

Delivering an effective WLAN solution to remedy WiFi performance issues for renewable energy company

lightsource bp

Client Profile

Lightsource BP was founded in 2010 and has achieved an unrivalled track record in the installation of both ground mount and rooftop solar projects.

Currently the leading solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generator in the UK and Europe, and one of the top ten largest solar PV energy generators globally, Lightsource has deployed more than £2.2 billion of solar assets and manages an operational portfolio of more than 1.7 Gigawatts (GW) – enough to power more than 500,000 households each year.

Headquartered in London, Lightsource has more than 300 staff based at offices across the UK, Ireland, America and India.

Client Testimonial

“ We were struggling with persistent WiFi darkspots... an issue that many people have, but few can actually fix.

Engaging with Autodata was the right thing to do. Their knowledge and experience around wireless is second to none and they successfully resolved all of our WiFi issues. They were professional and informative, from the initial scope to the delivery and handover of their solution.

I would highly recommend Autodata if you have WiFi issues or require a best-in-class WLAN deployment. ”

STUART MCBRIDE
I.T. SUPPORT MANAGER
LIGHTSOURCE BP

Business Need

Lightsource's Head Offices are based on the seventh floor of a large building in Holborn which also houses Sainsbury's UK headquarters. Being a highly congested WiFi space, a simple wireless search can detect over 100 radio antennae. Lightsource were experiencing several issues including inadequate speed, inadequate coverage and network dropouts. There were even some blackspots on the floor where there was no coverage at all.

Lightsource had previously commissioned three separate WiFi surveys via other providers, however these all failed to satisfactorily remedy the problem. The challenge facing the I.T. team was how they could provide adequate WiFi availability to all staff and guests whilst operating a wireless network that adapted to demand without extra cost or administrative burden. Additionally there was a specific requirement that the aesthetics of the work environment should not be affected.

Solution

Lightsource's WiFi setup consisted of HPE radio access points managed via a physical ProCurve access controller. After a thorough consultation with Autodata's technical team, we carried out a full Wireless Health Check in order to identify and remediate the inherent WiFi issues that Lightsource were experiencing.

Our on-site survey discovered an area of high interference originating from a demo system that Lightsource had no idea was contributing so significantly to their problems. After analysing the survey reports and discussing the findings with Lightsource, we proposed Meraki's 100% cloud-managed wireless solution which provides centralised management and delivers deep network insight to enable smarter network management. Autodata installed and deployed Meraki MR42 Access Points over one weekend, and established service baselines and criteria for flexible adaptability based on demand.

Autodata's well-defined methodology not only identifies the appropriate solution, but also determines which contributing factors need to be addressed. We provide a full end-to-end service, undertaking a detailed Wireless Site Survey using the leading tool for WiFi planning and maintenance, including spectrum analysis, coverage heatmapping and 3D predictive network planning. This allows for full access-point simulation testing prior to deployment. We provide a full handover and on-site training so all our clients can be self-sufficient. All consultancy is provided by our in-house technical team who are experts in planning and deploying effective WLAN solutions.

Result

Complete end-user and guest satisfaction. All areas of the business now have full WiFi coverage that works at all times and Lightsource reports improved productivity due to increased connectivity. The aesthetic regulations were satisfied by concealing additional access points within the suspended ceiling.

By engaging with Autodata, Lightsource benefits from a reliable and scalable cloud-managed network that delivers simplified administration, automatic updates and richer visibility without the cost and complexity of on-site controllers. This helps free up the I.T. team's time to focus on increasing the business' bottom line through ongoing technology innovation.

Autodata's solution also helps Lightsource to deliver against their MDM commitments, as Meraki offers the only unified multi-platform solution that monitors and controls applications, users and devices in real-time via a centralised dashboard.