

*Claranet's IT services help our customers do amazing things. Claranet simplify the management of IT services so customers can concentrate on what they do best. Claranet customers gain access to a wide range of integrated hosting, networks and communications managed services, as well as support and expertise 24x7.*



## Introduction

Founded in 1996, Claranet has evolved from a pioneering ISP (Internet Service Provider) into one of the leading independent MSPs (Managed Services Provider) in Europe. The company has annual revenues of circa £150 million (€210 million), 5,000 customers, 850 employees, and an international footprint in six countries.

While Claranet has grown internationally, the focus has always been on local service, out of local offices, using local data centres. The company's ambitious growth strategy has led to numerous acquisitions since 2014: Echiron (Portugal), Grita (France), NovaData (The Netherlands), Celingest (Spain), Techgate (UK) and LinuxIT (UK).

Claranet is recognised as a Sunday Times International Track 200 company 2015. It was recently recognised as a 'Leader' in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Cloud-Enabled Managed Hosting, Europe (2015) for the third consecutive year. Claranet customers include Airbus, Channel 5, Harvey Nichols, Peugeot, River Island and Unicef.

In the UK, Claranet partners with UK structured cabling and racks manufacturer Connectix Cabling Systems. Connectix Cabling Systems (CCS) is a leading UK manufacturer of Structured Cabling Systems and Racks for low latency, high speed data centre infrastructures and LANs.

## Claranet and Connectix

In early 2007 Star Internet (acquired by Claranet in 2012) were building a 3rd multimillion pound data centre entitled 'Building the Cloud' to deliver next generation network and hosting Infrastructure services. Star had engaged with racks and cabling manufacturers to assess equipment solutions required to support and empower Star's data centre services but it was clear that the main suppliers offered their products as a one-size fits all basis and that left some major design problems.

Dan Cooper, Head of Data Centres started discussions with Connectix about the facility environment, footprint and design. It was clear that Star would need flexibility in rack design coupled with a cabling infrastructure with impressive headroom to support the network traffic and bandwidth expectations.

Throughout the project design, Star's Data Centre Management and engineers were able to modify rack designs to produce a 'Star-Specification' rack that matched exactly the requirements of the facility and installation. This flexibility provided the right security features, cable management and installation requirements and environmental performance for airflow and management. This included onsite meetings at the manufacturing plant with the Connectix design engineers and Star data centre team with fast turnarounds on product designs, tech drawings and prototype modelling.

Connectix was able to meet the rack and cable pathway designs and provide 25-year system warranty on the installed copper and optical fibre links within the DC - meaning Star could deliver the entire cabling infrastructure exactly to the requirements for Building the Cloud.

### Local Data Centres

In 2012 Claranet started phase 1 of their hosting centre for cloud services in Hoddesdon. Working on Connectix recommendation, Claranet appointed CCS Certified Installer Phoenix Optics as their Data Centre Installation partner. Claranet has multiple data centre locations, providing Cloud Services from Harbour Exchange, Global Switch and Sovereign House where Phoenix Optics are responsible for the installation and commission of all cabling infrastructure works.

Hoddesdon Data Centre:

2012 Phase 1:

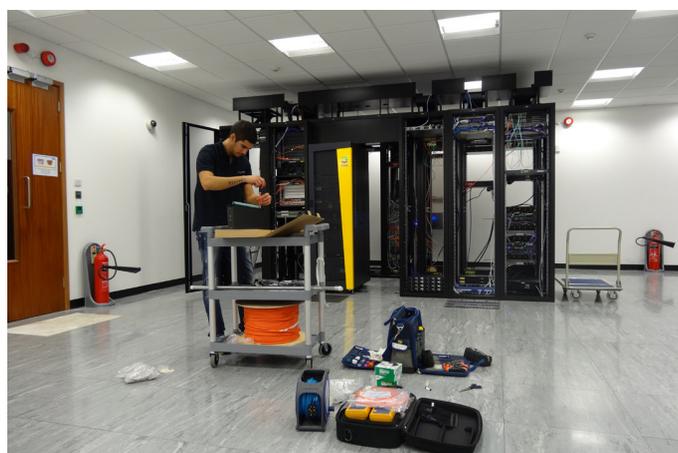
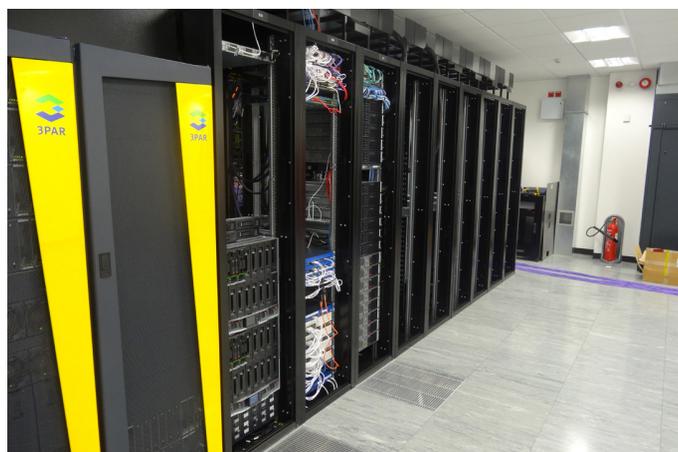
Claranet's hosting centre for cloud services within Hoddesdon includes state of the art connectivity and storage equipment. Phoenix Optics has project managed the installation of 12 x 42U 600w x 800d CCS-Claranet-Spec Racks and 2 CCS-Claranet Spec Patching Frames.

