

Scott Brownrigg

High Performance Network Architecture

When Scott Brownrigg, one of the UK's leading Architect firms, planned the move to their newly owned offices in London's west end, it was no surprise that in order to help drive the company forward, a high performance network infrastructure would be high on the agenda.

Previously based in two separate offices in Covent Garden, Scott Brownrigg decided it was time to consolidate their offices into a larger building. In December 2007, work commenced on the full refurbishment of what would soon be their

new London office on Endell Street, a state of the art environment for the Scott Brownrigg team to work.

Because of the nature of the work, with a number of architects moving around large design files up to and sometimes in excess of 5GB, a high performance, high bandwidth network infrastructure was required. The group IT manager, Alastair Newman, considered a number of options for a 10Gig solution.

He comments...

'Taking into account we were moving into a new building that we owned, it was important for me to make sure we had the best possible network infrastructure that would future proof the building for years to come.'

Initially, Alastair looked at fibre and Category 7 solutions but whilst both systems would provide the desired performance, high price and inflexibility of the products soon meant that it was back to the drawing board in search of an alternative.

In 2008 a number of cabling manufacturers launched their Augmented Category 6 (Cat6A) solutions and with this new standard of cabling, an additional option for a 10gig data network was presented. Alastair narrowed his choice down to two Cat6A solutions from industry leading manufacturers with HellermannTyton's Cat6A RapidNet offering from their new Deca10 range, coming out on top after careful evaluation due to its pre-terminated nature, speed of installation and risk free security.

RapidNet is HellermannTyton's pre-terminated, end-to-end, cassette based solution which removes the need for difficult and time consuming on-site terminations. The RapidNet system also helps to eliminate the margin of error. The looms are pre-terminated and pre-tested at HellermannTyton's manufacturing facility in Northampton. This not only guarantees quality and performance but dramatically reduces installation times by up to 85%.

Alastair had been impressed by HellermannTyton's RapidNet solution from a previous project at their Cardiff office. He recalls 'We had a Cat6 RapidNet system installed at our Cardiff office by ICS (The same installation company as the Endell Street project) and it was installed within 1 or 2 days rather than a week for a traditional solution'.



'Having already seen the RapidNet system, as soon as the Cat6A version was presented to me by Lee (Lee Hamill, Managing Director of ICS and Project Manager for this project) I knew that the HellermannTyton product would deliver the network I set out to achieve'.

Alastair Newman, Group IT manager

ICS Ltd based in Guildford is a vendor independent company who specialise in innovative infrastructure service solutions, consultancy and project management. ICS worked closely with Alastair as well as the main contractors working on the building refurbishment in order to establish what would be the best system to implement, taking into account a host of factors. Lee Hamill, ICS managing director comments 'It was understood that the system to be deployed needed to be one that could be installed at speed with minimal disruption to the overall construction project, but ultimately needed to work with no complications on the final re-location weekend'

With this in mind, Lee Hamill found it easy to specify the Cat6A RapidNet solution from HellermannTyton. Lee adds 'With timescales being so tight and targets moving daily, we decided RapidNet was the best solution. Being standards compliant, a proven quality cabling system, and more importantly, one which could be installed within the demanding project schedule, RapidNet met all the needs for the installer, main contractor and end user.'

The RapidNet system installed was a cassette to cassette system where the cassette on one end of the Cat6A pre-terminated 6-way loom clipped into the patch panel the cassette on the other end was secured to the underside of one desk, providing connectivity to two additional desks or work stations. From the cassette under the desk, high visibility patch leads were used to connect to desktop computers and telephones.

The Scott Brownrigg project was a 500 point, cabinet to desk, office installation for 110 employees. The 'go live' date when staff would start working at the Endell Street office was 8th September 2008. With over-running of the internal building work, the window for the network installation started to slip. However, with ICS's knowledge and experience of installing the RapidNet solution, it meant that there was still time for the infrastructure to go in without negatively impacting on his 'go live' deadline. Alastair comments 'There was a lot of structural work undertaken, the refurbishment was a complete fit out with the inside being totally gutted. Using RapidNet guaranteed a much quicker install and gave us a time buffer for any unforeseen delays'.

When deciding which system to install, flexibility of the RapidNet solution was another key reason that made it the front runner when specifying. Because of its 'plug and play' design, using RapidNet enables the relocation of panels and cassettes within your communications room or work station environment without having to carry out extensive re-termination work. By simply unclipping the cassettes, moving the panels and then clipping the cassette back into the relocated patch panel or under floor position.

Alastair adds 'I was looking for a modular system and RapidNet ticked all the boxes. It gives me the flexibility at both ends accommodating potential office moves and expansion. Our architects need to be flexible in their location as new assignments require different team members which means having to be totally flexible in the work area something which RapidNet provides.'

The Endell Street project was a milestone for Scott Brownrigg, ICS and HellermannTyton. This installation is HellermannTyton's first specified RapidNet Cat6A to the desk project in London since its launch in 2008. ICS are the first company to install HellermannTyton's Cat6A product in the City and Scott Brownrigg can boast a state of the art office with a high performance network infrastructure of the future.

David Gagel, HellermannTyton's sales and marketing director, comments 'This was a very important project for HellermannTyton. A lot of time and investment went into the development of our Cat6A offering to make sure it delivered the best possible performance and emerge as a market-leading product. With ICS's knowledge and experience of RapidNet and Scott Brownrigg's vision, the project was a success and is evidence of the benefits of a pre-terminated system'.

About HellermannTyton

Founded in 1988, HellermannTyton Connectivity is an established leader in the design, development and manufacture of innovative network infrastructure solutions for both LAN and WAN environments.

The company offers a broad range of quality, high performance structured cabling products including Deca10, the Category 6A solution; the unique pre-terminated, 'plug & play' RapidNet system and a full range of market leading closures for Broadband applications incorporating the patented Cablelok mechanical seal.

Based in Northampton, UK, the company is part of the global HellermannTyton Group, with operations in 39 countries worldwide.

For more information visit www.htdata.co.uk or www.hellermanntyton.com

About ICS

Based in Guildford, ICS is a vendor independent company who specialise in innovative infrastructure service solutions, consultancy and project management. We pride ourselves on our unrivalled experience in the market place, specialising in the design and implementation of best of breed products and service solutions.

About Scott Brownrigg

Scott Brownrigg is an international architectural practice with a heritage spanning almost 100 years. In recent years the practice has consistently been rated in the top 20 of the UK's top 100 practices and has worked on some of the UK's largest projects. With five offices in the UK and an office in Cyprus, we are a design-led practice with interests in public sector, business space, large mixed use, residential, education, transport, hospitality, retail and industrial developments.