

## New network for Airbus UK HQ



*Photograph courtesy of the Gloucestershire Gazette*

The fast-growing aviation industry has some very specific needs when it comes to cabling systems. Nexans and installation partner Dimension Data recently rolled out a state-of-the-art network at the new Airbus UK HQ at the company's Filton plant near Bristol. This links buildings from centuries past to brand new offices and facilities.

## The project required working in both modern and historical buildings

*Photographs courtesy of the Gloucestershire Gazette*

At the new location, 2,750 Airbus engineering and design employees are working together on a 12-acre site. Airbus wanted to restore premises that had played a key role in the history of aviation in the region, so listed building Pegasus House was adapted to today's needs, and a new four-storey office building named Barnwell House was built. Filton House, the smaller building, was built in the early eighteenth century. The Art Deco Pegasus House was built in 1936 and its importance to the British aviation industry recognised by visits from royals as well as Winston Churchill and Hollywood star Cary Grant among many others. It now offers 3,600m<sup>2</sup> of modern office space for 350 staff, as well as an auditorium and conference suite. A new low-rise 24,000m<sup>2</sup> main office building accommodates more than 2,400 staff.

The working environment enables sustainable change and new ways of working. Both the new and revamped buildings are highly thermally efficient, with low air permeability, offering a comfortable environment with efficient energy consumption. The project included a number of substantial structural alterations as well as significant upgrades to the on-site communications infrastructure.

### **READY FOR FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES**

"The aerospace sector plays a crucial role in the future of the British economy, and enabling the entire cabling infrastructure network to be future-ready for this high-tech environment was a stimulating task," explains Peter Haigh, Nexans Cabling Solutions Strategic Accounts Director responsible for Airbus. "Like the network we installed at the Airbus A350



XWB wing production plant in Broughton, Wales, this new network is ready for future technologies. The installation should meet the bandwidth requirements of any technological advancement for years to come and allow new ways of working."

Glynn Phillips, Infrastructure Specialist at Nexans, adds: "The Airbus product set was already well defined, as a result of ongoing work between the client and Nexans over a number of years. The new build requirement was for a well-designed structured wiring solution across both copper and fibre networks, in the building itself and on the campus. This had the benefits of supporting both current and foreseen applications throughout the building's lifetime. Nexans task was to support the client and implementation partners through the process from specification to completion of the install."

"We've worked with Airbus on projects in the UK as well as France, Spain and India, but this project was truly unique," says Peter. "Not only because of the scale and complexity, as we had to roll out a network spanning several large buildings and a campus-like environment, but also because we were working in listed buildings. We had to work within the limitations which this imposed."

"The scale of project was not a problem for Nexans," says Glynn. "Projects like this are our bread and butter, and our USP in working with clients and installation partners. For the main build, we also worked with the electrical contractors on the design of floor boxes, to ensure the correct connectivity adaptations were included. With the listed building, there were technical problems to overcome with a



*Part of the restored art deco painted window that runs the full height of Pegasus House.*

reduced floor void. We had to work in the shallowest depth we have seen so far, but this was overcome by use of unique Nexans mouldings in specially designed plates.”

## **LOCAL SUPPORT, GLOBAL SERVICE**

Airbus is a leading aircraft manufacturer with the most modern and comprehensive family of airliners on the market, ranging in capacity from 100 to more than 500 seats. Airbus champions innovative technologies and offers some of the world’s most fuel efficient and quiet aircraft. Airbus has delivered close to 8,700 aircraft to some 370 customers worldwide and boasts a healthy backlog of more than 5,900 aircraft for delivery over the coming years. Airbus is a global company with design and manufacturing facilities in France, Germany, the UK and Spain as well as subsidiaries in the U.S., China, Japan, India and in the Middle East. Airbus is headquartered in Toulouse, France.

“We have dedicated account managers on call in France and the UK, which ensures we can respond rapidly,” Peter adds. “In this instance, Airbus asked for a Cat6A connectivity solution, incorporating Cat7 cable and Cat6A patching. However, we made sure to provide ongoing additional support and information throughout the process and worked closely with the installation partner.”

## **AIRBUS FILTON PLANT**

- 644 km LANmark-7 shielded cable
- 20,000 LANmark-6A snap-in connectors
- 10G Capability rolled out in new and historic buildings
- Multiple service applications for voice, data and video

## About Nexans

Nexans brings energy to life through an extensive range of cables and cabling solutions that deliver increased performance for our worldwide customers. Nexans' teams are committed to a partnership approach that supports customers in four main business areas: Power transmission and distribution (submarine and land), Energy resources (Oil & Gas, Mining and Renewables), Transportation (Road, Rail, Air, Sea) and Building (Commercial, Residential and Data Centers). Nexans' strategy is founded on continuous innovation in products, solutions and services, employee development, customer training and the introduction of safe, low -environmental-impact industrial processes.

In 2013, Nexans became the first cable player to create a Foundation to introduce sustained initiatives for access to energy for disadvantaged communities worldwide. We have an industrial presence in 40 countries and commercial activities worldwide, employing close to 26,000 people and generating sales in 2013 of nearly 6.7 billion euros. Nexans is listed on NYSE Euronext Paris, compartment A.

For more information, please consult: [www.nexans.com](http://www.nexans.com)

In the field of LAN Cabling Systems, Nexans Cabling Solutions offer a complete range of products and value added services providing improved reliability and reduced cost of ownership for Network Managers, together with faster installation times for installers.

In addition to LANmark brand cabling systems, Nexans also specialises in LANsense Intelligent Infrastructure Management (IIM) products including Environmental Monitoring and Access Control (EMAC) devices. Nexans offers an unrivalled choice of LAN infrastructure solutions to a global customer based through an extensive network of regional offices and Key Account Management team.



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