

ANIXTER HELPS A LIGHT RAIL GET ON TRACK WITH READY! DEPLOYMENT SERVICES



SUMMARY

Customer

City government

Challenge

Construction of a new light rail line

Solution

READY!™ To Install

Product specification assistance

Results

- Properly cut, tagged and spooled cable delivered on time
- Minimal remainder inventory
- Specific reel ordering to minimize product touches
- Real-time order modifications through integrated ordering platform
- On-time completion of project within budget



By Anixter cutting and labeling the cable to its installation point, the technicians on site only needed to focus on hooking up the power and signal cable. This saved the company considerable time on the project.

Customer Challenge

A Canadian city developed plans to extend its existing light rail public transportation system by adding 12 miles of track and 15 stations in the first phase of a multiyear expansion. With nearly 100,000 riders daily, the system connects the city's suburbs with its southern edge. The new expansion included railway tunnels that traversed the city's downtown area. Once completed, the entire system will add 18 miles of track.

Constructing a new railway tunnel under a downtown area introduces a host of deployment challenges for the wire and cable infrastructure needed for the power and signal applications. Because the construction was happening in a downtown location, there was no large open area for material storage. In addition, storing copper cabling in a highly dense and unsecured area increased the chance for theft. The contractor on the project needed to balance the need for ready access to the cable while minimizing the threat of onsite material theft.

The installer needed a material management program that was able to address the needs of installing cable in a tunnel, which makes for a tight installation space, while addressing the challenges of limited on-site storage space. Anixter and the company worked together to develop a supply chain solution that met the project's space and theft concerns for the five-month project.

Anixter Solution

The first challenge that Anixter addressed was helping to specify the product for the project. An added concern for a tunnel railway is the role fire and smoke play if there is an accident. In addition to the power and signal cable meeting the performance specifications it also needed to produce as few harmful compounds if it burns. The installation called for a low-smoke, zero-halogen cable that produces less toxic smoke when burning, which if not used can be tragic in a tunnel. Anixter received the product specs from the company and worked closely with a manufacturer partner to develop the right cable for the application.

The customer was not able to provide Anixter with cut-length requirements for the entire project upfront. As the project progressed and the customer understood the routing path of the cable, Anixter only received three days notice of the specific length needs.

CASE STUDY

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With a short deployment time, the company needed a fast turnaround time to receive and install the cable. Anixter developed a deployment plan that precut the cable to specific installation lengths, eliminating the need for the company to do any on-site cuttings. Anixter used its READY!™ To Install cable management program, which is a customized, project-specific cable deployment offering that provides timely and accurate just-in-time delivery of wire and cable to a job site per circuit or phase. With nearly 400 cable cuts, Anixter cut, reeled and labeled the cable and then delivered it to the job site when it was needed for installation. This allowed for most of the power and signal cable to be stored off site at Anixter's warehouse and also allowed for a quicker installation time as the company only needed to focus on installing the cable and not cutting it.

To alleviate the concern for on-site storage, Anixter was able to stage much of the material at its local distribution center facility and release cable to the job site when it was needed. By having the material at its local distribution center facility, Anixter was able to receive the bulk cables, cut them as needed and deliver them to the small warehouse on site. With a two- to three-day turnaround, the company received the needed cable identified by its installation location on an as-needed basis.

Project Results

The most noticeable savings for the company came from having the bulk of the material stored and cut at Anixter's nearby distribution center facility. The company was able to use a smaller on-site facility to house the material needed for the immediate installation. This saved the company roughly \$5,000 on renting the space. This also helped to minimize the threat of theft by having most of the cable securely stored in Anixter's warehouse. By holding the material at a local distribution facility, there was a shift in the responsibility of inventory to Anixter. This helped to streamline the overall flow of materials to the site through one channel, saving the contractor time not having to track various parts and purchase orders.

Anixter's value-added services also saved the company additional installation time. By Anixter cutting and labeling the cable to its installation point, the technicians on site only needed to focus on hooking up the power and signal cable. This saved the company considerable time on the project. In addition, by moving the cutting to Anixter's warehouse, there were no leftover scrap pieces on site for the company to remove.

Based on the success of the first phase of this project, Anixter is working to finalize future build outs of the rail line.



READY!™ Deployment Services by Anixter map our distribution

and Supply Chain Solutions to the construction or deployment process of any technology project. We combine sourcing, inventory management, kitting, labeling, packaging and deployment services to simplify and address the material management challenges at the job site(s). READY! Deployment Services by Anixter will help you improve the speed to deployment, lower your total cost of deployment and deliver your product specifications as planned.

This project called for:



READY!™ To Install is a customized full-service wire and cable management and delivery program.

OVER
8,300
employees

OVER
100,000
customers

MORE THAN
450,000
products

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