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First Certified European ISO Cat. 6_A Data Installation at GGD Zuid-Holland Zuid (NL)

Unprecedented high quality: more than 10 dB "headroom"

In order to be properly prepared for the future, the GGD (Municipal Health Service) of Zuid-Holland Zuid has relocated to more modern premises.

With a view to optimal quality and sustainability, the GGD has become the first in Europe to opt to apply the new R&M ISO/IEC certified Cat. 6_A concept.

The GGD ZHZ monitors, protects and promotes public health by means of health surveys, preventive activities, the provision of information on healthy lifestyles and the carrying out of epidemiological research into residents' health perceptions. At the Dordrecht branch, approximately 150 experts carry out statutory tasks on behalf of 19 local authorities in fields such as youth health care, infectious disease control, medical environmental science and health pro-

motion. The new building is located closer to other health organizations, like the Albert Schweitzer hospital. The building also offers the GGD more space (through the application of a flexible workplace concept) and quality both for now and in the future.

"That is exactly the basic principle underlying this entire building: quality and sustainability for an attractive price," explains Henri Nahon, controller and head

of ICT/DIV at the GGD Zuid-Holland Zuid, while proudly demonstrating the smart card secured lockers. "So it's only logical that we require the new data network to be high-quality and future-proof. The contact with R&M and the suggestion to use their latest Cat. 6_A components in accordance with the most stringent ISO standard came at exactly the right moment. Although the RJ45 components themselves are slightly more expensive, they were still our first choice because using them would give us the best and most future-proof data network currently available. Making savings in that area would be counterproductive. We write off PCs and other hardware in three years, but our network still has to offer sufficient quality and bandwidth in twenty years' time."

Quality and sustainability for an attractive price!

Extremely high test values

The new Cat. 6_A data network certainly offers sufficient quality and bandwidth. This is demonstrated by the validated measurements in accordance with the most stringent ISO/IEC 11801 amendment 2 measurement settings.

The headroom is the extra backup over and above the requirements of the ISO standard. During laboratory tests with the R&M Cat. 6_A cabling system, values of between four and ten dB were achieved. The practical measurements at the GGD in Dordrecht revealed a headroom of between no less than seven and thirteen dB.

"The first question I asked was, of course, whether the measurements had been carried out correctly," Nahon continues. "But that really turned out to be the case. Of course we are very happy with this outcome because, de-

spite our confidence in R&M as the Swiss manufacturer, we were still rather critical about a data installation which had never been used in the Netherlands before. The outcome more than exceeded our expectations. What is more, the installation went very smoothly."

Simple to process

Of course it always takes a while to get used to things in the beginning. However, on the basis of a flexible approach and excellent cooperation, Westrade Optical in Dordrecht, a specialized data installer, completed the job well within the schedule.

As Eric Beijleveldt, Managing Director of Westrade Optical explains, "Our engineers are also very enthusiastic about the new module. I heard one of them say that working with it gave him a real buzz. We think it is important that our people find it easy and enjoyable to work with."

This is confirmed by Kenneth, who is one of the engineers. "It takes a bit of getting used to but once you worked out a procedure you can assemble the Cat. 6_A RJ45 module just as quickly as a traditional module."

As Beijleveldt concludes, "The quality of R&M is consistently second to none and the investment is certainly going to pay off." ■



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R&M Defines Corporate Responsibility

First Corporate Social Responsibility Report

With the publication of its first ever Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report R&M is signaling its social, ethical and ecological responsibility. The Report describes the ways in which R&M is committed to fair, responsible and sustainable action.

As a quality leader in cabling technology R&M plans far beyond the scope of product development, manufacture and distribution. Indeed the management approach also takes in economic, ecological and social aspects. R&M is guided by the Brundtland Commission's 1987 definition of sustainability and has shaped its entrepreneurial activities accordingly. The CSR Report, now published for the first time, sets out in detail the many aspects of R&M's responsible corporate action. "The objective is a successful company that benefits all sides," says CEO Martin Reichle.

With the building of the Cube, the new production and logistics center in Wetzikon, R&M has reduced its energy consumption by 30 percent compared with conventional buildings. And since 2008 R&M has doubled the number of apprenticeships at the company headquarters in Switzerland. R&M also intends to further promote the health and satisfaction of its workforce of 600 employees as well as its innovation capabilities.

R&M recently optimized its global logistics operations so that goods now only have to be shipped once a week. This has dramatically reduced the number of truck movements. The CSR Report also takes a close look at R&M's relations with its suppliers and partners, likewise characterized by quality, mutual respect and sustainability.

As Martin Reichle remarks: "Responsible, far-sighted and exemplary corporate action has always been a key feature of R&M's business activities, ever since it was founded 46 years ago."

To download the CSR Report:
www.rdm.com, section "about us"