

## CASE STUDY

# ANIMA SGR, MILAN: A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

In order to be in a position to utilise future technologies to their maximum, the Italian asset management company Anima SGR has installed a Datwyler high-speed cabling system in its new data centre.



Anima SGR S.p.A. is a company of Anima Holding S.p.A. and has been a successful player within the Italian asset-management industry for many years. With approximately a million customers and managing asset volumes of in excess of €70 billion, the company is one of the leading independent corporations in this industry.

In order to meet the need for greater rates of data transmission, the company began planning the construction of a new data centre at its headquarters in Milan back in 2015. The passive category 6 infrastructure that was in use in the old data centre was simply no longer sufficient. At the beginning of 2016, the existing data centre was moved from the adjacent building into the first floor at Anima SGR headquarters. This was then the point-in-time to install the new cabling.

### Future-viability

“Due to the fact that our business activities demanded constantly increasing performance capacities, in the old data centre we had already started to experiment with 10 gigabit

per second between the virtual machine and the network equipment”, explained Andrea Perotti, Head of Architectures at Anima SGR. “As we began with the planning for the new infrastructure, we immediately thought about choosing cabling that would allow us to transmit at up to 10-gigabit, which would also allow us to implement an even higher transmission speed in the future. And this is why we decided on Category 7A cabling solution.”

The company Esiet S.p.A., which has been technology partner for Anima SGR since 2010, installed this cabling. Esiet plans and implements integrated solutions entailing technology, infrastructure and services that also go as far as to include complete, “turn-key” solutions.

### Forward-looking approach

“The growth of the data volumes and the speed at Anima SGR were exponential”, reported Marco Meletti, Project Manager at Esiet. “Making a strategic investment was decisive. A new data centre demands a forward-looking approach and





inevitably results in technologies being chosen that offer the highest possible guarantees with respect to future performance capacities and scalability. This was the reason behind selecting the Category 7<sub>A</sub> cabling solution from Datwyler, which offered equally solid performances at 90 metres as at distances of just a few metres.”

The migration from the old to the new data centre took place on a step-by-step basis and with the appropriate degree of redundancy. “While Anima SGR conducts the migration of a part of the data centre, we are already preparing the cables for the next step”, explained Project Head Meletti further. “We started by first completing a section and transporting the active components into the new location; we

then created the provisional links between the new and old infrastructure, until such time as the old one was completely abandoned.”

### Redundant construction

The new data centre currently consists of 23 IT racks and offers space for further structural extensions in the future. The Datwyler products interconnect the cabinets and – with routes of ten to twelve metres – form the cable backbone to the technical-equipment rooms on the various floors.

Starting from the data centre, a bundle consisting of 24 copper cables and as many fibre-optic cables go to a total of nine floor distributors. The two transmission media are allocated to different services: copper conductors, among others, to ISDN connections and access points, while printers and fibre-optic cables are allocated to “central” devices.

In addition, each rack in the data centre is also connected with both central buildings with bundles, with each of which consisting of 24 copper cables. Thanks to the redundant connection of the floor distributors, the full operation-capacity of the system is guaranteed even if problems exist in one of the central distributors.

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