

University of Siena deploys one of the largest wireless networks in Italy with NextiraOne

Network built on Cisco technology helps improve learning opportunities for students

Rome – 19 May, 2008. The University of Siena has deployed one of the largest wireless networks in the country with the help of NextiraOne Italy, a Cisco Gold Certified Partner. The network, which covers 22 sites and involves 326 access points, is based on Cisco technology. The solution includes 15 Cisco NAC 3310 Appliance servers for security and access control, all managed centrally.

The University's 20,000 students, tutors and administrative staff will be able to use the network - known as "Unisi Wireless" - to access the web and other mobile services. Access to Unisi Wireless is also available in the university's Arezzo and Grosseto campuses, helping enable rapid access to the web and the University intranet from any device.

Unisi Wireless has dramatically increased communication – for example, students can find out about time or room changes of any lecture instantly. Other online services include exam registration, e-learning and sharing of class and staff information. The intranet is highly secure, meaning only designated individuals can access it. This high level of security also helps in the early identification and elimination of viruses and other threats.

Founded in the 13th century, the University of Siena (Università di Siena) in Tuscany is one of Italy's oldest seats of learning and is renowned for its Law and Medicine schools.

The investment, was funded by the University's Centre for Computer Science (Q.IT) and creates the widest-reaching WiFi network in Italy. The centre's president, Professor Giuliano Benelli, said that Unisi Wireless provided added impetus to the University of Siena.

“Universities need to provide their students with the best possible tools to help them reach their full academic potential,” Benelli said. “The Unisi Wireless project is the latest stage in the continued evolution of the University and a clear indication of our dedication to attract the best students and help them to succeed.”

Roberto Pesce, general manager of NextiraOne Italy, added: “NextiraOne has delivered and will manage one of the largest wireless networks in Italy, which just goes to underline our expertise in delivering challenging projects. The network will help the University of Siena deliver the best possible communications facilities to its students and staff, enabling it to work even more efficiently.”

Richard Roberts, director of business development for Cisco in Europe, added: “Today, students use online collaboration tools in all aspects of their social lives and they expect to be able to use the same tools as part of their education at university. In addition to providing internet access anywhere on campus, the wireless network at the University of Siena will allow it to deliver engaging online services that enhance communications across the university and help create a more interactive learning environment for students.”

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About NextiraOne

Headquartered in Paris, NextiraOne are Europe’s leading experts in communications services. We design, install, maintain and support all of our customers’ communications needs from voice to mobility, security and applications. We provide seamless, end-to-end communications solutions working with the leading technology vendors in the industry to deliver maximum business benefit to our customers.

Discover more at: <http://www.nextiraone-eu.com>

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