

The Southernmost Call Server in the World is in the Antarctic

NextiraOne equips Antarctic Research Station Neumayer III

Paris, 23 June 2009. NextiraOne, Europe's leading communications specialist, has successfully completed the installation of the most southerly call server in the world. The system, an Alcatel-Lucent Omni-PCX Enterprise IP Media Gateway solution, was implemented at the end of February at the Neumayer III Research Station operated by Germany's Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research. It was supplied by NextiraOne and is connected to the Institute's existing IP infrastructure.

The Neumayer III Research Station provides the platform for long-term research and is a significant part of Germany's contribution to international collaboration in the Antarctic. It acts as a base for scientific observation and also as the logistics centre for expeditions into the interior and for Polar aircraft. The highest standards of environmental protection have been applied in both building and operating the centre. A team of nine people ensures the all year round running of the research station and this grows to up to 30 people during the Antarctic summer.

Each of the 30 team members at the research station is provided with an 8 series terminal or an MIPT 310 for mobile use. A direct satellite link connects the Alcatel-Lucent Omni-PCX Enterprise system at the Antarctic base to the Institute's headquarters in Bremerhaven. NextiraOne trained the Institute's technical staff so that they can deal with any potential failures themselves, says Project Manager Gerold Prehn: "We transferred our know-how directly to the Alfred Wegener Institute so that we could keep everyone's costs for this project to a minimum." "Otherwise both the travel and the installation costs would have been astronomically high," adds Guenther Geldzus (Solution Design NextiraOne) in describing the administrative difficulties of the project.

The solution was as simple as it was practical: NextiraOne assembled and tested the complete Omni-PCX Enterprise system in Bremen before the implementation, and a member of the Alfred-Wegener team was fully trained on its use.

One more point had to be clarified: "Because of the sheer distances involved, NextiraOne could not guarantee 24-hour support, which is normally standard service. The "Polarstern" research and supplies ship for Neumayer III travels to the station only once every six months, which makes fast reaction a bit difficult," smiles Gerold Prehn. However, NextiraOne would not be 'The Communications Experts' if the company could not come up with a solution for this particular little

challenge: “We put together a comprehensive set of every possible spare part as well as individual manuals and documentation developed specially for the Alfred Wegener Institute in order to make the system as easy as possible to understand and operate for the researchers at the station,” says Axel Hustedt, system specialist at NextiraOne.

NextiraOne Germany was able to build on its many years of experience with such “island solutions” for the Alfred Wegener Institute. In 2007 the company installed a network for the biological station at Helgoland and in 2008 the Wadden Sea base station on the Island of Sylt was equipped with a new Omni-PCX Enterprise system connected via IP to the Bremerhaven headquarters.

“This project shows what NextiraOne is capable of even under extreme conditions,” says Margarete Schramböck, Managing Director of NextiraOne Deutschland GmbH. The Alfred Wegener Institute and NextiraOne have a long-standing relationship going back over 20 years. We are looking forward to future work with the Institute – and more exciting projects!”

About the Alfred-Wegener-Institut

The Alfred-Wegener-Institut carries out research in the Arctic, Antarctic and in the world's oceans. It coordinates polar research in Germany and provides important support infrastructure for the international scientific community such as the ice-breaking ship “Polar Star” and its base stations in the Arctic and Antarctic. The Alfred-Wegener-Institute is one of the 15 research bodies which form part of the Helmholtz Community, the largest scientific organisation in Germany.

About NextiraOne

Headquartered in Paris, NextiraOne are Europe’s leading experts in communications services. The company designs, installs, maintains and supports all of its customers’ communications needs from voice to mobility, security and applications. NextiraOne provides seamless, end-to-end communications solutions working with the leading technology vendors in the industry to deliver maximum business benefit to customers. NextiraOne Deutschland GmbH employs around 900 staff and has its headquarters in Berlin-Tempelhof. For further information please visit: <http://www.nextiraone.de>

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