



## UNITED NATIONS INVESTS FOR THE FUTURE WITH NEXANS

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva has deployed a Nexans LANmark-6 10G infrastructure that delivers the bandwidth needed today and in the long-term



Global expert in cables and cabling systems

When the OHCHR planned to relocate to a newly renovated building, it decided to upgrade existing cabling to provide enough bandwidth for future applications. Nexans delivered a future-proof solution that met all the UN's requirements for today's and tomorrow's bandwidth needs on a short timescale.

### Executive Summary

**CUSTOMER** United Nations

**LOCATION** Geneva, Switzerland

**REQUIREMENT** High performance, safety and reliability

**EQUIPMENT** LANmark-6 10G cabling system

### A focal point for human rights

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations (UN) Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The organization officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the charter was ratified. The UN seeks to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and work to solve international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems. It also promotes respect for human rights and freedoms, by coordinating the actions of nations in achieving these ends.

As a department of the UN Secretariat, the OHCHR is mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the United Nations Charter, as well as international human rights laws and treaties. To implement this comprehensive mandate, the OHCHR employs more than 850 staff based in Geneva and New York, and in 11 country offices and seven regional offices worldwide. It also supports an additional workforce of some 240 international human rights officers serving in UN peace missions.





Thanks to Nexans' efficiency, responsiveness and proximity to the OHCHR via its local distributor, Kontakt Systeme AG, the project was a great success.



## Challenges

- » Relocation to old building with no installed network
- » Very rapid deployment to strict timescale
- » High performance, security and reliability
- » Future-proofed to ensure easy applications deployment

## Solutions

- » LANmark-6 10G cabling system
- » 115 km of Cat 6 10G cable
- » 16 patch panels
- » 2,700 user connections

## Benefits

- » Installation completed within 90-days
- » High performance, future-proofed network
- » Flexible solution enables rapid deployment of new applications

### Renovated building poses challenges and opportunities

In 2006, the UN decided to renovate one of its administrative buildings in Geneva – the Giuseppe Motta building – which was partially occupied by the OHCHR. This project involved moving 350 staff working in Wilson Palace in Geneva to the remodelled premises.

A new cabling solution for the remodelling project was required to deliver high performance today and in the years ahead, whilst providing appropriately high levels of security and reliability.

Furthermore, the OHCHR was expecting to see its staff numbers increase in the months following relocation. This aspect needed to be considered when the new building was laid out and equipped. A certain amount of flexibility was also required as the OHCHR could relocate additional staff at a later date, and wanted to be able to do this quickly and easily. The OHCHR therefore stipulated that new applications on the network should be seamlessly implemented, without disrupting everyday work. But perhaps the biggest challenge was the timescale in which the project had to be completed – just 90 days from start to finish.

### Lowered cost, reduced risk and improved reliability

Nexans regional consulting partner, Mab Ingénierie, was contracted to conduct a site survey and design a network

layout that would deliver maximum efficiency. No time was wasted in advancing the project, and installation began only two weeks after the order was signed.

Mab Ingenierie proposed equipping the Giuseppe Motta building with Nexans LANmark-6 screened cabling to support a 10 gigabit infrastructure, thereby providing the required combination of high bandwidth, cost-efficiency, high security and flexibility.

This was a critical decision as the building was quite old and had no existing network support equipment in it. Significant updating was required. Whilst software and active network devices typically have short lifespans, usually measured years, cabling infrastructure installed in new or remodelled facilities must last for many decades. Needed was a solution capable of handling the latest generation protocols as recently endorsed by the IEEE standardization committees.

Since 2005, Nexans has led the way in providing cabling solutions that support the IEEE 802.3 standard for 10 gigabit use.

This insight and experience means Nexans can deliver higher levels of performance, security and future-proofing than other firms, all of which were specific requirements for the OHCHR project. Also, whilst many manufacturers provide only cables or connecting hardware, Nexans and its certified distributors, installation partners and value-added resellers

offer full end-to-end systems, including warranties, technical support and other key attributes such as full integration with existing systems/equipment, logistical services and on-going maintenance.

In total, nearly 115 kilometres of cables, 20 connection cabinets and 2,700 user sockets were installed in the Giuseppe Motta building. The entire project was completed and successfully tested within the 90 day deadline, enabling the OHCHR to move into the new building on time, and with no disruption to its activities.

### Efficient & responsive

Thanks to Nexans' efficiency, responsiveness and proximity to the OHCHR via its local distributor, Kontakt Systeme AG, the project was a great success. Kontakt Systeme's experts worked closely with Nexans to install and execute a smooth, swift installation that met all customer needs.

The choice for shielded cabling has proved to be the right decision at the OHCHR. Screened solutions are now seen by many experts as the way forward for higher bandwidth requirements. Even traditional advocates of unshielded twisted pair (UTP) cabling in the US have now started to produce shielded solutions.

Today, nearly 350 OHCHR staff have relocated to their newly renovated offices, with the remaining employees moving to this location in later phases. ■

