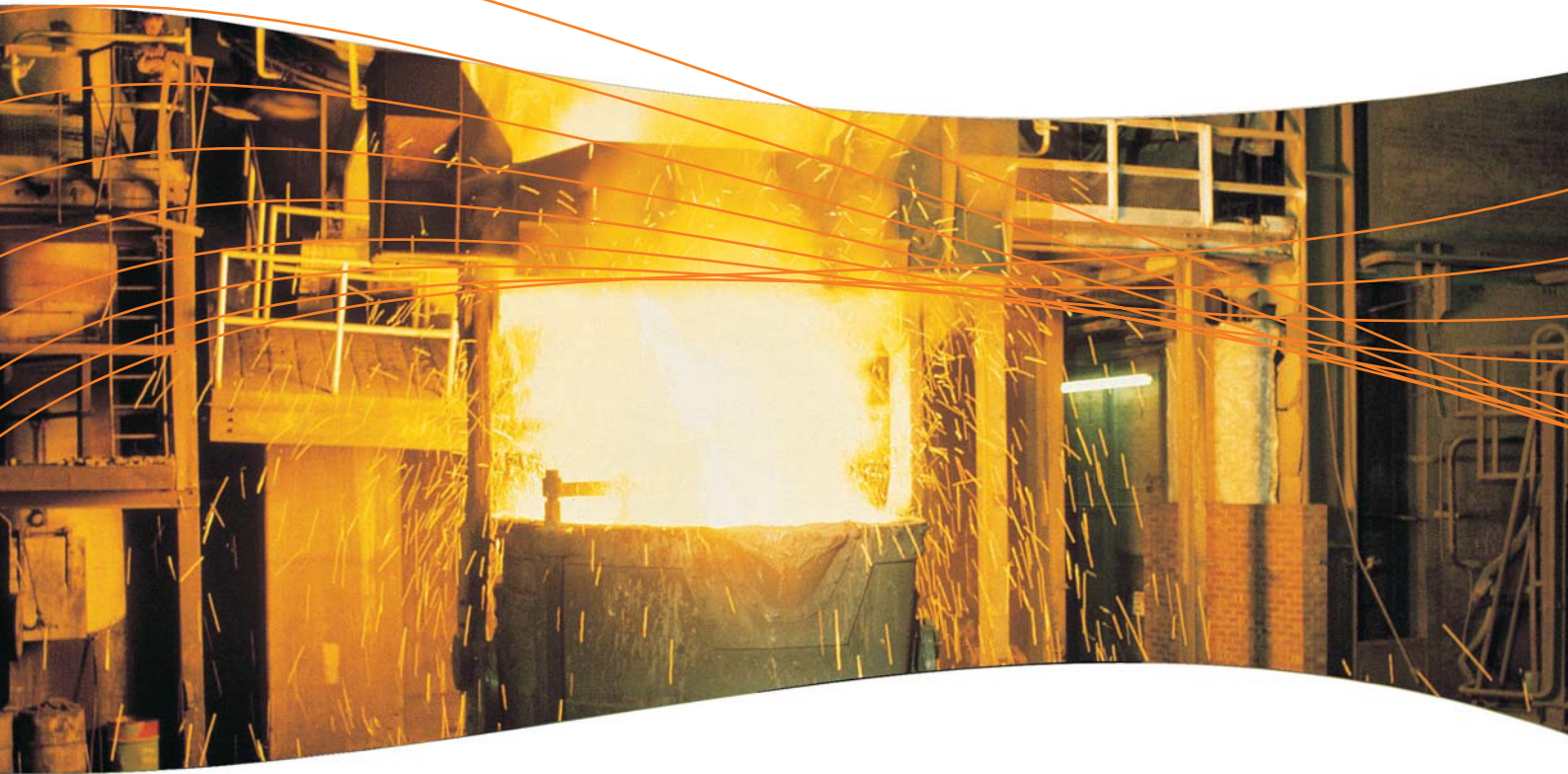


MITTAL



ProCurve Networking

Mittal Steel South Africa – Saldanha strikes gold with ProCurve technology



“We now have a future-proofed Local Area Network that will continue to meet our needs for years to come. With all the bandwidth at our disposal, innovations such as wireless access and VoIP can be implemented easily and cost-effectively. All in all, ProCurve Networking is an excellent solution.”

**Deon Pieters,
Network administrator,
Mittal Steel South Africa - Saldanha**



Mittal Steel South Africa Limited is the African continent's largest steel producer. Its four facilities include the technologically advanced Saldanha plant, which produces high-quality ultra-thin hot rolled coil (UTHRC). The continuous production chain at Saldanha is exceptionally short, taking only 16 hours from the time iron ore enters the Corex unit to the rolled product.

To underpin this highly efficient production process and support an ongoing drive to implement new cost efficiencies, Mittal Steel South Africa - Saldanha decided to replace its Local Area Network.

"To support our operations we needed as much bandwidth as we could get, but an upgrade of our existing network would be too costly and difficult," explained Deon Pieters, network administrator.

Mittal Steel South Africa - Saldanha was looking for a combination of low cost and a super-fast backbone. Good support was also important, as was the ability to upgrade the network as required in the future. The chosen solution was proposed by Datacentrix and based on ProCurve Networking's Adaptive EDGE Architecture™.

"ProCurve offered an extremely low total cost of ownership. In addition, the technology was highly regarded by other companies we spoke to, and the lifetime warranty was seen as particularly advantageous," said Pieters.

Future-proofed network

Datacentrix assumed responsibility for designing and installing the new network, maintaining an onsite presence throughout the implementation period. Four ProCurve 3400cl-48G Switches, interlinked with 10 gigabit Ethernet modules, were installed in the backbone, with five ProCurve 5308xl-48G Switches in the distribution layer. Redundant links and redundant power supplies were incorporated within the architecture. The network supports some 800 users.

