

CUSTOMER STORY

MOVING INTO A MODERN WORKING WORLD

Computacenter lays the foundation for hybrid working in the new building at the EUREF Campus

SERVICES

- End User
- Networking
- Design & Build Services
- Integration & Migration Services

USER EXPERIENCE

- More agility and mobility
- Higher productivity
- Easier access to information
- More effective collaboration
- Increased performance
- Improved user satisfaction

BUSINESS IMPACT

- Cost reduction
- Improved security
- More business flexibility
- Sustainable solution
- Increased productivity
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Accelerated innovation

OBJECTIVE

An innovative multi-space environment

In April 2021, the energy service provider GASAG moved into a new company headquarters on the EUREF campus in Berlin. This location in Berlin-Schöneberg is a unique center in Europe for innovative future projects and has a climate-neutral energy supply. In order to provide its employees with an agile and digitalised working environment, the company also wanted to lay the technological foundation in the energy quarter. The future-oriented office concept was therefore to be equipped with innovative multi-space solutions that support the desktop sharing concept.

In the new company headquarters – the Energy Quarter – rooms were planned for different activities at different locations, which can be flexibly and agilely adapted to the forms of work and individual needs of the employees. Ultimately, the new company headquarters should provide for more interaction and promote the motivation, performance, and creativity of GASAG employees. Furthermore, it was necessary to establish a new network technology as a foundation for modern collaboration solutions.

SOLUTION

Meticulously planned, smoothly implemented

Internally, the relocation project started back in 2017. From the very beginning, the focus was on the modern space concept at the new company headquarters. In order to take into account the current requirements and needs of the workforce and to be prepared for the future, GASAG involved its employees from the very beginning.

Computacenter has been working with GASAG for many years and was commissioned to create a concept for the network and collaboration solutions.





With a flexible and agile environment in the meeting rooms and workplaces, Computacenter has created a highly dynamic working environment.

Steffen Löber,
IT Architecture and Operations
Officer at GASAG AG



About GASAG AG

GASAG AG is a Berlin energy company and one of the largest regional energy suppliers. With its subsidiaries, GASAG supplies around 800,000 household and commercial customers with natural gas, bio natural gas and green electricity. At the same time, the company is a network operator and producer of renewable energies as well as an energy service provider. GASAG's history began in 1847, when the first two municipal gas works in Berlin started producing town gas. In the 1990s, GASAG was completely privatised in several steps. From 1999 onwards, GASAG founded various subsidiaries and developed into the GASAG Group by acquiring stakes in other energy supply and service companies. Today, the group employs around 1,700 people.

In addition to the design concept, Computacenter also delivered, took over the set-up and support for the media equipment. In particular, the topic of hybrid meetings played an important role due to the pandemic. "It was important that our colleagues could take part in meetings both in the meeting room in the energy quarter and from home or any other location," explains Steffen Löber, IT architecture and operations officer at GASAG AG.

Hybrid working in the energy quarter

To enable hybrid working in the Energy Quarter – regardless of where someone is located in the building – GASAG relies on Office 365 and Microsoft Teams. The company has proceeded in three stages with the equipment. "Every employee in the multi-space office has a desk with a large monitor and a webcam. The laptop can be connected via a USB-C cable," Löber reports. "In addition, we have small meeting rooms and even a work café, which also has a conference camera, microphones and loudspeakers. Here, too, co-workers can connect to the technology. We also have large meeting rooms equipped with Microsoft Teams Room Systems that work completely independently of the client." The small and large meeting rooms can be easily booked via Outlook plug-in.

The innovative multi-space environment is based on the latest Cisco network technology. Since the focus was on creating optimal conditions for hybrid working, GASAG set up a test area in the old building with the same technological configuration as in the Energy Quarter. This enabled the company to experience the new way of working and to test the solution intensively. The result: faster implementation of the collaboration technology in the new building and completion on schedule.

Equipped for the future

In order to focus even more on encounters, agility and dialogue, an energy quarter was created that offers the 720 or so employees not just a normal desk, but a diverse working environment oriented towards activities. Similar to one's own home, the multi-space concept follows the idea that people visit different places in the office for different activities.

"We have a very flexible shared desk concept. For 60 per cent of the colleagues, a standard workstation is available in the building, the rest work in the think tanks, meeting and conference rooms or they are mobile workers. This is also planned for the future," explains Steffen Löber. "Our building is nevertheless designed in such a way that all of our employees can find a place if they are actually all gathered here on site – even if it is not necessarily a classic workplace. That is why we have equipped the building with WLAN everywhere – from the kitchenette to the roof terrace. There are also retreat and meeting rooms and think tanks."

The innovative multi-space concept is based on a future-proof network with a software-defined approach. The high-performance infrastructure makes it possible to optimise the flowing network traffic automatically and depending on the load. In order to be able to use the Cisco DNA solution to its full extent, 802.1x network port security was implemented at the new location on the basis of Cisco ISE. "The innovative technology could be transferred into operation without any problems," Löber tells us. "We are absolutely satisfied. Because the previous projects have gone so well, Computacenter will also operate our LAN and WLAN technology in the future."



In addition to the design concept, Computacenter also took care of the delivery, set-up and support for the media equipment – to our absolute satisfaction.

Steffen Löber,
IT Architecture and
Operations Officer at GASAG AG



OUTCOME

Space for every work requirement

A modern working environment is now available to employees on 12,000 square metres at the EUREF campus. As a future-oriented office concept, the multi-space solution flexibly adapts to agile forms of work and different needs. The new design promotes interaction and ensures motivated, efficient and creative employees.

“The multi-space concept offers a variety of workplaces with a modern ambience. In addition to an ergonomic workplace, employees can use think tanks or project and conference rooms. The digital equipment supports mobile working – wherever employees want to be productive,” adds Löber.

His colleagues can either work at a desk or book a conference room. Digital door signs indicate whether a room is already occupied. Each of the large meeting rooms is equipped with Microsoft Teams-certified video conferencing technology. Depending on the size of the room, different systems are installed to offer employees the best possible room acoustics. In addition, there is the option of using a Microsoft Surface Hub on each floor. This enables creative, agile and hybrid working.

Steffen Löber draws a positive conclusion: “Thanks to the solutions in the meeting rooms and at the workstations, we benefit from a highly dynamic working environment. Since all workplaces are equipped with the same docking station, monitor and camera, we ensure a high degree of flexibility. In this way, we create the framework conditions to react quickly during the pandemic – and afterwards – without having to make major adjustments. This high flexibility enables agile work and spontaneous meetings.”

Subsidiary NBB has also moved to the campus

The high level of satisfaction with Computacenter led to a follow-up order. The subsidiary NBB has also moved into a new building – the Netzquartier – on the EUREF campus. This was equipped with the same spatial concept as the Energy Quarter. “Since we were so satisfied with Computacenter’s work in the Energy Quarter, we made it a condition that the project in the NBB’s Net Quarter be implemented with the same project team,” adds Löber. This wish was taken into account and this project was also successfully completed. In the future, the other companies of the GASAG Group will also be equipped with the state-of-the-art working environment.

More informationen

To find out more about our enterprise services and read more customer case studies, log on to www.computacenter.com
