

CHESTERFORD RESEARCH PARK

The development of an innovative, highly scalable fibre-optic infrastructure on the research park that benefited all tenants, large and small, providing a range of broadband, IP telephony and other value-added services.

THE CLIENT

With over 60 years of continuous research history, Chesterford is one of the premier biotech and pharmaceutical research sites in the UK and an important component of the Cambridge Cluster. Based on a large, tranquil and beautifully landscaped site, Chesterford provides an ideal working environment for research-based organisations. Chesterford had originally allowed its tenants to source their own broadband and IT services. Because of its distance from the main telecommunications infrastructure, this resulted in higher costs, lower quality services for tenants than alternative locations fitting a similar profile. Most tenants were large organisations occupying complete buildings.

THE CHALLENGE

The new Science Village development, started in 2011, envisioned a different type of tenant, with a multi-tenanted shared infrastructure model targeting smaller companies in the BioTech field. It became clear that a different approach to broadband delivery would be necessary for the site to attract tenants. UltraFast Fibre-Optic broadband services at speeds over 100-megabits per second would attract these companies but the installation cost of nearly £5000 created a cost hurdle for new occupants.



“Modern Networks value their customers, not only by providing a professional and personable service but also by demonstrating how they can offer real commercial benefits to both ourselves and our tenants.”

KATHERINE MAGUIRE PARK
MANAGER, CHESTERFORD
RESEARCH PARK.



OUR APPROACH

Modern Networks (formerly Bridge Fibre) was called in to work with existing management and the Science Village joint developers to come up with an approach that would solve the issue of providing services to new, smaller organisations, whilst, at the same time, delivering improved quality, value and choice for the existing larger tenants. The answer was to install a new, highly scalable fibre-optic infrastructure on the park that would enable all tenants to be offered a range of broadband products, IP telephony and other services. These services included high speed, unmetered low-cost products for smaller companies which were simply not available in the open marketplace and were just one of the benefits of building a shared infrastructure.

THE RESULTS

As a result of the success of our approach, we have now upgraded the infrastructure with a second external feed creating a fully resilient network. This guarantee's reliability underlining the value of the approach, and at no cost to the tenants.

Park Manager, Katherine Maguire: "It has been a pleasure to work with Modern Networks to bring these additional connectivity options to our tenants. By continually assessing and enhancing the technology options available to tenants we hope that we provide the ultimate working environments - a pleasant and relaxing working atmosphere backed by the very latest technological solutions require by today's R&D companies."

ABOUT MODERN NETWORKS

Modern Networks provides IT, telephone and broadband services to the UK's commercial property sector and medium-sized enterprises. The company currently provides IT manages services to over 2,000 sites including 70 science parks and innovation centres.

Bridge Fibre was a leading supplier of connectivity and telephony to the UK's science parks. In August 2021, the company was acquired by Modern Networks and has since been successfully integrated into the business.