

Wigan Agilisys – Data Cabinet Rollout



Client

Keith Hargreaves (Head of Network Services) – keith.hargreaves@agilisys.co.uk

Value

Circa £80,000.00

Contract Period

January – May 2014

History

NIS Ltd continue to work on a regular basis for the Council and have done so for over 11 years as part of a continuous framework arrangement. Works include; CAT5E, CAT6, CAT6A copper installations, Voice Installations (inclusive of external voice links between multiple Council owned buildings through the town centre via external grade ducting), Fibre Installations (inclusive of both Singlemode and Multimode fibre links between multiple Council owned buildings through the town centre via external grade ducting).Cabinet Installations Pre Start Predictive Wireless Surveys Wireless Installations and Configurations, Audio Visual Installations and Small Power Installations

Installations are carried out throughout Council owned Offices, Leisure Facilities, Libraries and Schools across the Borough. NIS Ltd liaise and work with a number of Council Officers managing individual projects, many of them simultaneously.

Rollout Project

Wigan Council, utilising its IT partner Agilisys, had a requirement to install new cabinets and data to over 120 Primary and High Schools within the Borough and in conjunction with BT and Udata. The overall aim of the project was to give the region a new public service network.



To facilitate this requirement, the Council needed to select one of its three nominated framework installers to undertake the works. NIS Ltd had been selected ahead of its competitors due not onto to its superior pricing, but equally the Councils confidence in NIS Ltd to deliver a high quality installation with clear lines of communication and reporting of the programmes delivery.

NIS Ltd's role within this scheme was to provide connectivity between the new network equipment and the existing School infrastructures via a new dedicated data cabinet and cabling links to the existing networks.

The project faced both logistical and timescale challenges to ensure individual sites were completed by particular 'go live' deadline dates.

Description of Works

The following details the specific works required on each site;

1. NIS Ltd are to supply and install 1 x 6U 600mm x 600mm wall mounted data communications cabinet (part no. WB6.6SG) to customer's specified location.
2. NIS Ltd are to supply and install 1 x Hellerman Tyton 1U 24 port patch panel (part no. 1/2408-NMB HD/BK) for the provision of customer's newly installed data communications cabinet.
3. NIS Ltd are to supply and install 1 x Hellerman Tyton 1U cable management bar (part no. 1CTV-P) for the provision of customer's newly installed data communications cabinet.
4. NIS Ltd are to supply and install 1 x 5 way PDU (part no. D13-5H-EXL) for the provision of customer's newly installed data communications cabinet.
5. NIS Ltd are to supply, install, terminate and test 2 x Hellerman Tyton CAT5E LSZH data links (cable part no. CA075) between customer's specified existing data communications cabinet from spare ports and customer's newly installed data communications cabinet upon the newly installed Hellerman Tyton 1U 24 port patch panel (part no. 1/2408-NMB HD/BK).
6. NIS Ltd are to supply and install 1 x unswitched fuse spur to customer's specified location.



Implementation

Upon successful award, NIS Ltd appointed Project Director David Wainwright to oversee the entire rollout project, having previously managed the Wigan Council account since inception. NIS Ltd also appointed a dedicated Office administrator to liaise directly with the Council representatives on a day to day basis and to maintain a live schedule of works, continuously updated as dates change and sites are completed.

Due to NIS Ltd's vast experience of managing similar rollout projects, David Wainwright opted for NIS Ltd to take full control of the project planning aspect of the programme to ensure that sites are fully informed of the proposed works and attendance dates are arranged at mutually convenient times, taking into consideration site specific access issues and logistics.

A report was provided to the Council on a week to week basis confirming the completion of sites within that particular week, whilst both NIS Ltd's Project Director and Office Administrator responded to queries on a day to day basis.

Challenges

The Council had a particular concern with the rollout programme due to the School environments being worked upon. Historically, Schools have been known to be difficult to work around due to the activities of its students and early morning / late evening attendances are not uncommon. Both the Council and NIS Ltd had often found that pre-agreed installations still hit access issues upon arrival despite best efforts in advance. For this reason the Council were concerned that such a large scale programme, which had to be planned with minimal disruption and downtime due to complete by dates, would simply prove too difficult to manage.

However due to the flexible approach by NIS Ltd's engineering and management team along with continuous liaison with both IT and School staff, all works had ran ahead of schedule.

Achievements and Added Value

Due to its buying power within the industry, NIS Ltd were able to drive the very best pricing with its suppliers. Furthermore, utilising its wealth of experience, NIS Ltd were able to complete the entire project ahead of schedule. Following the completion of the project, NIS Ltd were requested by the Council to provide labour to assist in the final 'circuit testing' of the new network.

Customer Feedback

The project had earned significant praise from the Councils IT Staff. Speaking of the project, the council's lead Schools Engagement Manager stated "I am very pleased with how the project went. Having spoken to my colleagues about the roll-out, we gave NIS Ltd a glowing report. As a project manager, I like a third party who just gets on with the job and let's me know if there are any issues. Also, I can't praise Steve (Perry) enough who always helped me maintain a flexible schedule and gave all information needed when asked for. This could have been a really difficult programme, however everything ran fine."