Overview

Defence Intelligence and Security Centre (DISC), in Chicksands, Bedfordshire is the UK Defence Agency responsible for training all service personnel in intelligence, security and information support. A former religious site, and for 45 years home of the United States Air Force Security Unit, the site is one of the most striking military bases in the UK.

Our challenge

In 2013, Quadratek won the contract to rationalise 13 disparate training LANs at DISC into three robust and centralised 10gbit LAN domains. The project spanned 23 buildings and 1,000 users. A key challenge in the project was to minimise disruption, as the training facility was operational during our implementation phase. Furthermore, budgetary constraints meant existing cabinetry and containment would need to be reutilised and made compliant with strict MOD regulations.

What we did

Conforming to the JSP480, JSP440 and SDIP-29 legislation, we worked with DISC to produce a plan that balanced both its training operations and the requirements of the rationalisation project. We worked closely with the client so we could adapt to changes in its training schedule and minimise their impact on deadlines. Where we reutilised cabinetry, we patched old systems into new infrastructure or ran temporary parallel cabling. This enabled us to free up capacity for the new infrastructure without affecting day-to-day training at DISC or our own timelines.

Quadratek was able to free up capacity for the new infrastructure without affecting day-to-day training at DISC or our own timelines

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Following an interim project review, DISC, made the decision to pull its satellite switches back to central network equipment rooms (NERs). Where no NERs were available, we identified suitable rooms and installed additional cabling, containment, cabinetry and electrical supplies. We also incorporated permanent passive patching fields linking the backbone and horizontal cabling. This created silent classroom and office environments and further increased the manageability and security of the installation.

The results

As well as fulfilling the brief by installing three robust LANs – Unclassified, Restricted and Secret – we were able to accommodate the client's mid project change of brief without impacting on timescales or budget. And, because we worked to the international cabling standard ISO11801, we gained the required cable warranty for the client. Most importantly, DISC's LANs are easy to manage and future proof.

What the client said

"Quadratek has played a pivotal role in producing a viable rollout plan for the deployment of user access devices and printers across our facility. Not only did its expert team deliver all facets of this complex project on time and within the agreed budget, it proved highly flexible and expert at solving problems as our needs changed mid-project."

Les Brown, DISC-J6-SO2