



SECURITY AND RELIABILITY GUARANTEED

When a high security RAF air base was looking to enhance their BEMS communications and ensure business continuity, they turned to Kendra for a secure, reliable wireless network solution.



CUSTOMER BACKGROUND

RAF Brize Norton is one of only five operational air bases in the UK. It is the largest station in the Royal Air Force with approximately 5,800 service personnel, 1,200 contractors, 300 civilian staff members and over 100 buildings on site, covering an area of over 4 square miles.

They needed to upgrade the BEMS (Building Energy Management Systems) system to replace disparate legacy systems and also connect buildings that had no previous BEMS control.

THE SITUATION

RAF Brize Norton's legacy BEMS network was becoming unreliable, with several disparate systems in place, so they required a new, future-proof solution. Being an operational airfield, the key issue was ensuring the reliability of a new network, taking into account the high security criteria on site.

The main challenge with the BEMS upgrade work was the sheer size of the site: it would have been difficult to hard wire a new BEMS network to the buildings where they were looking to install new BEMS controllers.

WORKING WITH KENDRA

Innovative wireless technology

The project was secured by Kendra under tender who provided huge amounts of technical detail before implementation was approved by the MoD. It was essential to make sure that the new equipment wouldn't interfere with critical operating systems.

Experts in wireless technology and an approved System Partner to many of the largest BEMS manufacturers, Kendra suggested a wireless solution, which had not been part of the original specifications. They designed a tried and tested wireless solution with standardised Trend systems, with no digging required. This option was more attractive and competitive than any other supplier and it also allows RAF Brize Norton greater flexibility for future add-ons. There is also a fibre backbone combined with the wireless solution with several super hubs, which provides ultrafast WiFi speeds across multiple devices.

Kendra Energy Solutions Ltd

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Seamless BEMS project upgrade

The site comprises of a large Trend and Cylon BEMS system and the upgrade works had to be carried out within a very short programme period, installing new controls in over 70 buildings. Kendra have maintained the system for over six years, with the same engineers carrying out the routine service visits, so they have strong BEMS knowledge of the site and offer service continuity.

“Kendra’s proposed BEMS solution was not only competitively priced, it was the most innovative solution we saw. We now have a low impact, reliable wireless solution without the need to dig up any roads. The integration is seamless: we have a customised solution with a third party wireless and software application, all brought together with the help and support of Kendra Energy Solutions.”

STEVE WANN
SITE POLICY & PLANNING OFFICER
TURNER FM

Kendra put forward a project team, consisting of a project manager, installation engineers and commissioning engineers to meet the tight deadlines. They worked closely with the Facilities Manager to ensure minimal disruption to the operational buildings during the upgrade. The project was completed on time and to budget in a matter of months.

RAF Brize Norton now have restored visibility and can see all of their critical data from a centralised, remote location, which saves a lot of physical leg work around the air base and also maximises resource. There is continuity and support, with no interference to the secure systems on site.

The Facilities Management team, CarillionAmey, who now manage and maintain the site, also have greater control and visibility of the heating and hot water services, thus providing significant energy savings.

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