



Northampton Science Park simultaneously installs traditional and pre-terminated cabling solutions from HellermannTyton.

Structured cabling manufacturer HellermannTyton has been chosen to provide the cabling infrastructure for the new five million pound Northampton Science Park development. Interestingly, both traditional Cat5E cabling and HellermannTyton's unique preterminated RapidNet solution was specified for use simultaneously as part of the network design, in recognition of the benefits of both approaches.

Background

Opened in September 2005, the threefloor Northampton Science Park provides 23 flexible, quality offices and 35 high specification technology units designed to meet the needs of high-tech businesses in the Northampton area. The park will house approximately 50 companies from fields such as nanotechnology, medical research and development and other highly technical areas. A reliable IT infrastructure is vital to these organisations, with computer equipment and data intensive applications playing a mission critical role in their daily operation. Five million pounds has been invested in creating the purpose-built park to ensure it is fit for the future and incorporates everything that its prospective tenants are likely to need.

Recognising the need and making the choice

Northampton Science Park's Director Richard Weatherley recognised the importance of investing in a structured cabling system that would more than meet the daily demands placed upon it by the park's tenants and be able to cope with future growth. "At the park we aim to handle our customers' office facility needs as efficiently as possible. We therefore need to have the technology infrastructure in place to make this possible," comments Weatherley. "The reputation and effectiveness of our park is in a large part dependent on the speed, quality and reliability of the IT infrastructure. After considering a number of alternatives, we chose HellermannTyton because we believe their products are the best in terms of quality and performance. We deliberated on whether to go for a traditional Cat5E approach or HellermannTyton's unique preterminated cabling solution RapidNet, as both had their relative merits. In the end we felt the best approach was a combination of the two. For the general offices we've used RapidNet pre-terminated cabling and fitted out the technology units with traditional Cat5E cabling hardware."

Weatherley continues: "As well as the quality product offering, it is reassuring to know that HellermannTyton also provides such excellent customer service and support. They have the capability in-house to answer questions on technical issues if we require further help and were flexible enough to meet any changes we required thanks to their UK manufacturing facility. The fact that the factory was on our doorstep in Northampton was even more of a bonus." The cabling solution connects all 58 of the park's offices and technology units to a central network and provides dedicated 2MB internet access as well as the digital telephone system. Each workspace area is provided with both fibre and copper cabling infrastructure to future-proof the requirements of the park's tenants. The cabling system also plays a pivotal role helping the smooth running of communal reception, meeting room and presentation suite areas.



The technology solution

A Cat5E system was felt to be the most costeffective long-term solution and will be sufficient to cope with all of the park's current and future requirements. For the park's 35 technology units a HellermannTyton Cat5E system was used. The 600-point installation took three weeks for the team to install. RapidNet was specified for cabling the office areas. Because these offices are fitted with false floors it meant that the 450-point installation was particularly easy and took just three days to complete. Installation of the project had to be coordinated effectively and completed on time to avoid knock-on disruption to the scheduled opening of the park. Weatherley comments: "The tight schedule for completing the cabling project meant that we did not have time to deal with problems. We needed a solution that could be installed quickly to minimise disruption, but would still deliver high quality and performance.



The time saved by installing RapidNet was extremely valuable and allowed us to move on, ahead of schedule in other areas. Because each individual link has been terminated in a factory and fully tested before being delivered to us on the site, I can have complete confidence in repeatable and reliable quality. Overall, the project was completed on time and on budget and this is great credit to all involved."



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Professional Service During the project HellermannTyton has played a prominent role as technical advisor. HellermannTyton worked closely with the park during the initial stages and during the installation to ensure product was delivered on time so that the project ran smoothly. HellermannTyton's New Business Development Manager, Craig Jones, commented: "We aim to provide our customers with the best and most affordable solution, one that is able to grow with their business and can handle the bandwidth-hungry business communication needs of the modern world."

Weatherley concludes: "The Northampton Science Park views its cabling installation as a long term investment, providing a system that delivers superior electrical performance for its tenants' needs today, but also one that will more than meet their longer term needs without the need for extra cabling in the future. The network will not have to be revisited for between five and ten years. The high quality product and customer service delivered by HellermannTyton has been very pleasing and justifies my decision to choose them in the first place."