



SUMMARY

Business Solution:

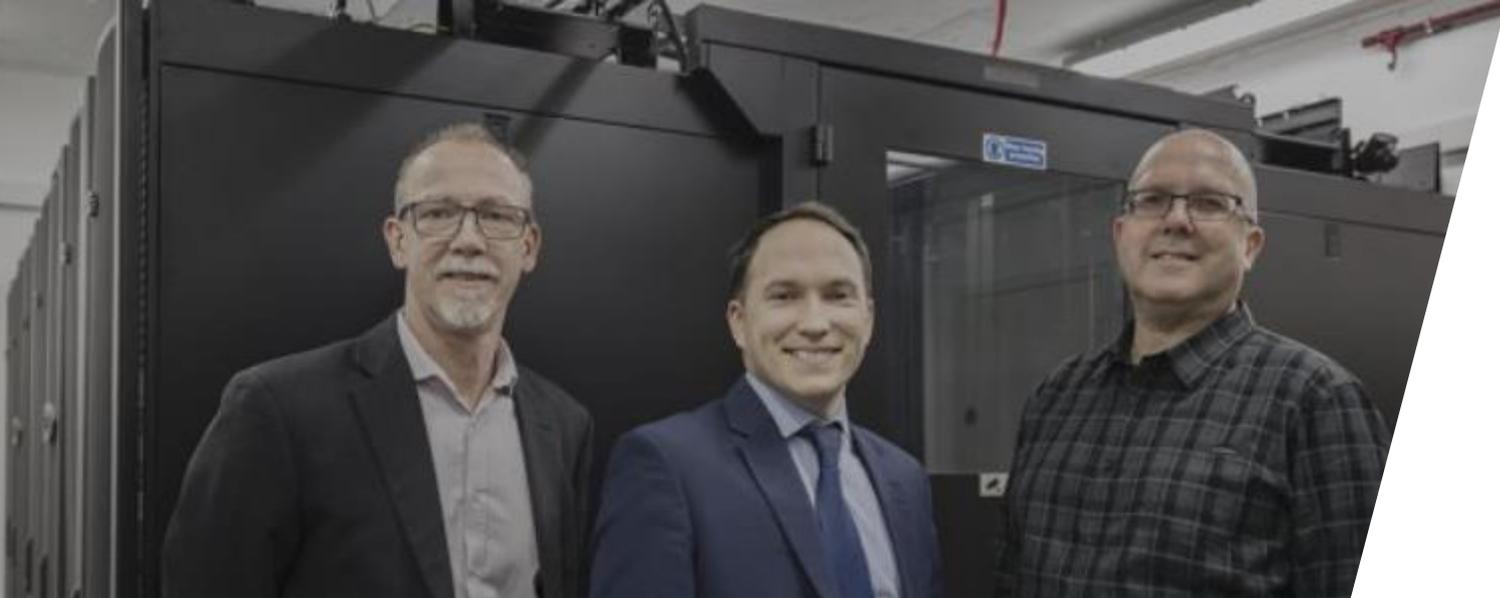
Datacentre

Technology:

Schneider Electric - APC



comtec power
datacentre & server room solutions



BACKGROUND

Angel Trains is a vital cog in the UK railways system, and has been leasing rolling stock to train operating companies since the privatisation of British Rail in 1994. Today it employs 150 people, while over 4,000 of its vehicles, with a combined value of £3.4bn, are in use across the country. The company's operations are split between Derby and its headquarters in London, where its IT department and data centre reside.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Railway infrastructure is synonymous with heavy industry, but the reality of Angel Trains' operations is very technological. "We're a big-ticket asset leasing company," explained Head of IT Services, Andy Wren. "We have an intricate business model and our IT systems that support it are similarly complex."

The two key IT systems operated by Angel Trains are its bespoke, in-house developed asset management system, and its Oracle Business Suite implementation. Together, these business-critical applications keep track of rolling stock under lease, and manage revenue generation and collection activities. Wren and his team run several other Microsoft server-based applications such as SharePoint for content and document management.

"As an internal IT department, we are comfortable with the ability to monitor our own infrastructure and IT equipment, rather than have a third-party managing it on our behalf at another location," said Wren. "We investigated a number of different hosting partners and found it was more cost-effective to own and manage our own on-premise data centre."

The decision was taken to continue to operate its data centre in-house, with the help of Comtec Power, in its capacity as one of the UK's leading APC by Schneider Electric Elite Partners.

THE SOLUTION

Angel Trains has been working with Comtec and utilising Schneider Electric UPS systems for 10 years, attracted initially by their flexibility, with the ability to perform 'hot swaps' of components such as batteries and power controllers.

The data centre comprises a rack-based containment system, with critical power protection provided by Schneider Electric Symmetra PX UPS units. For additional resilience, there is a dual power feed running direct from the mains and an emergency backup power generation unit on-site.

With key challenges that included cost effectiveness, reliability and footprint, Angel Trains chose to adopt Schneider Electric's ISX Pod architecture with InRow DX cooling systems for its data centre. This is in addition to a combination of external chillers and condensers located on the roof of the building.

The facility is also managed using Schneider Electric's Award-winning StruxureWare for Data Centers DCIM (Data Centre Infrastructure Management) software, part of the EcoStruxure for Data Centers Solution

THE RESULTS

"We needed to make the new data centre as cost-effective, scalable and robust as possible and the Schneider Electric racks and Symmetra UPS systems hit the mark – whilst helping us to optimise the fairly confined space in our data centre," stated Wren.

As well as provisioning and installing much of the infrastructure equipment in the data centre, Comtec Power continue to provide monitoring and maintenance support in collaboration with Angel Trains' IT staff. "When first searching for a partner, Comtec engaged with us far more than other potential suppliers," he added.

"They had a wealth of expertise and understood both our challenges and drivers, in addition to being very flexible and competitively priced."

Ongoing support provided by Comtec includes taking responsibility for rapid response to any faults in the infrastructure equipment, such as failures in air-conditioning units, including fans and UPS battery malfunctions.

"Our team can handle some of the smaller tasks internally," continued Wren, "but under our maintenance service agreement, Comtec can proactively monitor and react to any faults within our core data infrastructure."

FUTURE

As part of a recent upgrade to the standard maintenance agreement, Angel Trains has recently connected the data centre infrastructure components to Schneider Electric's EcoStruxure IT monitoring solution, previously known as StruxureOn. This delivers detailed 24/7 monitoring and critical insights straight to the Angel Trains IT personnel as well as Comtec's engineering team.

"Through the remote diagnostics, Comtec can engage quickly to begin fixing issues whilst proactively avoiding any serious situations or downtime from developing. We chose Comtec because they have the most experience. They built the system and we are comfortable operating in partnership with them as our trusted advisors," Wren added.

"Having a strong working relationship with long-term partners such as Schneider Electric and Comtec Power has provided Angel Trains with the advice, skillsets and peace of mind that is necessary to run an efficient, on-premise, business-critical data centre."

Head Office
Comtec House
Albert Road North
Reigate
Surrey RH2 9EL

T: 0800 008 7599
E: info@comtec.com
www.comtec.com