

DaimlerChrysler Holland choose R&M



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Nobody who sees the new building of DaimlerChrysler Holland, can help but be deeply impressed by its fine lines and characteristic open design. The round forms and generous use of glass convey a feeling of transparency and strength. A top class building that perfectly matches the leading brand

of cars the company represents. The data cabling too had to be state-of-the-art and absolutely future-proof. The company chose R&M.

A move into a new building means the infrastructure must be ready for all future developments, says DaimlerChrysler Holland. Furthermore, the standards of the German parent company in regard to this subject must also be fulfilled. «A standard environment is the most important requirement for a cabling system and active components. To achieve this and meet our own demands at the same time, we opted for R&M. Our head office was very pleased with this choice», says Cees Boer, Manager Business Support, responsible for the ICT infrastructure at DaimlerChrysler Holland.

Future infrastructure

Flexibility, sufficient growth capacity and a minimum risk of failures were the priori-



Impressive architecture: the new building of DaimlerChrysler Holland.

ties for the design. «We used to install cabling on the basis of our needs», explains Boer. «In our former building a conference room would not be equipped with data cabling. When it was later used as working space for example, the necessary connections had to be installed after all, which was more expensive and inconvenient.» To prevent situations like that and to be fully flexible, DaimlerChrysler choose a modular concept. For fixed distances the connections are installed along the walls so that all rooms can be equipped as needed, quickly and comfortably.

Another condition was that the cabling system fully supports fast protocols and new applications like Voice over IP.

The Cat.7 cables of R&M in combination with the Cat.6 connectors and patch panels offer the required growth potential. Testing the entire system revealed that the Cat.6 standards were highly exceeded.

To guarantee protection from external radiation in the future too, Daimler Chrysler decided on the shielded version of R&M's Cat.7 cable. Here, all conductor pairs are individually screened with a special foil. This is also stipulated in the international DaimlerChrysler standard for data cabling. «To be sure, if you share out this extra investment over the planned debit-installment, it is well worthwhile.»

Cabling creativity

Neither staff nor visitors are likely to notice the challenges the builder and installer were faced with in the realization phase of the building. Round forms always ask for extra adjustments, and basic installations like ducts and wall panels are designed for straight walls.

The installer company BURGERS ERGON was in charge of all the technical installations and the data cabling installation in the new building. They developed a special cover plate to interconnect the straight panels in bends. Another challenge were the internal footbridge passages between the office departments. BURGERS ERGON solved this by placing a distributor at both ends, providing con-



A lot of space and style inside: the new showroom.



Dave Kap (BURGERS ERGON), Rien Klein Meuleman (BURGERS ERGON), Gijs Heij (DaimlerChrysler), Cees Boer (DaimlerChrysler), George Kazantzidis (Kannegieter)

nections for 500 work places. Only the fibre backbone runs via basement and along the footbridges.

Another difficult point was the little space available above the ceiling to lay the cable in. This situation called for creativity, skillfulness and sheer bodily strength of the installers. They successfully completed the installation and fulfilled the plan of 2500 connections.

One-time delivery

Kannegieter, the R&M distributor in Holland, also played an active part. At the installer's request, Kannegieter delivered a sea container with the entire material – about 200 reels – directly to the site. «This was great for us», says Rien Klein Meuleman of BURGERS ERGON. «Normally, cables are ordered through the foreman. But in this case there was no waiting time, which gave us more freedom and allowed us to use our time much more efficiently. Loading and unloading always interrupts work, and sometimes takes up an entire day. That time could be saved and used for installation work. This delivery method is also convenient for the administrative handling, the placing of orders, checking and booking invoices.»

Synergies between distributor and installer

At the installer's request, Kannegieter visited the project in various phases. Usually, testing is carried out once a project is completed. However, in view of the short planning phase and the little time margin to rectify possible imperfections, BUR-

GERS ERGON decided to run some tests at an earlier stage. «So that we can fix it right away if there is a problem.» says Klein Meuleman. «Kannegieter came to check when we finished half a floor. Then they checked the assembly, then the final assembly and upon completion they carried out the definitive measurements.»

«We were involved in this project, from start to end», explains Georges Kazantzidis, Account Manager of Kannegieter. «We pointed out the advantages of the R&M connection technique to the installer.» Compared with other brands the R&M way of handling and terminating shielded cabling is quite simple. It only takes a small number of steps per connection. This is a vital factor in a project that is facing a tight deadline. «Before the project started, we trained the fitters of BURGERS ERGON in the assembly of shielded Cat.7 cables. The day before delivery made it clear how well the BURGERS ERGON had learnt the tricks.» Klein Meuleman: «There were 60 connections to set up that were not mentioned in the original design. It is great when you can tell a client the next morning that it's all done. DaimlerChrysler are very satisfied.»



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Compact and neat: distribution cabinet with components from R&M.