



## Dorset College uses Lasers to Connect Three Buildings

Kedington creates Seamless Voice and Data Network for Busy College

Dorset College has solved a difficult communications issue using the latest laser technology; lasers connect all three college buildings providing integrated robust data and voice services. Kedington designed, specified and implemented the innovative high speed laser solution.

Founded in 1983, Dorset College started with only two classrooms but quickly expanded its student base, locations and courses. The College now operates from three buildings: the HQ on Dorset Street; a building on Belvedere Place and a third premises on Mountjoy Square to facilitate their increasingly diverse student base and demanding workplace.

With the spread of facilities over three sites came a huge technology challenge for the College administrators and IT systems.

Hugh Hughes, managing director of Dorset College explains the challenges they faced, "The College required a cost effective and reliable method of connecting the three building to support data and voice services between the faculties. Initial attempts to establish links with unlicensed band radio systems proved unreliable because of interference from other users and Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISP) operating in the area."

Hughes asked Kedington to propose an alternative solution. Having surveyed the three sites involved Kedington proposed a Free Space Optics (FSO) solution to provide 100Mbit connectivity between the three buildings.

Matt Porter, managing director of Kedington explains why the FSO solution was ideal for the Dorset College project, "The FSO system uses a laser beam transmitted through the air to establish a very reliable connection. We first designed and installed a FSO network in Ireland three years ago and we were very impressed with the results. Since then, we have used this technology and found it to be a cost effective method of providing high speed connectivity between sites.

"Apart from the higher speed, FSO systems have an advantage over radios systems insofar as they are immune to interference and do not require licensing from the Telecommunications Regulator."

Porter continues, "FSO systems are extremely robust and provide the highest level of security - any attempt to intercept the signal will result in an immediate loss of service."

The technology deployed for Dorset College was installed over a three day period and can support 100 Mbit links of up to 1 km. However, other Kedington FSO systems can support transmission speeds up to 1 Gigabit and distances of up to 4 km.

Mr. Hughes concludes, "Kedington did a very thorough survey initially and were very understanding of our needs. The system has been installed for nearly a year now and we have found that it is a very good solution for our three site College. "It has helped greatly with work efficiency as we had a huge amount of downtime from our previous solutions using DSL and WISP technologies which was very frustrating. With the FSO system we can now share information and work between sites as if we were all working under the same roof."

## **About Kedington**

Kedington was founded in 1989 and was purchased by Denis O'Brien's Esat in 1999. In March 2003 an MBO, lead by Matt Porter and Colm Lyons was concluded taking the company back into private ownership. Matt and Colm managed to secure the entire Republic of Ireland operation, with offices in Dublin, Cork and Limerick, and kept the original management team together. Its customers have enjoyed a seamless change-over and continue to benefit from a huge wealth of expertise that still resides within the group.

**For more information, please visit [www.kedington.ie](http://www.kedington.ie)**

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