Aruba Instant On enables digitalization at Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH

Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH relies on Aruba Instant On to provide a high-performance network for production and administration without requiring a large in-house IT team. Since switching to Aruba Instant On, digitalization is now at the top of the agenda.

Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH is a leading manufacturer and specialist for small goods and freight elevators, with headquarters and manufacturing operations in Paderborn, North Rhine-Westphalia. Founded in 1948 as a mechanical engineering trade, the company has constantly expanded its product range and has been supplying private homes, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, ships, etc. worldwide with customised solutions for the past 70 years. At the Paderborn site, production takes place at a total of three plants, while sales and the coordination with international partners take place in a dedicated office building.

Before switching to Aruba Instant On, Bunse Aufzüge GmbH used a diversity of switches from various manufacturers that could not be managed centrally. In addition to time-consuming maintenance, performance issues were increasingly becoming an obstacle to the digitalization of processes and procedures in the company. The administration complained about slow network speed, and ambitious plans for production were hindered by dead spots. Nonetheless, network management had to be implemented without in-depth specialist knowledge or a dedi-cated IT team. In the light of these requirements, Aruba silver partner NEAM IT-Services GmbH and Mr. Kunze of Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH proposed the following network configuration: 16 Wi-Fi-6 AP22, 5 AP17 for outdoor areas and 3 AION 1960 switches with PoE ports. This setup provides Wi-Fi coverage for the office space, production areas, warehouses and lounge areas, as well as linking two data centres to fibre optic connec-tions. The simplicity of commissioning and management meant that Mr. Kunze was in a position to implement the project in-house. As the contact person for all technical issues in the

"If I get a call because the Internet is down, I can quickly check on my cell phone to see whether it's actually a network issue. I was sceptical at first, but now I clearly see the advantages: the app allows me to monitor the network even when I'm not there."

René Kunze,
IT Director, BKG Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH

company, he is delighted with the network status indicators he can get just by glancing at his smartphone. This is quite practical since any issues with the network would result in his cell phone ringing in short order in any case.

DIGITALIZATION IN PRODUCTION

Digitalization is on everyone's lips when it comes to production environments. In the three production halls which include warehouse and production machinery, the course for the future is gradually being set and processes are being optimized. Forklift drivers navigate the warehouse using their tablet when picking or refilling the prefabricated sheets from the designated high racks. The production staff can also use their tablet to search for materials and request them from other production areas. In the long term, the company plans to equip all of its almost 65 employees in production and in the warehouse with tablets so that inventory and production planning can be entirely digitalised. In addition, the ERP system is to be integrated more deeply into production, and automated further. Due to the physical conditions in the high hall, implementing a stable network without dead spots was a top priority. Before switching to Aruba Instant On, network connectivity was not warranted for every nook and cranny of the production hall. Thanks to Wi-Fi 6, this is now a thing of the past. In the long term, the Aruba Instant On AP17 will enable adding the capability of scanning deliveries directly in the outdoor section so the flow of incoming and out going goods can be digitally recorded.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT ON THE SMARTPHONE

In addition to the factories, the dedicated office building on the company grounds is the workplace of around 35 staff in administration, sales and marketing, as well as the team in charge of order processing and inquiries. Before the changeover, network access was wired and the Wi-Fi was only available in the conference rooms, which naturally limited options when working in teams. The new network enabled our staff to work flexibly with their laptops. Providing guest access is now also possible with a captive portal for guests, such as partners, customers, etc., to enable them to use of their own IT equipment. The company Bunse-Aufzüge GmbH also relies on common digital collaboration platforms and IP telephones that are integrated into the network (VoIP) for international collaboration. The legal requirements have finally been accounted for. That includes a dedicated network established for accounting. Thanks to the simplicity of managing the network, Mr. Kunze has his hands free for further projects. If any future planning requires major changes to the network, he knows he can count with the support provided by NEAM IT-Services GmbH, which has access to the network in case of emergency.