



Case study

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Background

Location: Oldham

Project Value: £50,000

Site Size: Multiple Town Centre Locations

Duration: Planned Phased Programme

When the operating costs for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's (OMBC) Conventional Fibre system began to soar following high line rental connectivity, it became the perfect time to look at installing their own private fibre infrastructure.

The project

OMBC wished to upgrade their high density operations to an advanced private network capable of connecting several remote buildings including; the ultra-modern £9 million Art Gallery, Oldham Local Library, Phoenix Social Services Centre, a Youth Centre and offices for Medtia Associates, a project management consultancy group. All of these buildings provide important services to the local community.

The installation

As a dedicated fibre network provider, Sudlows believed a high performance Blown Fibre network would best transmit large amounts of data through OMBC's civic telecommunication and ICT systems. This would reduce ongoing line rental costs, whilst valuably extending the new service to nearby public sector organisations.



The installation (cont..)

Sudlows were appointed to design, build and install the new Blown Fibre backbone. This began with the construction of a complex ducting system for the fibre network, which was designed to comply with leading British Standards for ducting depth, width and separation distances.

Within the Blown Fibre tubing, Sudlows installed various-sized fibre bundles of 4, 8 and 12 fibres, blowing up to a distance of 1000m from the main civic centre Communications Room to the various Town Centre buildings. They also fitted both internal and external Blown Fibre joint enclosures at strategic locations around the site to give the greatest flexibility.

This process provides the option to expand its capacity in the future, all without causing any more disruption to the public or council services. For example, in the event of any damage to the fibre, Sudlows can easily repair their telephony and network system. This is because, once the tubing is installed, there is no longer the need for major street works and the Blown Fibre system is much easier to maintain.



Benefits of a rapid network

OMBC realised the benefits they could gain from a more secured high specification system. With extended light wavelengths beaming through reduced core diameter fibre, Singlemode technology provides a faster and more reliable service – not to mention the lower cost of fibre. It also has a lower attenuation, meaning that long distance signal strength is not negotiated.

24 hour dedication

General public safety is the number one priority for Sudlows, who work closely in partnership with clients and utility companies to ensure works are conducted as thoroughly as possible.

By implementing NRSWA (New Roads and Street Works Act) as part of the carefully planned risk management programme, Sudlows engineers worked through the night to ensure the least disruption.

Simon Ferguson, Operations Manager at Sudlows, commented;

“The engineers are flexible in their approach, matching the same standards as our previous projects and closely collaborating with all of the on and off-site personnel in order to ensure minimum disruption to the public”.

The conclusion

Peter Brown, Project Officer at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council says;

“ When designing new network foundations from scratch there are so many issues to consider, but the Sudlows team always think one step ahead to provide a logical solution based on our own communication needs. Their vision has brought us right up to speed.”

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