

A leading U.S. drug wholesaler turns to CommScope for a PoE solution that enhances safety and reduces costs at its expanded parking facility

Customer

AmerisourceBergen Corporation

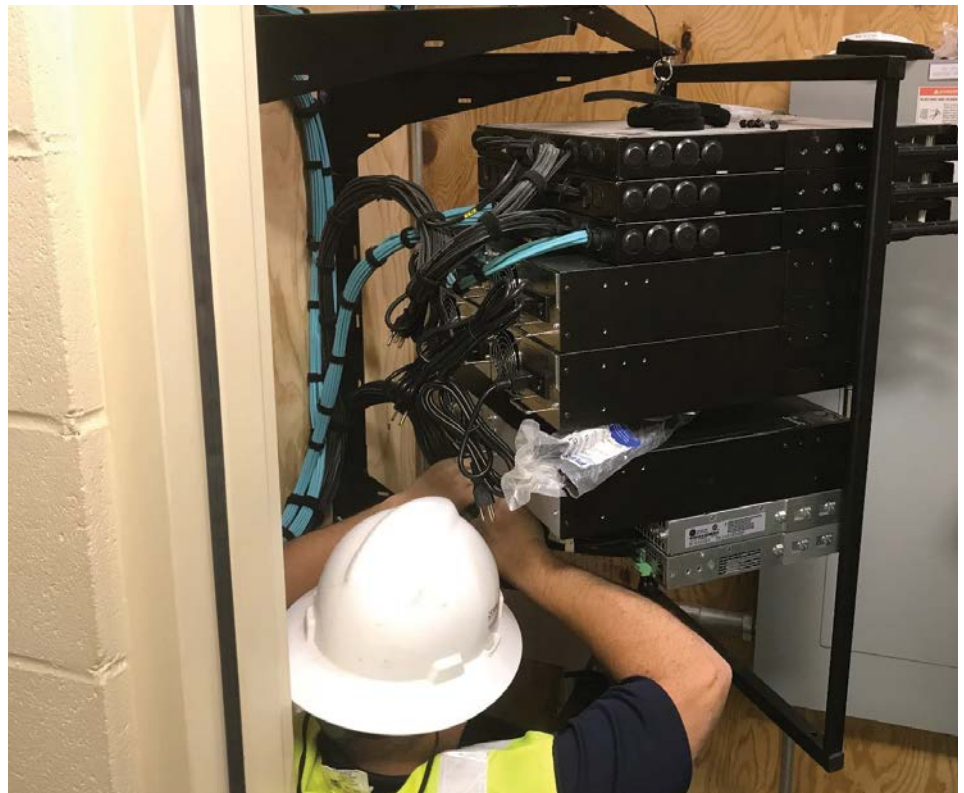
Country

USA

Customer Details

Headquartered in Valley Forge Pennsylvania, **AmerisourceBergen** is a global value-added provider of pharmaceutical products and supply chain services that has improved the delivery of products and access to care.

Tens of thousands of healthcare providers, veterinary practices and livestock producers trust AmerisourceBergen as their partner in pharmaceutical supply chain. Global manufacturers depend on it for services that drive commercial success. With \$167 billion in annual revenue, AmerisourceBergen is ranked number 10 on the Fortune 500 in 2019. The company has more than 150 locations in over 50 countries and approximately 21,000 employees.



Challenges

To accommodate the rapid growth, AmerisourceBergen initiated a large office expansion at its Fort Mill, South Carolina facility. The expansion included a new parking garage that required deployment of 23 security cameras and 15 “code blue” emergency phones to enhance the safety of parking garage users. The cameras and phones are all Internet protocol (IP) enabled and Power over Ethernet (PoE) capable.

The initial plans called for the inclusion of four intermediate distribution frame (IDF) telecom rooms in the parking garage to support the connectivity requirements for the PoE devices. However, the four-IDF approach presented a financial and logistical challenge since each IDF would require network equipment, power, HVAC and an uninterruptible power supply, while also consuming valuable space in the parking garage.



CommScope designs a simplified PoE solution

During a preliminary design meeting, CommScope presented the powered fiber cable system (PFCS) as a potential alternative to support the security deployment without the need for additional IDFs. The PFCS includes a PoE extender and a hybrid copper/fiber cable. Communication and power are delivered to the PoE extender via the hybrid cable. The PoE extender connects to the end point device with a standard 8P8C patch cord. The solution uses safety extra-low voltage (SELV) and National Electrical Code (NEC) Class 2 cables with three stages of electrical protection for personnel and equipment safety. The entire system is built to operate reliably in an outdoor setting.

Based on deploying the PFCS in the garage, CommScope presented a realized cost savings model to AmerisourceBergen incorporating:

- Reduced conduit cost
- Reduced network switch cost
- Reduced construction cost for additional IDFs
- Reduced electrician labor cost

After a live PFCS demonstration and review of the cost savings model, AmerisourceBergen added the system to its Division 27 (communication system) project specifications to support remote IP-enabled PoE devices.

Deployed by a CommScope PartnerPRO® Network Premier Partner

ComNet Communications, a Premier Partner in the CommScope PartnerPRO® Network, installed the PFCS at the Fort Mill parking garage. ComNet and CommScope conducted a joint site visit early in the project to determine cable routing and equipment placement. Due to the tight construction schedule, external conduit and junction boxes were installed to create the pathway for the hybrid fiber cabling. After the PoE extender devices were mounted and cabling was placed, CommScope made a site visit to assist ComNet with the IDF work and the commissioning of the system.

"CommScope was pleased to partner with AmerisourceBergen on the Fort Mill project and bring our proven expertise and advanced PoE extender technology to the parking garage's security system. Our PFCS solution simplified the facility's connectivity infrastructure, eliminating the need for additional IDFs and reducing associated CapEx and OpEx costs."

Phil Castillo
Vice President NAR Enterprise Sales, CommScope

Delivering faster, more reliable service at lower cost

The Fort Mill garage project was completed on time and on budget, meeting all of AmerisourceBergen's requirements. Installing the CommScope PFCS enabled the elimination of three of the four planned IDF locations, resulting in significant facilities cost savings as projected. The reduced network equipment footprint also simplifies daily operation, since all devices are connected to a single point of administration for data and power delivery. In operation since December 2017, the solution is delivering faster, more reliable PoE service with a smaller, less costly footprint.

"CommScope presented an innovative PoE solution that not only significantly reduced costs but also enhanced the effectiveness and reliability of our parking garage security systems. We were so impressed with the PFCS solution that we have installed the same technology in our Carrollton, Texas parking garage and are planning additional deployments at other facilities."

Arnulfo Frias
Critical Systems & Infrastructure Engineering Manager,
AmerisourceBergen

Fort Mill success leads to another PFCS deployment

Following the success of the Fort Mill deployment, the CommScope PFCS has now been installed at another new AmerisourceBergen parking garage in Carrollton, Texas. By incorporating PCFS into the design at an earlier point in the project, the builders were able to run the conduit for the PoE devices before the concrete back pour, hiding it from view.

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