Naval Air Systems Command Selects FutureFLEX to Link 39 Organizations In One Expandable Network

One of the first military organizations to adopt the FutureFLEX Air-Blown Fiber Optic Cabling System is the Naval Air Systems Command in Arlington, Virginia. This U.S. Navy application helped to consolidate 39 separate organizations using 19 different electronic mail systems and four network operating systems into a single, state-of-the-art, expandable network.

The Naval Air Systems Command's networks extend across 40 floors in six buildings in Arlingtonâs Crystal City area. According to technology experts, trying to patch the disparate networks together was not a viable solution. Instead, plans were made for a new network based on optical fiber routed to the floor and Category 5 copper wire to the workstations. Traditional fiber was planned until the Command heard about FutureFLEX and discovered how this unique technology aligned with the Navyâs belief in building for the future.

According to Navy officials, FutureFLEX labor and installation costs for the Crystal City project were 60 to 70 percent lower than estimates for a conventional pulled-fiber system. Subsequently, some 27,000 feet of optical fiber were blown through 7,000 feet of tube bundles, with no breakage during installation. With FutureFLEX, the Commandâs standard operating procedure of incorporating a 15 percent performance margin to accommodate fiber performance degradation resulting from stresses and breakage during installation, proved totally unnecessary.

The savings continue to mount because the Naval Systems Air Command installation is never really complete. With FutureFLEX, continuing moves, add-ons and changes, re-routings and expansions are routinely managed by in-house Navy personnel.