



## NLMK Europe

NLMK Europe relies on future ready fiber optic



Connectivity is playing an increasingly important role in the industrial sector. NLMK Europe, a subsidiary of one of the world's biggest steel producing companies, is no exception. It relies on the uninterrupted flow of data coming from and going to their various steel mills and sales offices in Europe. NLMK Europe chose high-speed fiber optic network connections from Eurofiber Belgium as the reliable basis for their existing connectivity needs, with the assurance that they can easily upgrade to future bandwidth demands.

### About NLMK

The NLMK Group is one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality steel products in the world. It operates mills and sales offices across Asia, the

European Union, North America and Russia. The European division, NLMK Europe, has seven factories: three in Belgium, one in Denmark, one in France and one in Italy. Additionally, the company also has several agencies throughout Europe.

## The challenge

NLMK Europe ITCC Manager Andrey Vostretsov is responsible for the IT infrastructure, second and third level support and special projects at the European sites. One of those special projects is the modernization of IT infrastructure at the European steel mills: "We're migrating our virtual environments to new hardware and implementing new solutions for our production systems. This includes setting up multiple sensors at the sites to monitor processes and products and establishing real time feeds to and from our SAP ERP-software in Belgium and Russia. The latter also enables management to be up to date."

The 'IT refresh' at NLMK Europe includes updating the network topology, with the implementation of new network design and network segmentation, says Vostretsov. "The modernization of our IT also has implications for our connectivity needs. To give an example: We used to have a 50 Mbps connection to the internet at our main Belgian production facility in La Louvière. In June 2018 we started the process of upgrading that. After a careful selection, we chose Eurofiber Belgium. Why? They offered the best solution for the best price. We were not disappointed: their Quality of Service has proven to be quite better than that of their competitors."

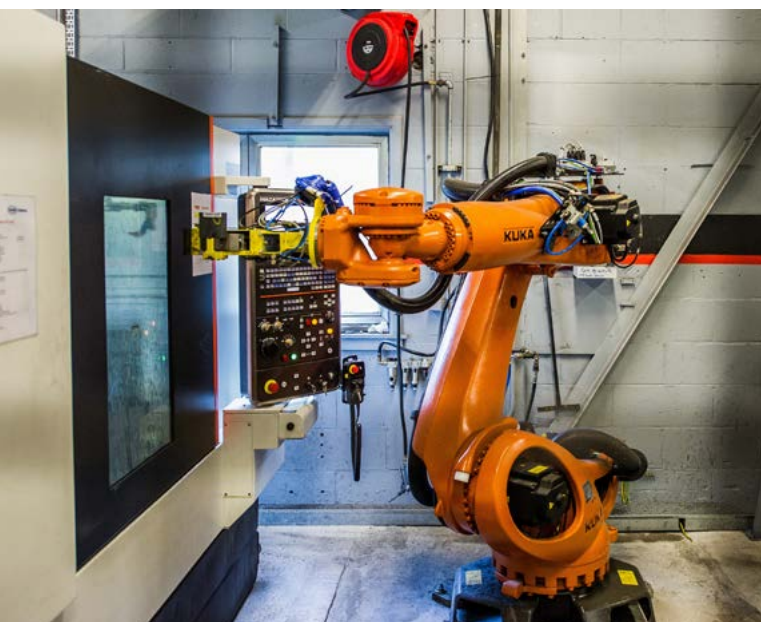
## The solution

Eurofiber Belgium installed two, redundant, separate fiber optic connections to their high-speed network infrastructure at the production plant in La Louvière. Vostretsov: "That was quite a feat: we're talking about a production plant that will take you more than one hour to cross on foot. The initial speed of the new connection was 100 Mbps, but we've already requested an upgrade to 500 Mbps. Eurofiber Belgium will have that in place in about two months, after we've done some additional work at the site."

## The benefits

The new network architecture and the higher bandwidth are stepping-stones to the second part of the IT modernization at NLMK Europe. Andrey Vostretsov: "Ultimately, we want to connect all of our production sites in Belgium, France and Italy in secure and reliable WAN. Using the Eurofiber network we can also have an emulated Local Area Network across all sites in Belgium, which makes us less dependent on internet connectivity."

The high-speed fiber optic network of Eurofiber Belgium provides NLMK Europe with future ready



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**Andrey Vostretsov**

ITCC Manager  
NLMK Europe

connectivity, according to Andrey Vostretsov. "As a lot of other companies, we're moving some parts of our IT to the cloud. Albeit a private cloud, as we have to keep our data on premise. That means that we're setting up our own private cloud infrastructure, interconnecting our redundant data centers that are located at the production sites. As five of our factories run 24/7, we have to have high standards for our network connectivity. In about two years we want to have a network backbone running at 10 Gbps. We're confident that we'll be able to finalize that in 2021, with the help of Eurofiber Belgium. They have great level of support and flexibility. And their network infrastructure has proven to be not only very fast but also extremely reliable. It's in fact the reason we've asked them whether they can help us with setting up E-LAN connections with our French site in Strasbourg and the plant in Verona, Italy."

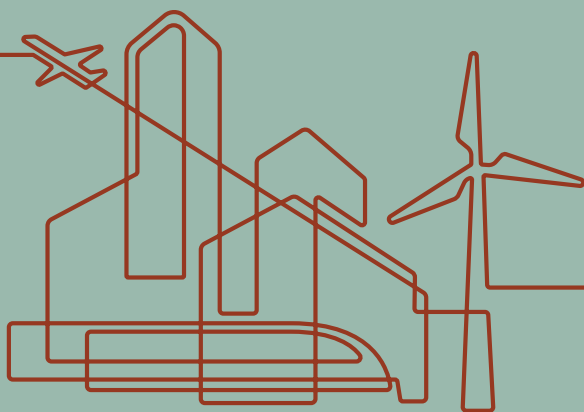
### **The case** **NLMK Europe**

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- Real time feeds to and from our SAP ERP-software in Belgium and Russia.
- Updating the network topology, with the implementation of new network design and network segmentation.

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# Curious to hear more about what we could achieve for your organization?

Eurofiber has been a fast-growing international provider of industry-leading digital infrastructure since 2000. Relying on our own fiber optic network and data centers, we provide smart, future-proof solutions for companies, government bodies and non-profit organizations. Customers have complete freedom to choose the services, applications and providers they need, allowing them to tap into the full potential of digital innovation. Eurofiber has an extensive fiber optic network in the Netherlands and Belgium, it unlocks its four data centers of its own and almost all public data centers in the Benelux.



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