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ensign
Communications Ltd

CASE STUDY

Jaguar Land Rover

*400,000 sq ft warehouse & distribution centre
network infrastructure & data capture project*

Ensign, Cisco & Honeywell combine to provide robust networking for UK automotive giants

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 newer Range Evoque models 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.

Increasing Demands

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 Communications were approached to perform a wireless 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, JRL 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.

Selecting the Honeywell THOR Vx8

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 network engineers worked at heights of nearly 30ft in order to deliver the solution which provides the warehouse with fast, reliable and resilient WiFi coverage.

Protection from the Elements

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 Results

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."

Honeywell Thor Vx8 Vehicle Mounted Computer

Honeywell's Thor VX8 vehicle mount computer is designed for enterprises that need full Microsoft® Windows® computing power in a mobile environment to optimize application and network management compatibility.

The Thor VX8 is flexible enough to run multiple advanced applications, with a Microsoft® Windows® 7 Professional MUI, Windows® XP Professional MUI or Windows® Embedded Standard 2009 operating system.

Radio communications are delivered on the move with optional Bluetooth® wireless connectivity, WLAN or WWAN radio configurations. Plus, the Thor VX8 in-vehicle computer is all packaged in an IP65-rated magnesium enclosure that's built to last in the toughest environments. In fact, when combined with its Microsoft® Windows® 7 performance, the VX8 computer's rugged construction makes it ideal for a wide array of manufacturing applications including process control, quality assurance, intermodal operations and more.

ABOUT ENSIGN COMMUNICATIONS

Ensign Communications is a UK-based provider of secure, business-grade wired and wireless network infrastructure solutions and professional services.

For more than 30 years we have delivered bespoke solutions founded on the technology of the world's leading manufacturers.

Our strategically located offices, Poole in the South and Manchester in the North, enable our team of highly-accredited network engineers to cover the entire United Kingdom.

This nationwide footprint enables Ensign Communications to meet the varied needs and requirements of our broad customer base.