



Case study

Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre

About

The world famous Jodrell Bank Observatory is the internationally renowned and awe inspiring home of the third largest steerable radio telescopes in the world.

The brand new Discovery Centre has been developed to provide year round education programmes aimed at providing children with a unique learning experience and the opportunity to experiment with live science.

Location: Cheshire

Site Size: Two sites across 35 hectares

Duration: 2 Months

The brief

As part of the major re-development programme for Jodrell Bank, two new specially designed buildings were constructed - the Planet Pavilion and the Space Pavilion.

To enhance the visitor experience and expand the current education programme for schools, a new integrated network infrastructure was required to support the growing development of this modern educational facility.



The Sudlows Solution

Over 125 Molex Cat5e LSZH RJ45 outlets were installed to provide for both voice and data connections. Each building had a new 12u wall mounted cabinet installed to house the patch panels and the 'University of Manchester' network switches.

One of the more interesting engineering challenges came from an unexpected visit from a number of enthusiastic grey squirrels, who had made several attempts to eat their way through the communications cables.

This resulted in an upgrade to new 12x core OM3 armoured fibre cable and 1x 20pr Int/Ext cable which were installed to secure the link between the Planet Pavilion and Space Pavilion to the main control building.



Dr Teresa Anderson, Director at Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, said:

"The brilliant team at Sudlows have delivered a fantastic new cabling infrastructure that will enable the Education team at Jodrell Bank to deliver dynamic and exciting programmes for visitors and schools."

Darren Stephens, Head of Connectivity at Sudlows said:

"We were determined to deliver Jodrell Bank an infrastructure that would enable the education programme to successfully engage with as many visitors to the facility as possible."

"Coming up against a number of challenges throughout the course of the project, Sudlows were able to demonstrate a level of professionalism that aided in a trouble-free end result for the team at Jodrell Bank."

The conclusion

The critical role that Jodrell Bank plays in the international research of modern astrophysics and cosmology means that providing an excellent communications framework for the Discovery Centre was paramount. Sudlows installed a robust and proven infrastructure that not only creates fast data and voice communications network across the facility, but also provides an excellent platform for visitors and schools.



"It will enable the Education team at Jodrell Bank to deliver dynamic and exciting programmes for visitors and schools"