

Reference project

VDM Metals

“Because our company is a global specialist, fast, uncomplicated access to data and information is a key requirement for achieving efficient processes and long-term financial success.”

Mathias Voss, SVP IT, VDM Metals Group

VDM METALS: NETWORKED GLOBALLY VIA A WAN

THE GLOBAL MARKET LEADER FOR NICKEL ALLOYS PLANS TO FORGE AHEAD WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION WITH A NEW, AGILE CORPORATE NETWORK (IP VPN). HE CAN NOW CONCENTRATE FULLY ON HIS CORE BUSINESS – T-SYSTEMS IS TAKING CARE OF THE REST.

THE CUSTOMER

His products can be found in cars, power stations, and chemical plants. They are extremely resistant to heat and acid, and do not rust. They are available as rods, sheets, strips, or wires. VDM Metals Group offers more than 100 different metallic materials to its industrial customers around the world. The medium-sized company from Werdohl in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, is even the world market leader when it comes to nickel alloys. It is a typical “made in Germany” hidden champion. Specialized, innovative, but known only to industry insiders. The former ThyssenKrupp subsidiary has been a successful market player for almost 90 years. Its production facilities are located in Germany and the U.S. It has customers in Western Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia. With a staff of almost 2,000, the materials specialist generated revenue of EUR 889 million in the last fiscal year. VDM Metals Group saw 37,300 tons of finished goods leave its production halls in the 2016/17 business year alone. And its international expansion is set to continue – with a little help from T-Systems.

THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

VDM Metals has networked its global corporate locations using a T-Systems IP VPN-based on MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching). The features of the WAN:

- Fully managed service with end-to-end responsibility
- Global availability of centralized applications
- Data transfer in line with clearly defined service classes
- High stability and security thanks to MPLS production platform
- Scalable bandwidths

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THE REFERENCE IN DETAIL

THE CHALLENGE

Digitization and internationalization had long been on the agenda at VDM Metals Group. But this meant that demands on the corporate network were increasing continuously as well. An ever greater number of applications, most of them business-critical, had to be made available to production and sales locations worldwide. The result? More traffic, a higher load, more bottlenecks. The direct data connections used until that point had reached their limits, so VDM Metals began searching for an experienced partner that could set up and operate a multinational, high-performance, future-proof WAN (Wide Area Network) – from end to end. The semi-finished product manufacturer wanted to be able to focus entirely on its core business in the future.

THE SOLUTION

Within just 12 months, T-Systems built VDM Metals Group an IP VPN-based on MPLS technology. Fourteen locations around the world, from the U.S. and Canada, to Germany and Europe, all the way through to China, were connected to the new corporate network. To achieve the maximum data transfer rate, some firewalls and switches had to be updated first. This was accomplished with great success: Data traffic via the WAN is stable and the bandwidths have doubled to up to 20 Mbit/s. T-Systems put its global presence and experience from around 3,600 comparable VPN projects to good use. The ICT provider has already implemented more than 100,000 connections via its MPLS backbone.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

VDM Metals Group now has a stable, high-performance corporate network. Business-critical applications are available globally at any time, both in production and sales. In addition, the nickel specialist now benefits from more transparency on the use of its network capacity, as well as having a provider that operates the WAN end to end, including proactive fault detection and elimination, for example, in the event of router failures.

Other advantages:

- Higher, scalable bandwidths
- Contractually secured Service Level Agreements (Bronze, Silver & Gold)
- Prioritization of key applications
- Secure data exchange thanks to IP tunneling
- Comprehensive network monitoring
- Option for further WAN optimization through application performance management

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