

/ CASE STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

University of Leicester achieve ROI in just 18 months from new Dark Fibre Network on a 30 year service



/ THE RESULT:

Pinacl Solutions designed and installed a Dark Fibre network consisting of over 300km of G.652 singlemode fibre. The time taken to install the network from receiving the purchase order through to completion and handover was just 9 weeks.

To minimise disruption across the City, 20% of the overall network build was completed using directional drilling. This resulted in a much lower environmental impact on the City, reducing the need for traditional civils work and the associated traffic management.

Following completion of the Dark Fibre network in November 2012, Leicester University now benefit from access to highly resilient and near 'limitless' bandwidth. This supports the day to day University network traffic as well as any demanding research and development project data traffic between the connected buildings.

Leicester University gained a Return on Investment (ROI) for the Dark Fibre network in just 18 months meaning the University will now realise continuous savings for the remainder of the fibre network life (typically 30 years plus).

/ THE PROJECT:

Leicester University had a requirement to replace their existing wide area network with a resilient network connecting two data centres and twenty one buildings. Their old network was based on dark fibre which the existing network provider no longer supported.

The only option offered by the existing network provider was for the University to upgrade their network to a supported platform.

This platform would be based on the carrier's standard telecom circuits with annual rentals based on bandwidth required. For the University to upgrade the existing network to deliver the bandwidth, resilience and connectivity required would result in a sizeable increase in annual rentals and connection charges.

The initial challenge for Leicester University was to find a new provider that could replace their existing Dark Fibre network with a reliable, flexible solution offering at least equivalent capacity and cost. Leicester University selected the Janet Telecoms Framework agreement as a cost effective and efficient method of procuring the replacement network. The Janet Telecoms Framework is available for use by all Janet connected organisations, RNOs, RBCs and Purchasing Consortia members.

/ KEY BENEFITS:

> OWNERSHIP OF DARK FIBRE NETWORK

Flexible finance options, with Dark Fibre asset belonging to the University on payment of agreed charges. This means no more annual rental fees or connection charges.

> NEAR "LIMITLESS" BANDWIDTH

The Dark Fibre Network based on G.652 Single-mode Fibre, allows Leicester University to connect whatever communications equipment they want, at the bandwidth they require.

> ROI WITHIN 18 MONTHS

ROI within 18 months meaning that Leicester University essentially has a cost-free network and will save money year on year for the remainder of the Dark Fibre network life (typically 30 years+).

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/ THE SOLUTION:

Pinacl Solutions designed a resilient Dark Fibre ring connecting the University's two data centres and twenty one outlying buildings using G.652 singlemode fibre cable, providing Leicester University with the freedom to connect whatever communications equipment they want, at the bandwidth they require.

Dark Fibre networks are no longer readily available from network suppliers and typically attract high connection and ongoing annual rental charges. Pinacl's Dark Fibre proposition is unique in that Leicester University own the Dark Fibre asset on payment of the agreed charges.

Support and maintenance is provided to Leicester University for the Dark Fibre network for a period of 5 years from completion of the installation, and then ongoing for a minimal annual fee. This ensures that any faults are identified and resolved quickly to avoid disruption. Other than this low maintenance fee, Leicester University essentially have cost-free use of the network.

/ THE CLIENT:

Leicester University is one of the UK's top 20 Universities as ranked by the Times Good University Guide. With over 23,000 students, Leicester University has one of the strongest student completion rates with 91% meeting Government performance indicators. The University has an annual turnover of more than £260 million and student spend contributes £729 million into the economy.

/ CLIENT TESTIMONIALS:

"We were surprised by the speed and quality of the installation, which enabled the University to be able to connect up buildings earlier in the programme. This was especially welcome when we experienced a fault on the existing leased line circuit as we were able to simply switch the failed circuit over to the Dark Fibre network".

LEE ROBINSON, MANAGER OF DATA & VOICE NETWORK SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER.

"We were very pleased to be able to provide the University with a Dark Fibre solution that will meet all of their network requirements between the connected buildings for the foreseeable future, whilst also enabling them to realise substantial savings in future years".

ALASDAIR RETTIE, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, PINACL