The project consisted of building and placing racks, bay and earth racks and pre-cable all fibre and copper links ready for Claranet IT Engineers to install and commission active switching and routing hardware;

- Storage Racks
- Patching Frames
- 1056 LC fibre connections, utilising 96 1U fibre panels (quad LC multimode OM3)
- Remote racks interlinking to the patch frames using 24 core links, consolidated to patching frames to save space
- 192 copper Cat 6 UTP LSZH Links (mainly deployed as harnessed switch looms for Cisco 6500 blade servers)
- Top of rack cable trough pathway system

2013 Phase 2:

- Additional 6 x 42U 600w x 800d per row (12 cabinets)
- Deployed 24 fibre connections and 12 copper links for additional cabling per cabs
- Extending to hosted cloud services



2015 Phase 3:

- Further storage racks to house state of the art 3PAR SSD storage platform
- Row C and D consisting of 2 new patching frames, 12 x 42U 600w x 1000d Claranet-Spec Racks
- Claranet needed to segregate 2 networks to ensure dual-path operation and working with Connectix the equipment rack fibre optic patch panels have been powder paint sprayed orange and blue to signify SAN and data networks
- 2368 fibre terminations – duplex LC, quads at the main ends
- 20 x Cat 5e UTP, Cat 5e Elite HD patch panels x 42
- Cable Management Dump Panels 1U and 2U for a neat finish
- Engineers and project management – 8 data centre engineers onsite for 1 week, Phoenix Optics prepared the fibre links at their factory prior to project deployment to reduce the onsite time and cost to Claranet
- The cable looms were all protected within braided sleeving
- Fluke DTX-1800 tested and manufacturers 25 year warranty

As part of an ongoing contract for Abbeywood, Phoenix Optics install and commission copper and optical fibre connectivity as and when Claranet customers move into the DC.

The site includes:

- 1968 LC OM3 multimode fibre connections
- 2 new Patch Frames (7 and 8) in the comms room, – new network in Abbeywood involving decommissioning of switching hardware and new installation for services into CLOUD
- Total 118 racks, interconnected with Connectix Cat 6A 48 Port Cat 6A connection links and Connectix Cat 6 UTP copper cabling links
- Provides managed cloud services and colocation

Claranet is at the forefront of latest services for integrated hosting, managed services and support.

By partnering with Connectix Cabling Systems for the design and supply of cabling infrastructure solutions, Claranet's Data Centre Management team to have a proactive input in the design of racks used within colocation facilities for their impressive set of clients.

Dan Cooper, Head of Data Centres, Claranet explains:

*“I have worked closely with Connectix Cabling Systems from design stage to ensure that racks and cabling infrastructure could be tailored to Claranet's needs to improve project deployment, cable management and our data centre environment efficiencies. The data centre rack cable trough system gives us easy access and maximum use of our data centre space and is quickly supplied and installed, minimising our engineering down time. Claranet needs forward thinking technology vendors and Connectix and Phoenix Optics provide a great working relationship to meet our IT project strategies”.*

For more information visit:

<http://www.claranet.co.uk/>

<http://www.phoenixoptics.com/default.aspx>

<http://www.connectixcabling.com/>

