

NextiraOne UK revolutionises technology for Eurostar

High-tech network infrastructure makes for hassle-free and faster traveller ordering transactions

Lichfield – 16 April, 2008. Europe’s leading expert in communications services, NextiraOne, has provided a switch and firewall infrastructure for Eurostar, the high-speed passenger rail operator linking the UK and continental Europe. The project enhances ticketing and boarding systems for Eurostar’s travellers and complements Eurostar’s faster journeys on High Speed 1, the UK’s first 186 mph (300km/h) rail line.

Eurostar required a network infrastructure that both supported existing sites and integrated new sites including its new central London home, St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International (Eurostar’s new station in Kent), and its new UK maintenance depot in East London. With this in mind, NextiraOne UK helped to design a solution – based on a Cisco platform – and implemented routing switches at each site. The new system creates a common interface to the managed wide area network (WAN) environment employing dynamic routing protocols. This design, accompanied by the use of Cisco Works management tools, allows for greater network flexibility and reduced administration.

“The new system had to support the entire Eurostar service – from its public operations to its back office functions. The challenges imposed by such a large project meant it was imperative that we used a reliable and robust supplier able to react quickly to changing demands,” said Graham Woodhouse, IS Data Communications Manager, Eurostar. “We chose to work with NextiraOne UK on the basis of a long-standing and trusted partnership and, as a result of great teamwork, Eurostar’s data network is now even more efficient. We’re looking forward to continuing our relationship with NextiraOne after this very successful project.”

Steven Skakel, General Manager, NextiraOne UK, said: “The Eurostar project was particularly challenging because of the short timescale to complete the project and we had to turn plans into a reality fast. The design of the infrastructure, ordering of equipment and implementation of technical solutions was done in record time through outstanding teamwork between NextiraOne and Eurostar. We are delighted to have had a role in the advancement of the Eurostar service.”

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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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About Eurostar

1. Eurostar is the high-speed passenger train service linking St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International, Ashford International, Paris, Brussels, Lille, Calais, Disneyland Resort Paris, Avignon and the French Alps.

2. Eurostar and Eurotunnel are entirely separate companies. Eurostar operates high-speed passenger trains, while Eurotunnel operates a vehicle shuttle service and the Channel tunnel itself. Eurostar is Eurotunnel's biggest customer.

3. To book tickets for Eurostar, or to find out more information, go to www.eurostar.com, call 08705 186 186 or contact your travel agent.

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