/ CASE STUDY: ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Aberystwyth University to realise year on year savings with their new Dark Fibre network from Pinacl

/ THE RESULT:

Pinacl Solutions provided Aberystwyth University with a dark fibre network infrastructure where the University would own the fibre assets within the financial constraints of the project.

The dark fibre network install was completed in just 5 weeks which has greatly exceeded the University's expectations.

This meant that the University was able to switch to its new network well ahead of schedule. As part of the contract, Aberystwyth University have an ongoing maintenance contract with Pinacl which ensures that an engineer is dispatched to site within the given SLA to repair any faults that may occur on the fibre network.

Pinacl Solutions have also provided the University with proposals on expanding the dark fibre network in the future, to connect other University owned buildings within the Town or to act as a backbone for a public wireless solution.

/ THE PROJECT:

Aberystwyth University in the heart of Wales, is a multi campus University which attracts around 10,000 students. The Information Services department at the University are responsible for running the core IT services at the University for both staff and students. This involves supporting 12,000 users engaged in learning, teaching and research.

Aberystwyth University went out to tender for a new network that would provide them with a flexible and futureproof solution. Aberystwyth University selected the Janet Telecoms Framework agreement as a cost effective and efficient method of procuring the replacement network.

As a multi-campus University, Aberystwyth has a number of student residences located in the town. The University wanted to enhance the network capacity between the main campus and the student accommodation in the town. The University had the choice of upgrading their existing leased line circuits to deliver the improved network capacity or to invest in their own dark fibre infrastructure.

Upgrading the existing leased line circuits would result in a sizeable increase in the associated annual rentals as well as connection charges.

/ KEY BENEFITS:

› OWNERSHIP OF DARK FIBRE INFRASTRUCTURE

After reviewing the options from Pinacl, Aberystwyth University decided to purchase the dark fibre network upfront as opposed to a lease purchase agreement. This means that the University will have very low ongoing costs.

› NEAR "LIMITLESS" BANDWIDTH

The Dark Fibre infrastructure allows Aberystwyth University to run their wide area network at speeds required to meet current demands for super-fast internet access, but will also allow them to increase speed in-line with future demands.

› ROI EXPECTED IN 4 YEARS

The University expects to see a return on investment in 4 years which means they will realise significant savings for the remainder of the fibres life which is typically 30 years plus.

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/ THE SOLUTION:

Dark Fibre networks are no longer readily available from network suppliers and typically attract high connection and ongoing annual rental charges.

Pinacl Solutions Dark Fibre proposition fully met the University's requirements whilst providing them with the options to lease or own the dark fibre assets outright. After reviewing the options from Pinacl, Aberystwyth University decided to purchase the Dark Fibre network upfront as opposed to a lease purchase agreement.

With the typical lifespan of a Dark Fibre network being 30 years plus, the University will realise significant cost savings for the remainder of the fibre's life. This future proof model will not only save the University money but will give them a great deal of flexibility and control over their bandwidth. It is estimated that the University will see a Return On Investment in four years.

In 2012, Pinacl provided a similar Dark Fibre solution to the University of Leicester which delivered a Return On Investment in just over 18 months.

The Dark Fibre network in Aberystwyth connects eight University buildings covering a total distance of 3,400m and consisting of over 58,000m of singlemode fibre.

/ THE CLIENT:

Aberystwyth University is a public research university with over 7500 students in the University's three main faculties of arts, social science and the sciences.

Aberystwyth University has two attractive landscaped campuses. The campuses are about a mile apart by road on a well served bus route. On both campuses, the laboratories, libraries, teaching and social buildings are within walking distance of each other, separated by open spaces with lawns and trees. Residential facilities for students are also located on campus. Together, both campuses provide an environment which is conducive to teaching and research.

/ CLIENT TESTIMONIALS:

"Aberystwyth University students living in University accommodation on the seafront will be able to enjoy super-fast internet access after the installation of a new Dark Fibre network. The University has invested over a quarter of a million pounds in upgrading the wide area network connecting to seafront student halls of residences with dark fibre technology.

As our academic programs move to ever more multi-media rich content such as video, our wide area network bandwidth requirements are growing at a phenomenal rate. Not only does dark fibre allow us to run our wide area network at speeds required to meet current demands for super-fast internet access, but will also allow us to increase speed in-line with future demands."

TIM DAVIES, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SERVICES, ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

"We were very pleased to be selected by Aberystwyth University for the provision of a Dark Fibre Network. Our solution is flexible, scalable and will enable the University to realise significant long term cost savings".

CHRISTINE FEATHERSTONE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, PINACL

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