SUCCESS STORY

Infraserv Höchst

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Challenge

Build a highly available, multitenant campus network capable of delivering essential services to tenants at a large industrial park

Solution

- Brocade NetIron CES 2000 Series switches
- Brocade NetIron CER 2000 Series routers
- Brocade MLXe Series routers

Results

- Built an MPLS network that provides Layer 2/3 functionality for Infraserv Höchst and its onsite customers
- Enabled affordable pricing of essential services for onsite customers
- Helped ensure compliance with security requirements mandated by the pharmaceutical industry
- Provided significant cost savings by reducing energy and maintenance requirements

Brocade Multitenant Campus Network Takes Infraserv Höchst to the Next Level

Celebrating its 150th anniversary, Industriepark Höchst has grown significantly since its founding in 1863. Today, this prominent industrial park, owned and operated by Infraserv GmbH & Co. Höchst KG (Infraserv Höchst), is a vital research and development site for over 90 companies from the pharmaceutical, chemical, biotechnology, and crop science industries. Housing more than 22,000 employees within a 460-hectare facility west of Frankfurt, Germany, Industriepark Höchst provides all of the services that research and production companies need—from raw materials and waste disposal to logistics and IT services—in an integrated end-to-end solution.

Infraserv Höchst requires an IT environment that is flexible and reliable, and that delivers high-performance connectivity. Its legacy environment was complex and cumbersome, consisting of 50 separate networks belonging to onsite customers and several Infraserv Höchst environments that provided telephony and data network management services. Infraserv Höchst needed to invest in the modernization and standardization of its IT environment.

Investment in an Expendable Network

As part of its infrastructure wish list, Infraserv Höchst wanted a highly reliable, scalable, multitenant Next-Generation Network (NGN) that would be simple to maintain. The NGN platform and new network technologies—such as Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS)—would enable Infraserv Höchst to provide all users with essential services, including Voice over IP (VoIP), access control systems, and high-priority network access.

With these criteria in mind, the team began its search and ultimately chose Brocade. “Brocade’s solution presents a high-performance alternative to our obsolete legacy platform, offering us state-of-the-art technology at a very good price/performance ratio,” says Stephan Paffhausen, Manager Network Design, Data Networks, at Infraserv Höchst.

Dennis Neckermann, Operation Network System Specialist at Infraserv Höchst, was impressed with the caliber of enterprise-class features offered by the Brocade solutions, in particular Multi-Chassis Trunking (MCT).

"Our customers are overseeing critical production and technical processes, so reliable data connections are indispensable to our business. Failover scenarios, redundancy, and data recovery—we needed a data network that could deliver on these requirements," says Neckermann. "Brocade MCT is a key part of ensuring a resilient network, since it provides redundant switch connectivity and non-stop performance."

Based on the results of their technical analysis and the cost advantages, Infraserv Höchst chose to deploy Brocade® MLXe Core Routers and Brocade NetIron® CES 2000 Series switches.

Redundancy, Flexibility, and Simplicity with Multiprotocol Label Switching

Infraserv Höchst acts both as a site operator and provider, offering its own network to resident businesses at Industriepark Höchst. The area consists of 800 buildings and 120 production sites, and each customer wants their own custom view of the infrastructure. MPLS enables Infraserv Höchst to offer differentiated services to customers simultaneously, so that these customers view the Layer 2 or Layer 3 networks as their own. More specifically, MPLS allows Infraserv Höchst to offer customers three services:

- **Automatic configuration of logical connections:** Two buildings onsite have been connected through a physical cable whose logical connection can be configured via MPLS. This helps ensure availability of service, since the logical connection will remain stable even if the cable or device breaks down.
- **Layer 2 infrastructure with Virtual Private LAN Service (VPLS):** This provides a multi-point connection that enables customers to connect different ports in different locations via the Layer 2 network.
- **Layer 3 VPLNs:** Customers view the Infraserv Höchst MPLS network as one huge router and do not see the 20 to 30 devices behind it. Meanwhile, this router provides connection ports in each location while each is presented as its own IP network.

Reduced Energy and Maintenance Costs

Energy consumption is a success story as well, with the Brocade environment reducing usage by approximately 25 to 30 percent. "Overall we met our target for reducing costs per port. Thanks to the energy savings and reduced maintenance expenses, we can offset our hardware costs," says Paffhausen.

WHY BROCADE

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Standardizing on Brocade

Looking ahead, Infraserv Höchst plans to continue standardizing its systems on Brocade. "Brocade SAN solutions will soon replace Cisco in our storage environment," says Paffhausen. "There's no doubt that virtualization is the future, and that's where we're headed with Brocade as our infrastructure."

As part of its growth strategy, Infraserv Höchst aims to build more industrial parks leveraging the same network infrastructure as Industriepark Höchst. Using virtualization, different sites will be connected, and clients will be able to remotely collaborate on projects. "The main factors of a successful project are cooperation and the ability to work as a team. The joint project with Brocade is a great success story, and we are looking forward to more projects in the near future," says Paffhausen.

For more information, visit www.brocade.com.

Corporate Headquarters
San Jose, CA USA
T: +1-408-333-8000
info@brocade.com

European Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland
T: +41-22-799-56-40
emea-info@brocade.com

Asia Pacific Headquarters
Singapore
T: +65-6538-4700
apac-info@brocade.com

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