

Southport and Ormskirk NHS – Wireless Rollout



Client

Patrick Bonnet (Voice and Data Services) – patrickbonnet@nhs.net

Value

Circa £35,000.00

Contract Period

February – May 2014

History

NIS Ltd have been providing data, voice and fibre installations on a regular basis for over 10 years and have worked exclusively for the trust since 2008. Works include; CAT5E, CAT6, CAT6A copper installations, Voice Installations, Fibre Installations (inclusive of both Singlemode and Multimode fibre links), Cabinet Installations, Pre Start Predictive Wireless Surveys, Wireless Installations and Configurations and Small Power Installations

Installations are carried out in every typical Hospital environment including Theatres, Ward's, Clinics, Offices, Corridors and Waiting Areas.

Wireless Rollout

The NHS Trust launched an ambitious project worth in excess of one million pound on the acquisition of new hi-tech equipment to enable Doctors and Nurses to record clinical data on hand-held computers such as iPads. The upgrade had propelled the Trust into the 21st Century as a technological leader.



To facilitate this new state of the art equipment, the Trust opted to deploy a new wireless network across both Southport Hospital and Ormskirk Hospital sites. As its exclusive cabling provider, NIS Ltd had been selected to provide quotations for all works, however due to the nature of the installation a second installer had been invited to quote for the works. NIS Ltd secured both Hospital sites through its highly competitive pricing provided.

Description of Works

The following summarises the works undertaken at each site;

Ormskirk Hospital

- Level 1 Main Site – Installation of 20 x dual data outlets
- Level 1 Remote Sites – Installation of 8 x dual data outlets
- Level 2 Main Site – Installation of 42 x dual data outlets
- Level 2 Remote Sites – Installation of 2 x dual data outlets
- Level 3 Main Site – Installation of 30 x dual data outlets
- Level 4 Main Site – Installation of 19 x dual data outlets
- Level 5 Main Site – Installation of 3 x dual data outlets



Southport Hospital

Level 1 Main Site – Installation of 70 x dual data outlets

Level 2 Main Site – Installation of 62 x dual data outlets

Various Remote Sites – Installation of 10 x dual data outlets



Supply of labour to mount all third party wireless access points, circa 246 x AP's across both sites.

Implementation

Following contract award, NIS Ltd appointed Project Director Ben Wainwright to oversee the entire installation. Ben would have a continuous presence on site to ensure all works are being undertaken within the timescales required whilst providing the Trust with regular updates as to project progression.

Due to complete by timescales which would not intrude NIS Ltd's own planned project duration, NIS Ltd opted to carry out the full works at Ormskirk Hospital prior to commencement at Southport, however notably had the resource available to run the two sites simultaneously if deemed necessary by the Trust.

Documentation

Whilst undertaking the works, NIS Ltd engineers recorded the serial number and MAC Codes of all newly mounted Access Points, matching them to an outlet numbering sequence designed by NIS Ltd. The outlet numbering sequence would also be fully documented against drawings provided by the Trust and also matching final testing certification documents presented to the Trust.

Challenges

With over 10 years' experience working within Hospital environments, NIS Ltd are fully aware of the very specific challenges related to such contracts works, for example;

- NIS Ltd understand the need of patient privacy, and have historic instances in which its engineers have immediately ceased working within a particular area due to patient activity.
- NIS Ltd fully understand the need for high levels of security upon NHS sites and as such operate a policy with its existing contracts in which no projects are undertaken without prior approval from the IT and Estates Departments.



- NIS Ltd fully understand the need to comply with thorough Health & Safety policies and procedures at all times due to the probability of patient and staff interaction, particular when working within busy corridors, public environments, waiting rooms and others
- Most importantly NIS Ltd understand the nature of how data cabling works with important hospital equipment/hardware, and the need for a fast and highly communicated response being critical.

NIS Ltd utilised its experience to ensure that all site specific challenges had been identified and managed in advance, with the management care and considerations required.

Achievements and Added Value

As is so often the case, NIS Ltd were able to deliver the entire project within the timescales set, despite numerous access issues when working within busy corridors and Theatre areas, due to the flexible approach to undertaking all works. NIS Ltd were able to achieve this by utilising all engineering time efficiently, with resource agreeing specific timeslots to undertake works within certain areas.

Customer Feedback

The project came to a conclusion with the client receiving all final documentation and overall, the project has been hailed as a success. Patrick Bonnet within the Voice and Data Services department at the Hospital provided the following client statement upon completion "I am currently overseeing a project, to replace the wireless infrastructure at our Trust. This required me to invite several cabling companies to bid on a tender, for the installation of over 250 dual network sockets, and the mounting of nearly 300 Access points. Network Installation Solutions Ltd were successful with their tender bid due to their competitive pricing and reliable reputation. The work was completed to a very high standard, and well within the timeframe I set. The job was also fully documented, with me receiving site maps and test results for all the sockets. Overall I am extremely satisfied with the work done, and would not hesitate in choosing Network Installations Solutions Ltd for future projects."