



Sika reduces complexity and risk while boosting the quality of its network integration

THE CHALLENGE

- Reduce complexity and risk
- Boost quality of network integration
- Increase efficient communication between Sika Group companies

THE SOLUTION

- Open Systems as single point of contact for operations, security and management of global WAN
- Defined performance levels for the bandwidth and availability of the networks
- New technologies and application solutions across the Sika Group

THE RESULTS

- Group companies are in a position to work together even more efficiently
- Flexible response to market opportunities

The company

Sika, the globally active supplier to the construction and manufacturing industry, is one of the showcase companies in the Swiss business world. Customers all over the world have relied on Sika's quality products for 100 years. This global success story was made possible by a visionary founder family, great entrepreneurial courage, a spirit of innovation, customer focus and an excellent feel for global markets.

THE CHALLENGE

Sika is a global group of companies that are firmly anchored in their local markets and take a very entrepreneurial business approach. A strategic upgrade of the WAN (wide area network) was a major factor in assuring the future success of the Sika Group, linking 10,000 employees at more than 300 locations in over 70 countries.

Sika aimed to reduce complexity and risk while simultaneously boosting the quality of global network integration. Having relied on Open Systems services since 2003, the Group requested a single point of contact for the operations, security and management of its global WAN, as well as defined performance levels for the bandwidth and availability of the networks to be guaranteed to all Sika Group companies.

CUSTOMER STORY

THE SOLUTION


Open Systems acts as the hub for all activities on the WAN. For the running of the network infrastructure in this project, Open Systems works in close cooperation with the Japanese telecommunications company NTT Communications. NTT Communications operates an excellent global network infrastructure, especially in Sika's key growth markets IMEA (India, Middle East and Africa) and Asia/Pacific. Network security is assured by Open Systems services, and the monitoring of security and availability is performed by Open Systems Mission Control.

With the upgraded WAN, the Sika Group companies are in a position to work together even more efficiently depending on the demands of the situation, or in the context of specific projects, and to respond flexibly to market opportunities. In the area of logistics, for instance, many Group companies use regional synergies, which give them an advantage over other market players. The upgraded WAN also made it possible to provide all Group companies with new technologies and application solutions such as unified communications.

THE RESULTS

"The new WAN is the technological foundation of our future growth. We have set ourselves the goal of radically increasing our sales in the next few years. That we will achieve through internal and external growth," said Kurt Scherer, CIO of Sika Group.

The scalability of the Open Systems services played a decisive role: on the one hand, both the security services and the WAN management were set to grow in step with Sika's needs. On the other hand, thanks to the support of Open Systems Mission Control, the Group was in a position to act very quickly and incorporate new units in its network.



“ Open Systems has the necessary technological expertise, the necessary quality of service as well as a sound understanding of our global business. And being independent they are in the position to act as a single point of contact to monitor and manage our providers globally on our behalf.”

Kurt Scherer,
Chief Information Officer (2005–2012),
Sika Group



Open Systems is a secure access service edge (SASE) pioneer that enables organizations to connect to themselves, to the cloud, and to the rest of the world. With cloud-native architecture, secure intelligent edge, hybrid cloud support, 24x7 operations by level-3 engineers, and predictive analytics, the Open Systems SASE delivers a complete solution to network and security.