



Working behind thick walls

Solid, thick walls. Working in tunnels under the surface of the water – with one foot in Switzerland and one in Germany. The construction of an in-house mobile communication facility at Laufenburg power station posed a number of particular challenges for Network 41 employees.

Laufenburg power station stands imposingly in the middle of the Rhine. Its solid walls and towers give it the appearance of a fortress. The Swiss-German border runs right through the middle of it. Network 41 employees were confronted with a number of challenges on this assignment. Swisscom commissioned a new in-house mobile communication facility – and installation work was to adhere to the rigorous safety regulations that apply in the power plant.

Particular importance is attached to operational reliability, occupational health and safety and environmental protection at power plants. Special rules also applied to work carried out close to elec-

trical facilities as well as in very tight and noisy spaces – which was often the case at Laufenburg power plant, of course. "When the job was complete, the power plant management were very pleased with how the Network 41 team had gone about their work. Everything went smoothly and we met all requirements," says project coordinator Tom Schläppi.

Meticulous planning and a lot of experience were required to install the in-house facility in this labyrinthine building with six upper floors, an attic and a ground floor as well as five underground floors. The system was to be capable of transmitting both voice messages and data. In the end, 60 aerials, 50 HF components, 4 ERS systems and a base station were installed.

The project in figures

Employees

2 technicians and one site manager for the installation, plus planner and project manager

Cables

Some 500 metres of fibre-optic (glass) cable and approx. 1,600 m of HF cable in various sizes.

Material

60 aerials, 50 HF splitters and couplers, 4 radio transmitter/receiver units, 1 base station.



Tom Schläppi
Project coordinator, Network 41

"Some of the work we had to do in tight and very noisy tunnels was quite tricky"