



STARLINE TRACK BUSWAY

Case Study: Fujitsu selects Starline Track Busway as Power Distribution System for Data Centre Expansion Project

Fujitsu has over 5 decades of experience delivering cutting-edge IT products, services, solutions and support to over 100 countries, and has grown to become one of the top 5 information and communication technology providers in the world.

Fujitsu employs over 9,000 people in the UK and Ireland, with a number of strategic data centres supporting a wide range of capability and offerings.

Expansion for New Business

In order to meet customer requirements, Fujitsu needed to build an extension onto a 3.2 megawatt data centre it manages just north of London. In addition, Fujitsu was working with a tight project timeline, needing to transform a car park into an operational data centre in a matter of months.

As it stood, the existing facility used traditional cabling beneath a raised floor to supply power to its server racks.

When running additional circuits it's common for Fujitsu to supply two 32 amp supplies to each cabinet—however, there are occasionally other requirements that call for the sizable job of running cables between cabinets and PDUs. When this situation arises, the data centre has to handle the cost of new cable and associated labour, the risk associated with connecting to a live PDU, and completing this in a timely fashion in order to efficiently deliver the project to the customer.

For Fujitsu's expansion project the data centre team wanted to bypass these challenges by implementing a flexible power solution that incorporated enhanced metering functionality. The data centre team also wanted to avoid putting anything in the floor because that was how they delivered their cooling to the IT.

“Our existing site was cabled straight back to the PDUs,” says Head of Data Centre Development, UK & Ireland, Fujitsu, Simon Levey.

“For our new data hall we needed something that was flexible and adaptable to anything we might do in the future.”

Solution

For the data centre expansion project, Fujitsu drew up a list of requirements and ultimately chose Starline's 250 amp Track Busway product as its overhead power distribution system. Throughout the evaluation process Fujitsu visited Starline's new 5,200m² (56,000 sq. ft.) manufacturing facility based in the UK, and worked closely with Starline's local partner, Daxten.

Having built a trusting relationship with Daxten, being able to rely on the supplier even after the project was completed was a strong deciding factor. In addition, manufacturing being located in the UK was convenient to fulfill future needs.

Another main factor that drove Fujitsu's decision was its need to incorporate a flexible metering offering. It was important to the team that options for both wired and wireless metering, which could be directly integrated into the tap offs, were available. “Having a flexible metering option, where we could install wired or wireless meters was very useful,” adds Simon.

Result

Initially, the busway was able to be installed quickly to accommodate Fujitsu's tight deadline. The alternative cabling method would have taken weeks to install—which wasn't a feasible solution for the project. Furthermore, having the flexibility to easily add additional supplies to cabinets will be increasingly valuable in Fujitsu's new space.



“If we have the required tap offs on site, we can just plug them in and within minutes have additional circuits up and ready for our customers,” says Simon.

When asked about advice for others installing the Track Busway product, Simon stresses the importance of proper labeling and ensuring the orientation of the bus bars is optimized. Overall, end users should ideally know their tap box requirements as soon as possible, and rely on the resources of their local representatives to ensure successful implementation.

About Universal Electric Corporation

Universal Electric Corporation (UEC), the manufacturer of Starline, is a global leader in power distribution equipment. For more than 30 years, Starline has provided data centre, retail, health care, laboratory, higher education and industrial facilities with the most flexible, reliable and customisable power distribution systems on the market.

About Fujitsu

Fujitsu employs over 9,000 people in the UK and Ireland. Fujitsu promotes a Human Centric Intelligent Society, in which innovation is driven by the integration of people, information and infrastructure. Fujitsu is committed to Digital Co-creation, blending business expertise with digital technology and creating new value with ecosystem partners and customers. Fujitsu enables its customers to digitally transform with connected technology services, focused on Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and Cloud - all underpinned by Security. Fujitsu's customers cover both the public and private sectors, including retail, financial services, transport, manufacturing, government and defence.



Starline's UK-based Manufacturing Facility

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Simon Levey
Head of Data Centre Development
UK & Ireland, Fujitsu