Customer at a Glance

Industry sector:
Manufacturing
Name: Mittal Steel South Africa Ltd
Business Unit: Saldanha, Western Cape, South Africa
Headquarters: Vanderbijlpark, South Africa
Founded: 1928
Telephone: +27 16 889 9111
Annual Revenue (Mittal Steel South Africa): R24.03 billion (€3 billion approx.)
Annual Revenue (Saldanha): R3.7 billion (€0.5 billion approx.)
URL: www.mittalsteelsa.com

Partner:

Company: Datacentrix
Headquarters: Pretoria, South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 348 7555
Number of employees: 577
URL: www.datacentrix.co.za
Business: Technology reseller and IT solutions provider
Products: Infrastructure, solutions and services

Challenge

- To underpin a highly efficient production process, Mittal Steel South Africa - Saldanha needed to expand Local Area Network (LAN) bandwidth considerably.
- The existing LAN infrastructure could not be cost-effectively upgraded.
- The company therefore decided to implement a completely new network.

Solution

- Datacentrix proposed a solution based on ProCurve Networking by HP.
- Four ProCurve 3400cl-48G Switches were installed in the backbone, with five ProCurve 5308xl-48G Switches in the distribution layer.
- Redundant links and redundant power supplies were incorporated within the architecture.
- Datacentrix was responsible for designing and installing the network.

Results

- Local Area Network performance and availability have both improved dramatically.
- Back-up times have been cut significantly.
- Staff productivity has improved, as has customer service.
- Mission-critical applications are better protected against disaster.
- New technologies can be implemented quickly and cost-effectively.

According to Pieters, the most obvious benefit of the new network is the improvement in speed and performance. This is a result not only of increased bandwidth but also of improved availability, with downtime having been drastically reduced. System back-up times have been cut significantly. End-users have reacted very positively to the change, with the finance and HR departments reporting that they can access applications and data much more quickly. As a result, productivity has improved. There are also improvements in customer service because orders are processed more quickly and plant production scheduled more effectively.

Despite all these improvements, network maintenance costs have fallen. Furthermore, the redundant architecture, coupled with the ability to replicate data quickly for disaster recovery purposes, provides better protection for mission-critical applications.

“We now have a future-proofed Local Area Network that will continue to meet our needs for years to come. With all the bandwidth at our disposal, innovations such as wireless access and VoIP can be implemented easily and cost-effectively. All in all, ProCurve Networking is an excellent solution,” concluded Pieters.

What Makes it Work

Hardware

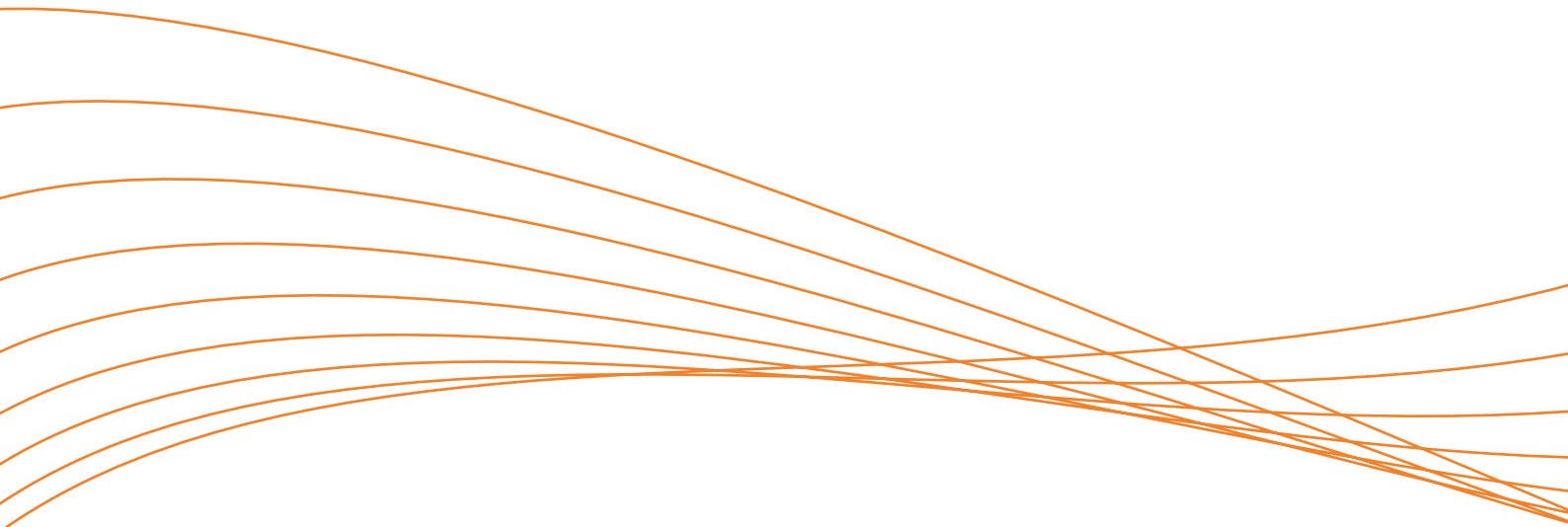
- 4 x ProCurve 3400cl-48G Switch
- 5 x ProCurve 5300xl-48G Switch
- 4 x ProCurve 600 Redundant External Power Supply

For more information on ProCurve Networking, please visit: www.hp.com/eur/procurve

For information about the ProCurve Network Design Centre, please visit: www.hp.com/go/requestyournetworkdesign

Why ProCurve Networking?

- Low total cost of ownership.
- Reputation among existing users.
- Lifetime warranty.



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