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# Cofely Agility Data Center

Datacenter Clarity from Siemens provides the insights to manage Cofely's green data center efficiently.

With explosive growth in the digital world in recent years, data centers have become one of society's most critical types of facilities. And with the demand for data storage doubling every 18 months, they are in constant short supply.

Data centers are also among the world's largest consumers of energy. Their need to power, cool and provide backup for computer systems 24/7/365 means that they consume up to 2% of electricity used globally and produce 1.5% of Earth's greenhouse gas emissions.

The new Cofely Agility Data Center at Crealys Science Park in Belgium is changing the energy equation for data centers. Designed and operated by Cofely Services, a subsidiary of the global energy firm GDF Suez, the new Tier III+ colocation center is a model for "green" computing. Systematically measuring and optimizing the performance of both the IT and facility infrastructure, Cofely Agility is projected to save 10,000 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> compared to other data centers.

## Customer Challenges

To achieve its goal of creating a green data center, Cofely required a data center information management, or DCIM, solution to be installed on-site. DCIM applications are rapidly being adopted to provide insights that help monitor performance and efficiency of assets within a data center.

For the Agility Data Center, Cofely needed a DCIM solution that would provide greater capabilities than the norm. As a colocation data center, Cofely is responsible for hosting and managing its own servers as well as those of its data center customers. This requires the ability to segregate server and rack information to provide individual reports directly to customers.

Cofely also needed its DCIM to provide information on both IT systems and building systems including power, cooling and network connectivity. "It is really important that we have one central tool where all our information can be easily accessed and provided to our customers when they need it," says Nicolas Coppée, Data Center Manager for Cofely Services in Belgium.

In addition to finding the right DCIM, timing was also a challenge for Cofely. A Tier III+ data center is a complex building with highly technical specifications and redundant cooling, power and networks that deliver availability of 99.982%. Tier III+ data centers typically take 2-3 years to build; Cofely's target was 18 months. Its DCIM provider would need to meet this tight timeline.

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Nicolas Coppée  
Cofely Services



### Siemens Solutions

Cofely selected the Datacenter Clarity LC™\* DCIM solution from Siemens to provide its managers a clear view of overall data center performance. Datacenter Clarity and the Siemens team combined to offer capabilities that exceeded those of other providers that Cofely evaluated.

First was adaptability. “Siemens was really open to add features that we needed for our data center,” says Mr. Coppée. “Specific reporting on the network, or segregated reports on electricity usage, or adding a new type of server to the DCIM, these were things they brought to the table really quickly.”

Flexibility was also important. While most DCIMs focus on the server rooms, Siemens was also able to integrate HVAC, electricity and other facility infrastructure into the DCIM. “We needed it all, and honestly Siemens was the only solution that could handle it all on one level,” explains Mr. Coppée.

The pay-through-growth pricing structure offered by Siemens was another advantage. While the DCIM solution is in place for the entire seven-room facility, Cofely only pays for additional usage when new users are added to the data center.

Implementation of Datacenter Clarity was completed within four months. This included Siemens role in designing the solution and architecture, deploying the platform and installing the application, including integration with existing building management systems.

As part of Datacenter Clarity, Siemens incorporated 3D modeling of the whole facility down to the server and connection level. The result of this process, which involves detailed photography and computer simulation of the facility, is an intuitive, easy-to-use DCIM interface. “This program shows directly where an asset is and how it is linked to other assets in the data center,” says Mr. Coppée. “It was an important tool for us to have.”

### Customer Results

Cofely’s DCIM solution was ready in time for the opening of the Agility Data Center in October 2013. Using Datacenter Clarity, Cofely has been able to track and manage performance of assets and infrastructure to deliver the level of efficiency required for a “green” data center.

Power usage effectiveness, or PUE, is a key metric that compares energy use for IT equipment to that of the overall facility. An ideal metric is 1.0, where all energy is used for IT equipment and there is no additional waste. A typical data center’s PUE is 2.0. In its first months of use, Cofely has met its target PUE of 1.3 — a strong performance for a Tier III+ facility requiring power and cooling redundancies.

With its lower energy consumption, Cofely Agility Data Center is setting an example for the movement towards “green” computing and cost-effective data centers.

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