

# The COMBIbox for large scale operations

Andreas Muerdter  
System Consultant  
and Sales  
andreas.muerdter@  
rdm.com



**R&M offers their customers a highly integrated overall solution for secure, flexible and rational building and office cabling with "Extended Office Cabling" (EOC). The COMBIbox is a vital product in the EOC program: a modular installation system for double stand floors which allows multiple connection combinations. The utilization at IBM in the development center in Böblingen demonstrates how efficient this box is.**

## Fully cabled

More than 2500 COMBIboxes installed in over 800 floor boxes, with 4800 RJ45 and the same number of FO (fiber optic) connections are integrated into an overall infrastructure of a total of 33000 RJ45 ports with 10800 actively switched connections. Innumerable kilometers of copper and optic fiber cables, thousands of networked PCs and servers including the required power supply; impressive numbers, which confirm the complexity of the installation.



010.3327  
IBM development center in Böblingen

This operation has the function to test, improve and develop large PC computer networks, servers, operating systems and software.

## Errors cost time and money

IBM tests all components and all software options in an identical structure prior to installing computer networks with hundreds of PCs at the customer location. Complex application programs are running for days in order to simulate every possible case, recognize errors and program improvements. In such test cases, it may occur that the failure of single components is caused by a mistake in the network installation. Then, the test must be restart-

ed. This costs time, which is no longer available and causes costs, which were not projected.

## Security has priority

Therefore, the reliability of the network connections has top priority. This is not a simple requirement in view of the great number of connections. The frequent changing of the configuration and the occupying of numerous jacks with Y adapters represent a constant strain on connections and connectors. Therefore, the COMBIbox from R&M, which fulfills the necessary high-quality standards, can also guarantee long-term secure operation.

get more  
EOC, COMBIbox

- **Safety:** high operation security in daily grueling testing even with frequent reconfigurations
- **Flexibility:** flexible assembly of the floor box and COMBIboxes for optimal adaptation to the changing requirements
- **Rapidity:** short reconfiguration times allow quick changing of the test environment and cause only short downtimes



010.3303

## Installations in numbers

- more than 800 floor boxes
- over 2500 COMBIboxes
- 4800 RJ45 connections
- 4800 SC bi-directional connections
- 2400 outlets

## Distribution box

Distribution box: all cables from the floor boxes merge here. In the picture on the left an employee of GA-tec, the installation firm certified by R&M, is at work.