Energie AG Austria chooses Nexans to network technical control systems

For over 10 years, Austrian company Energie AG Oberösterreich has relied on Nexans LANactive Industry Solutions for the networking of its technical control systems, in a wide range of areas. In cooperation with Nexans, Energie AG has significantly improved switchgear, telecontrol equipment, as well as the availability of office LAN. This long-standing partnership with Nexans began in 2006. Today, some 2,000 Nexans LANactive Industrial Ethernet Switches are in use throughout the Group, forming a high-availability, redundant network.

Nexans

Energie AG stands for the highest level of quality and reliability in its products, processes and services. The company provides services in the area of electricity, gas, heat, and water, as well as waste and ICT, and is mainly active in the central Upper Austria region. The waste disposal division offers services throughout Austria and South Tyrol, and the company's water supply and sanitation activities also focus on the Czech Republic. In its home market, Energie AG connects over 575,000 customers to its power and natural gas networks, measuring some 38,000 kilometres. [1]

What's more, Energy AG has also built up extensive know-how of the Austrian telecommunications sector, in which it has been active for 60 years. The Group provides telephony and telematics services, as well as smart metering for power grids. A key topic for the future is the operation and expansion of a secure high-speed fibre-optic data network. To date, more than 4,500 km of connection points have been laid across all communities in Upper Austria.[2] In more than 150 municipalities, expansion projects are underway to supply households with true fibre optic connections (Fibre to the Home / FTTH).

CHOOSING A MONITORING SOLUTION

The group was convinced by the extensive range of functions of Nexans' LANactive Industrial Ethernet solution. Features include switch configuration with an SD card and high-quality construction for use in extreme climatic conditions. Nexans LANactive Industrial Ethernet switches are extremely robust and operate flawlessly in a temperature range of -40 to + 85 degrees.

"The original planning for this network dates back to 2006," explains Markus Schiller, ICT system specialist at Energie AG. "At that time classic features such as a redundant data connection with ring structures, timely security features and temperature resistance were required. Several manufacturers could offer these functions, but we were looking for special features, such as an SD card slot. This was a very important point for us, in case computer laypeople failed to implement a hardware exchange on site. As is often the case, it was all about the smallest details and only Nexans could provide precisely the features we needed."

"In the build process, we had a direct line to Nexans' development department. As a result, the level of support has been very different to what we were used to with other

Challenge

- Ensuring a high-availability redundant connection

- Covering a large area in often harsh environments

Solution

- Nexans LANactive managed Industrial Ethernet Switches

- LANactive accessories including SFP transceivers and power supplies

- LANactive NEXMAN management software provides an integrated, centralized configuration and management platform for the switches

Advantages

- First-class support solutions, for the rapid realization of customized solutions and fast response to technical requirements

- Constant updating of components without costly maintenance contracts

- Long product life allows for a homogeneous infrastructure

- Configuration via SD card

- Constant development and new features on existing components

major manufacturers. Often, the realization of a requested new feature would be provided to us within just a few days, in the form of extended firmware. As a result, older components have grown along with current technology and continue to cover our needs perfectly."

Nexans' LANactive Industry solution, based on manageable Ethernet switches, industrial cabling, software and services, is designed to create reliable and highly available LAN infrastructures in harsh environments.

This solution is based on Nexans' experience in developing and producing manageable office workstation systems and systems, such as Fibre To The Office solutions, over the course of 30 years. Nexans has provided the foundation for numerous high-availability, reliable Ethernet networks in harsh environments for mission-critical applications ranging from power supply companies (smart grid / smart metering) to oil & gas and infrastructure applications, such as IP video surveillance and security. Other clients are universities, city network operators and insurance companies.

[1] https://www.energieag.at/Konzern/Ueber-Uns
[2] https://www.energieag.at/Konzern/Ueber-Uns/Gesellschaften/Energie-AG-Oberoesterreich-Telekom-GmbH

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