

Reest tot Linde Schools Association

Cooperation built on a reliable network



eurofiber

Five schools in the north of the Netherlands are exploring ways to strengthen their combined capabilities, not only to enhance the quality of secondary education, but also to improve their operational efficiency. A shared, state-of-the-art fiber-optic network built by Eurofiber provides a solid foundation for increased cooperation. Education has a growing need for connectivity.

The challenge

Toward a single organisation

Stad & Esch, CSG Dingstede, CSG Eekeringe, RSG Tromp Meesters and Linde College are aware of the advantages of pooling their competencies in a single organisation. The five schools, which provide education at varying levels, from practical through senior vocational programmes to pre-university level, for roughly 7,500 students launched a combined connectivity call for tenders. Jan Albert Emmelkamp, IT Manager for the Association, explains why: "Each school had its own Office environment, dedicated servers as well as their own network. That needed changing, and replacing with a joint network and a single shared datacenter for all the schools."

This delivers benefits in terms of significant cost optimisation as well as added value from an education viewpoint. "A stable and reliable network enables us to share documents and data, for example, and to organise joint lessons for students at different locations under the leadership of one subject-specific teacher. This promotes greater interchangeability of educational resources. Our basic position is 'in the Cloud, unless', which brings with it a need for reliable connectivity. We foresee an escalation in data traffic driven by the expanding role of videos, photographs, 3D models, virtual reality and augmented reality. This, in turn, will drive a need for increasing bandwidth on our part."

Exacting demands

Key criteria for the new network are robustness, reliability and future-proofness. The Van Reest tot Linde Schools Association wanted a high-quality, closed network with low latency and high redundancy that promises almost 100% availability coupled with high capacity. Eurofiber emerged as the winning choice for connecting all the locations with one another as well as with the recently contracted datacenter in Meppel.

The solution

Reliable partner

"Eurofiber has a proven track record in education and is recognised as a reputable and reliable partner," stresses Emmelkamp. "Eurofiber proposed their Ethernet VPN solution for the dedicated network we envisaged. We can connect to the internet through the datacenter and Secure Cloud Connect provides us with access to the Microsoft Cloud for our Office applications and data."

Eurofiber laid state-of-the-art fiber-optic cables for the entire route, and ensured that any hurdles that were encountered, such as permits and underground obstacles, were smoothly taken. The schools will be connected one-by-one to the new network with the Cloud environment.

Experience with schools

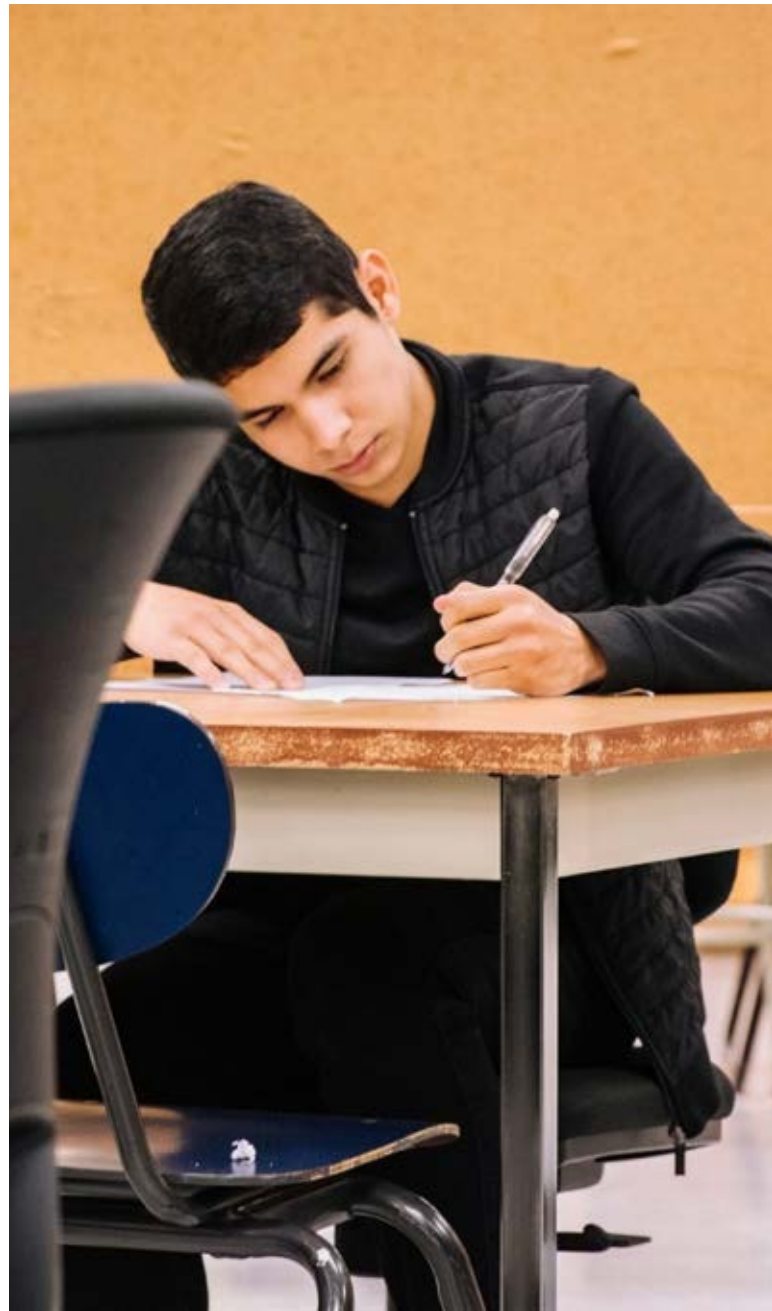
"Ensuring proper routing for all that data traffic in a joint network is a complex undertaking, which requires clear communication and good coordination. Thanks to Eurofiber's team, everything runs smoothly. Where we struggle to find the right solution, they are always willing to share ideas with us and plot a way forward. Their solution architect and account manager for the education sector are competent and explain things clearly. Their experience with schools meant they could advise us on the correct bandwidth for our needs, for example. With the right experts involved, we view this as a collective effort and a truly joint project."

