

# SYSTIMAX®

---

## SOLUTIONS

## SYSTIMAX® Solutions: Providing the Backbone For New SNIA Technology Labs

When the Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) expanded its Technology Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, the organization sought the support of leading computer technology vendors and SNIA member companies to create a unique kind of testing network. SYSTIMAX Solutions™ helped by providing the backbone for the multi-million dollar network infrastructure for the testing laboratories located inside the facility.

SNIA is committed to providing the highest level of service to companies who use the labs, so they realized that only the best top-tier cabling could meet their needs. Team Linx, the SYSTIMAX® BusinessPartner installing the infrastructure, wanted a proven, reliable and leading-edge company to manufacture the cabling that would make up the versatile fiber backbone at the state-of-the-art facility.

The point was made, thanks to two distinct SYSTIMAX products; The SYSTIMAX LazrSPEED® Solution and the SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH™ Plus System. The LazrSPEED Solution is an end-to-end multimode fiber solution, enabling effective migration from 10 Mb/s to 10 Gb/s. The LazrSPEED Solution is used to interconnect the labs and drastically reduce costs for SNIA by eliminating expensive opto-electronics previously needed to achieve 10 Gb/s speeds on multimode fiber.

The SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH Plus System is especially designed to support the type of high-density, rapid deployment and high performance required by SNIA. The InstaPATCH Plus System features a high-density, factory terminated, modular fiber connectivity solution, making it a painless installation for SNIA.

The Technology Center's five labs provide both individualized and diverse testing capabilities. Each of the labs, with the exception of one that currently is being subleased for military testing, is connected independently to a centrally located control center. This interconnectivity enhances efficiencies and allows multiple tests to be conducted in various labs at the same time.



“Before deployment, SNIA made it clear that interconnectivity between the labs was one of their key concerns,” said Todd Taskerud, Territory Sales Manager, SYSTIMAX Solutions. “They told us we had 15 minutes to explain why our solutions were so different from others on the market. Two hours later, it was obvious we had proven our point to them.”

“ SYSTIMAX Solutions provided us with a modular fiber cabling infrastructure that provides superior interconnect flexibility across four of the Technology Center’s five labs,” said Malia . “Team Linx selected the InstaPATCH Plus System and the LazrSPEED Solution because they allow SNIA lab managers to retool the zone cabling-designed labs on the fly. They set it up, and it worked like a charm.” ”

John Malia, SNIA Lab Manager

“Each of the labs looked like a jungle before the installation. The diverse environments we needed to replicate made it very difficult for us to maintain the strict sense of testing order we needed,” said John Malia, SNIA Lab Manager. “With the SYSTIMAX cabling solution, it is easier to add new items for testing, and it is faster to get the equipment up and running.”

#### **Laboratory Landscapes**

The Interoperability (InterOp) Lab was designed for intense assessment of dynamic storage area network (SAN) configurations. Currently used for interoperability testing, SNIA hopes to adapt the lab to facilitate future tests involving a wide array of SAN-related products. Due to the nature of interoperability testing, the lab is located to facilitate testing between adjacent labs, with the control center or both.

In an adjacent lab, SNIA conducts Conformation and Certification Testing. The Lab works in conjunction with the Storage Management Initiative (SMI) lab to evaluate vendor products. Interoperability also can be assessed using various tools within the lab.

Because the SMI Testing Lab also can double for interoperability testing purposes, it typically enjoys the greatest level of vendor and partner participation. The lab generally is used for testing, researching and developing SAN products. When linked with other labs, it also can help replication efforts for determining “what if” scenarios.

The fourth lab supports the SNIA Conformance Testing Program (SNIA-CTP). Integrated with a distinct patching solution, vendors can run their products through a series of SMI and other interoperability programs for industry vendors.

#### **Taking the LazrSPEED Solution and the InstaPATCH Plus System on the Road**

SYSTIMAX Solutions had an uncommon opportunity to test the effectiveness of the laboratories, even before they were installed at the new Technology Center. Last April, the company provided its SYSTIMAX InstaPATCH Plus System for the SNIA / Storage Networking World (SNW) Spring 2004 conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Simulations at the conference allowed real-world testing before systems implementation at the Colorado Springs facility.

“The convention theme was IP Solutions Setup, so the mobile lab produced a lot of excitement and served as a dry run for how the new labs at the Technology Center should perform,” Malia said. “We came back to Colorado Springs, established a schedule, got the materials SYSTIMAX Solutions had used at the show and dropped it in. It worked flawlessly.”

The InstaPATCH Plus System serves as the fiber backbone for the complex storage systems being tested at the laboratories. The factory-terminated connectors enhance network performance and reduce connection time for the SNIA engineers testing Storage Area Networks (SANs). The system is engineered with factory-terminated fiber components that can be connected quickly and easily, eliminating the time-consuming tasks of cable preparation, connector termination, apparatus assembly, installation and testing. The system allows 96 fibers to be ready for service in the same amount of time it takes to install a single traditional fiber-optic connector. This increased ease-of-use is important when retooling the labs.

The SYSTIMAX LazrSPEED Solution offers SNIA reliable and proven 10 Gb/s performance.

The SYSTIMAX LazrSPEED technology is the world's first laser-optimized multimode fiber-optic solution to support 10 Gb/s serial transmission at 850 nanometers at distances of over 500 meters – more than enough to provide the kind of interconnectivity between their labs that SNIA was looking for.

LazrSPEED fibers can transmit at 10 Gb/s using only a single vertical cavity surface-emitting laser (VCSEL) transceiver. The result has been shown to reduce total cost of ownership up to 30 percent over conventional fibers requiring a specific complex generation of opto-electronics and multiple operational wavelengths.

“SYSTIMAX Solutions provided us with a modular fiber cabling infrastructure that provides superior interconnect flexibility across four of the Technology Center's five labs,” said Malia . “Team Linx selected the InstaPATCH Plus System and the LazrSPEED Solution because they allow SNIA lab managers to retool the zone cabling-designed labs on the fly. They set it up, and it worked like a charm.”

Much like conditions at the convention, the labs pose real estate challenges. It was critical to make the most of small spaces because of the range of different products to be tested – first at the convention and then later at the new facility. The cabling can be configured in several ways, according to the functionality of the equipment being tested. The barebones infrastructure is expandable, thus ensuring good connectivity between the labs.

The installed SYSTIMAX cabling solutions are modular and upgradeable, allowing SNIA all available improvement options as bandwidth demands placed on the labs continue to increase. The solution is more adaptable, compared to regular fiber, so the more than 50 clients expected to use the facility each year can rest assured they will have access to the increased bandwidth these applications are sure to require.

## SYSTIMAX<sup>®</sup>

---

## SOLUTIONS

© 2006 CommScope, Inc.  
All rights reserved.

Visit our Web site at [www.systemax.com](http://www.systemax.com) or contact your local SYSTIMAX Solutions representative or SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner for more information.  
SYSTIMAX Solutions is a trademark of CommScope. All trademarks identified by ® or ™ are registered trademarks or trademarks, respectively, of CommScope.

This document is for planning purposes only and is not intended to modify or supplement any specifications or warranties relating to SYSTIMAX Solutions products or services.