

Case Study

Jaguar Land Rover

Ensign deliver a complete Cisco wireless infrastructure and Honeywell mobile data capture solution to UK automotive giants.



About

Jaguar and Land Rover are two of the UK's most sought after car manufacturers, known the world over for their quality, high-performance and sleek design. First amalgamated in 2002, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) was established as a multi-national automotive company in 2008 when the two businesses were acquired by the Indian owned, Tata motor company.

Since this acquisition, JLR's operation in the UK has gone from strength to strength, with a high demand for their new Range Evoque model in the Asian and Russian markets resulting in millions of pounds being spent on production and hundreds of new jobs being created in the process.

The Brief

In order to meet this demand, and to support the increase in production at their Halewood plant in Liverpool, JLR's UK parts distribution operation was moved to Merseyside, with plans to operate out of a new 400,000 sq ft site on the Phoenix Industrial Estate at Ellesmere Port.

However, before work could begin, a new wireless infrastructure would have to be put into place in order to connect the facility, as well as to support the numerous wireless devices that are integral to the day-to-day running of the site.

Having worked on numerous projects with JLR over the past eight years, Ensign were approached to perform a site survey, ensuring the best possible coverage across the expansive unit, and subsequently to design and install a high-performance warehouse wireless network solution. In addition to the infrastructure, JLR required a number of forklift truck mounted units to aid the data capture, movement and distribution of parts coming in and out of the warehouse.

Summary

Location:
Ellesmere Port
Sector:
Distribution + Warehousing

Solutions

- Wireless LAN
- 39 Cisco 1262 Access Points
- MIMO Antennas
- IP Rated Fibreglass Enclosures
- 30 Honeywell Thor Vx8 Vehicle Mounted Computers

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The Project

After discussing the best options with Ensign and taking into account the project specifications, the Honeywell Thor VX8 vehicle mounted computer was selected. Boasting a host of features, including Bluetooth and WiFi connectivity capabilities and a rugged yet functional design as well as an IP65 rating, the unit met all of the company's core requirements.

The Ensign wireless infrastructure solution needed to be capable of supporting up-to 30 of the mobile truck mounted terminals as they moved parts at high-speed around the warehouse floor.

Sticking to a tight six-week deadline, Ensign's engineers worked at heights of nearly 30ft in order to deliver the solution which provides the warehouse with fast and resilient WiFi coverage.

A total of 39 Cisco 1262 access points were deployed within the facility, 11 of which were mounted on the periphery walls of the building, whilst the remaining 26 were positioned on girders throughout the central areas of the warehouse. Each Cisco access point was fitted with a MIMO antenna and housed within an IP rated fibreglass enclosure to ensure the electrical connections were protected from the extreme warehouse conditions.



The Conclusion

Steve O'Connor, Launch Manager at JLR's Ellesmere Port facility, said: "The ability for our software to work seamlessly on the Honeywell Thor VX8 units was a deciding factor in their selection for use within the facility. This, alongside their ruggedness and ease of installation was of great importance given the timescales.

"Both the wireless installation from Ensign and the Honeywell Thor VX8s have allowed me to meet those specific project requirements".

Luke Webster, UK and Ireland Channel Manager at Honeywell, said: "We are absolutely delighted that such a prestigious name as Jaguar Land Rover has selected the Honeywell Thor VX8 truck mount in conjunction with Ensign Communications. We look forward to a successful relationship with them going forward."



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