Yuverta

Reliable and flexible network for maintaining educational continuity

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As a broad, comprehensive green school community, Yuverta relies on a fast, secure and reliable network connection across the entire organisation. Eurofiber's high-quality fiber-optic network provides that assurance, coupled with enhanced flexibility, which is crucial in responding to fluctuating demands for capacity students, teachers and staff must be able to access data and applications anytime, anywhere. And that need will continue to grow, driven by new Cloud solutions.

Small-scale education

At the start of the 2021/2022 academic year, Wellantcollege, Helicon Opleidingen and Citaverde College merged to form a single educational institution providing secondary vocational education to students at VMBO and MBO levels. The new organisation, named Yuverta - a fusion of three elements: you, juve (youth) and vert (green) - also provides vocational and further training programmes to adults. Roughly 13,000 pupils, 8,900 students and many industry professionals

are taught to develop their skills in various fields, including the environment and nature conservation. A defining feature of Yuverta is small-scale education, with a focus on ensuring pupils and students receive individual attention in personalised, small groups. Teaching is provided at over 40 school locations, in a large part of the Netherlands.

Harmonisation

Step by step, work and processes are being integrated and harmonised, including at the ICT department. "System management, Cloud management and workplace support are provided from a single ICT department", explains Menno Hiemstra, ICT project leader at Yuverta. "Functional management is a separate department, where the applications are managed. Local support is provided by regional managers, each of whom is responsible for several locations. They take care of workplace facilities and project-based modifications and adjustments. Not every location is the same: the organisation in Amsterdam may need different facilities and resources than the organisation in Zuid-Limburg, for example. We place importance on recognising and facilitating the local character of our locations." As project leader, Hiemstra developed the project plan for organising the network structure for the new Yuverta organisation.

A single reliable network for Yuverta

While each of the three original institutions had their own network, the new organisational situation called for a common, shared environment for Yuverta as a whole. "We opted for a closed network that connects to the public internet across two connections with a dual firewall. "The dynamic nature of our school means that our capacity needs can vary between locations and at different times. Accordingly, it may be necessary to connect or disconnect locations, depending on the fluctuating situation."

Connectivity is crucial

"Our aim in this project was to create a fast, secure, reliable and flexible network for Yuverta to which the three original institutions could be seamlessly connected, despite the fact that existing, continuing contracts were in place. "We make frequent use of Cloud services as well as applications that are offered on a dispersed basis. Since the pandemic, we also conduct a lot of meetings online using Microsoft Teams. Having a robust network connection is also a fundamental requirement for the timetables, our announcements to pupils and students, our administrative records and the system we use to monitor and manage the academic progress and other relevant information of pupils and students. This underlines the crucial importance of connectivity to us."

Yuverta sought a partner for the installation and maintenance of its infrastructure and selected Eurofiber because it offered the best price-performance ratio. The fact that Helicon was familiar with Eurofiber having previously worked with it and Wellantcollege had an established relationship with UNET gave the parties great confidence.

Flexible scalability

Eurofiber configured a star network with Ethernet VPN to interconnect all the Yuverta locations, enabling them to mutually exchange data. Sterpunt is the datacenter in Amsterdam for which a high-availability (redundantly configured) fiber-optic connection was installed with 10 Gb/s bandwidth capacity. Each location has a 1 Gb/s connection, and can flexibly scale bandwidth up or down, exactly as envisioned.

Good partners

"The network was rolled out without a hitch", says Hiemstra. "Much of the fiber-optic cabling was already in place, thanks to previously existing contracts and Eurofiber's extensive network in the Netherlands. The plans drawn up in advance for the new cables were successfully executed in full, in spite of uncertainties regarding permits. Each side honoured the agreements between us, in what I can only describe as an excellent working relationship.

Yuverta now has a fast, secure, reliable and flexible fiber-optic network courtesy of Eurofiber. Our collaboration is set to continue, as we have also contracted Eurofiber to guarantee network availability.

Good sparring partner

"Right now, we're in the middle of the harmonisation process and that means we sometimes run into new technical issues. Such as, how to create more bandwidth between the former Wellant and Helicon locations. Eurofiber is a good sparring partner for discussing our ideas with. Their network engineers also put forward their own proposals, which might include workarounds and other temporary solutions."

Future-proof network

"It's difficult to predict our future capacity needs, since that partly depends on what will be transmitted over the cable: entire applications or just the data. Nonetheless, it's clear to us that multimedia applications are on the rise, including video instructions. Flexibility in terms of capacity is very important for a future-proof network, therefore. Added to that, availability is of crucial importance for our teaching activities. Eurofiber takes care of all our needs in this regard, and also has the advantage of being flexible and adaptable. All this is extremely important to us."
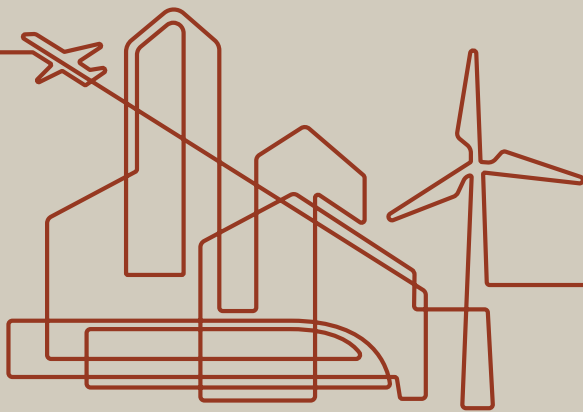
"Connectivity has become even more crucial as a result of the merger. A reliable network is vital for our teaching activities, with the flexibility to adjust capacity."

The solution for Yuverta
- Reliable private network
- Connectivity between all locations and the datacenter
- Eurofiber's state-of-the-art fiber-optic network guarantees stable and fast connections
- Flexible and scalable bandwidth, tailored to users' current and future needs

LIFELINE

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. In addition to our extensive fiber-optic network in the Netherlands and Belgium, along with our data centers in the Netherlands, we also offer solutions for interconnectivity between nearly all high-quality carrier-neutral data centers in the Benelux region. Eurofiber thus lays the foundation for the digital society. Consequently, the Dutch government has granted Eurofiber the status of 'vital infrastructure'.

Eurofiber. Lifeline for the digital society

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