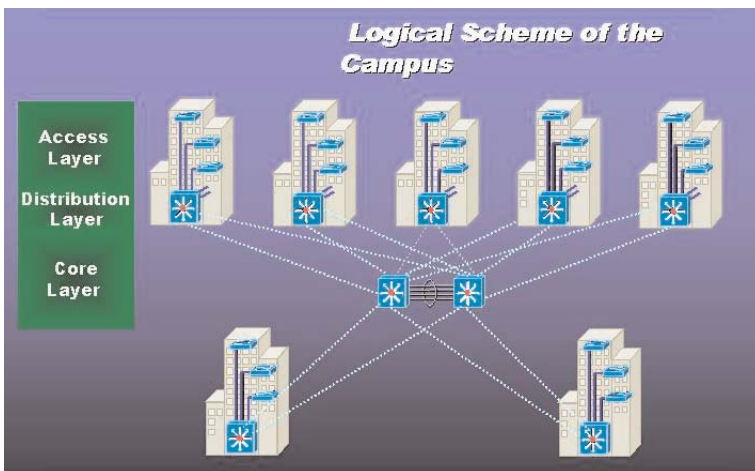
Manager, SYSTIMAX Solutions™ "In situations where doctors and nurses need diagnostic information and images quickly, the best available network infrastructure is essential. This is a key reason why the Institute chose SYSTIMAX Solutions."

The project, including a new Internet gateway to be accessible throughout the complex via the GigaSPEED cabling, began in September 2000 and was completed by the middle of May 2001. During this time, the requirement was increased from the original 2,300 triple outlets to 2,900, with only a two-week extension to the planned completion date.

The new infrastructure was completed on time, and the Institute now uses it to run Gigabit Ethernet, enabling users to work with networked video and audio applications in addition to data connections. The areas served include operating theaters, lecture rooms and clinics, as well as laboratories and offices.

In hospital wards, the network connects systems that provide patient details at the bedside. Using this, physicians visiting patients can immediately see information from radiology, analysis and administrative departments, helping them to improve the quality of care.

Dr. Sini is proud of the new network and the team that built it. "When I began my job, there was some skepticism about the communication improvements we forecast and the disruption that would be caused," she said. "But, through excellent team work and use of the best technical solutions, we achieved results that exceeded everybody's expectations except our own."



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