The rollout does not signal the end of the project, since Eurofiber will remain responsible for maintaining the network. The Network Monitoring Center (NMC) monitors the entire infrastructure 24/7 to ensure that any issues are identified and analysed as soon as possible before being remedied, often before the client has even noticed something is wrong. The provision of these services is part and parcel of the 'vital infrastructure' quality mark that Eurofiber's fiber-optic network proudly bears.

The benefits

Reliable network, outstanding service

"Students and staff are largely unaware of the changes accompanying the transition", continues Emmelkamp. "Timetables, email, student monitoring system and programs all remain continuously available and accessible."



The main difference they'll notice is the increased speed of data traffic at several locations, due to the upgraded bandwidth. Also, the number of DDoS attacks has declined significantly."

"A key benefit for us is that Eurofiber's high-quality fiber-optic network and their professional support contribute to the quality, efficiency and manageability of our IT infrastructure. Added to that, if any unexpected problem arises, their rapid response to questions and issues allows us to confidently tell everyone in our organisation that every effort is being made to resolve the issue."



Reliable network, outstanding service

"We're in regular contact with one another, which allows us to anticipate future developments. Effective cooperation is necessary to ensure that the right decisions are made for both the present and the future. The growing number of online applications is increasing our reliance on infrastructure. Our locations need a high-speed, stable and reliable network, otherwise the entire organisation - including the teaching functions - could face disruption or even be incapacitated. That underlines just how important connectivity is for us. Eurofiber is an indispensable link in the chain."

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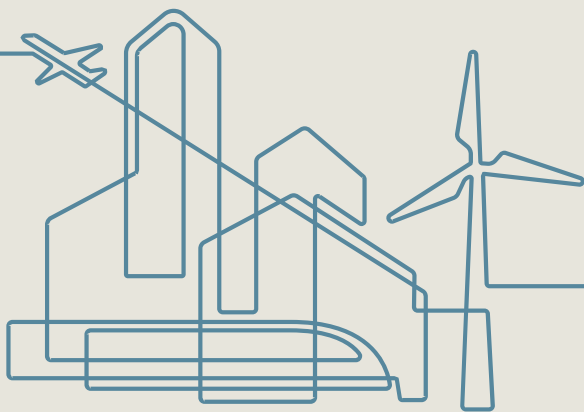
The case

Reest tot Linde Schools Association

- Reliable private network with Ethernet VPN
- Connectivity between all schools and the datacenter
- Secure access to the Cloud with Secure Cloud Connect
- Stable connection thanks to Eurofiber's state-of-the-art fiber-optic network that is configured for redundancy
- Flexible, scalable bandwidth, tailored to users' future needs

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

Eurofiber has been a fastgrowing international provider of industryleading digital infrastructure since 2000. Relying on our own fiber optic network and data centers, we provide smart, futureproof solutions for companies, government bodies and nonprofit 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 fiberoptic network in the Netherlands and Belgium, along with our data centers in the Netherlands, we also offer solutions for interconnectivity between nearly all highquality carrierneutral 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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