

## Fortis Bank Brings Office Infrastructure Up-to-Speed With CommScope® Infrastructure Solutions

**Twenty-two floors equipped with 230 kilometers of SYSTIMAX® cabling in just 16 weekends**



The Fortis Bank building at the Coolsingel in Rotterdam, The Netherlands is 13 years old but, recently, its 22 floors underwent a complete metamorphosis. What started out as the replacement of outdated data cabling to cater for future bandwidth requirements eventually resulted in a complete renovation.

The entire project had to take place outside office hours, presenting a challenge to Fortis, its suppliers CommScope and Anixter, and its implementation partner, Croon ICT – a SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner. As a result of the collaboration between these parties, the project went very smoothly, providing Fortis with an excellent result.

The Fortis Bank building suffered from insufficient data connections and outdated data cabling. To replace data and telephony cabling, Fortis selected the SYSTIMAX GigaSPEED® XL7 Solution with 1 Gb/s performance.

Commenting on this, Hans Bak, Networks Manager at Fortis ISE, said: “During the past few years we have seen an explosive growth of our data traffic. Files are becoming bigger and, for applications such as VoIP, it’s also important to have sufficient bandwidth”.

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Ben Wijnvoord, Technical Manager at Fortis Facility Management

Implementation of the new cabling led the bank to evaluate the location of outlets and the placement of desks. This resulted in a kind of domino effect. Ben Wijnvoord, Technical Manager at Fortis Facility Management, explains: “The office floor arrangement was not as efficient as it could be, and we saw the need to install new cabling as an opportunity to come up with a more efficient set-up. This has resulted in substantial cost and space savings. The eventual goal was to create 150 workspaces in addition to the existing 876 workspaces, using the same amount of square meters”.

To achieve this, Fortis launched the Opti Space Rotterdam project. Besides the new cabling, a rearrangement of desks, the project included a technical upgrade of the building's data traffic, lighting and climate controls.

Croon ICT took on the role of principal contractor for the entire project, and also replaced the furniture and floor covering. A limiting condition was that the entire operation should not cause any nuisance to Fortis' staff. Loss of productivity was not an option, and it was not feasible to accommodate employees at a temporary location.

Croon's proposal to work day and night during weekends was well received by Fortis. This meant minimal productivity loss and very limited nuisance to the staff.

This approach required a tight logistic schedule by Anixter. During sixteen weekends, floors were equipped with new cabling, new furniture and new floor covering. Each time the logistic operation followed the same pattern. Croon installed the data cabling, cable troughs, electronic equipment, distribution boxes and patch cables as well as the furniture and floor covering.

Croon also removed phones, PCs, printers, faxes and copying machines during the weekend and reinstalled them afterwards. On average, a team of 32 would be active during the weekend between Friday 12:30 pm and Monday morning 7 am.

Commenting, Ben Wijnvoord said: “The 150 extra workspaces are in place, and there are still 300 square meters left - which means we have achieved our objective. Over 230 kilometers of data and telephony cabling has been installed. In the new set-up, the capacity for data cabling has been increased to 1 Gb/s, so we can easily cater for future bandwidth requirements. The outlets have been installed in the floor, the tiled floor has been equipped with provisions that make the outlets easily accessible, and the desks have been placed in a way that exactly matches the outlet locations.”

Management at Fortis were impressed with the dedication and approach of the parties involved as well as the final results of the project. “Croon ICT's staff worked sixteen weekends in a row and each Monday morning they delivered a new floor,” said Hans Bak, Networks Manager at Fortis ISE. “This has been an extraordinary project, but it worked like a charm. The logistic service delivered by Anixter, and the flexibility of Croon ICT proved instrumental in the quick and successful completion.”