

Customer Success Story

The Client

The University of Manchester has been created by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, two of Britain's most distinguished universities, to create a powerful new force in British Higher Education. The newly merged University was established with an unprecedented £300m investment programme. It is the largest single-campus university in the UK, offering students a greater choice of degree programmes and options, and even better facilities and student support services.



The University of Manchester

The Requirement

The University had built a second datacentre 1km away from the primary datacentre. The second site was built to increase infrastructure resilience as well as to provide additional capacity for its Storage Area Network, which supports over 35,000 users. To provide additional resilience, the University intended to use two independent fibre links between the datacentres.

The Solution

The University researched and approached a number of Telcos and a dark fibre service was contracted for one route from a provider with a fibre network deployed in the area. The majority of Telcos offered a similar solution, however FibreSpan's fixed cost limitless bandwidth model provides an alternative solution to traditional providers.

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The University selected FibreSpan to provide the second link for two reasons. Firstly, FibreSpan's patent-pending microduct technology enables it to install fibre in far less time and at significantly lower cost than traditional methods. Secondly, because it would deploy a dedicated dark fibre link providing unlimited bandwidth at a fixed annual cost - 36 pairs of fibres compared to 4 pairs of fibres on the first route. This means that the University has complete control over the amount of bandwidth it uses - now and in the future - at no additional cost.

The Benefits

The network was deployed at the beginning of 2005. The University now benefits from a dedicated, robust, high-speed dark fibre link that is currently used for integrated data and Voice over IP (VoIP) services. With no usage restrictions, it is already planning to increase the number of services over the network. The University will be able to proceed at its own pace with technology and implement next generation high-bandwidth applications - when the time is right for them and at the same fixed price.

Peter Mills, Managing Director at Internet Facilitators, comments:

"We needed a robust, dedicated, high-bandwidth solution which was able to cope with the growing needs of our user base. FibreSpan won the contract after a number of carriers had been considered, not one provider could compete with FibreSpan's solution. FibreSpan also demonstrated a solid track record, which gave us the confidence to award them this project. The fibre was deployed at the lowest cost and we are now leasing dark fibre at a fixed price for the term of the contract."

Internet Facilitators is a University of Manchester business that provides commercially provides colocation services in the University Data Centres