Success Story

Zyxel Nebula Solution Gives Swiss Sports Fans Reason to Cheer

INDUSTRY Sports and Entertainment

CUSTOMER AXA Arena

COUNTRY Switzerland

SOLUTIONS Zyxel Nebula Solution

Overview

Challenges

- Meet specific network needs of over 2,000 users in multiple groups
- Deliver powerful, reliable signal throughout expansive arena complex
- Overcome potential signal interference in a high-capacity environment
- Set up SMS authentication system to meet government regulations

Results

- Automated setup simplifies complex, large-scale deployments
- Smart-antenna access points deliver top-rate coverage and speed
- Single management interface for complete control—anytime, anywhere

Solution

- Zyxel Nebula Solution

Background

AXA Arena is a brand-new sports complex located in Winterthur, Switzerland. Managed by the Win4 AG company, the arena is home to two popular handball and floorball clubs. With a 2000-seat grandstand, lounge, and annex featuring a gym, fitness park, sports school, and medical center, the modern facility has an array of delightful amenities for athletes and spectators alike. And since the arena complex leverages advanced PV technology to harness solar energy, it's able to reduce its carbon footprint. Primed for the future, the athletic wonderland will be sure to elicit cheers from local patrons—old and young—for years to come.

Challenges

As with most large-scale arena and stadium networks, AXA Arena required an agile solution that would be able to meet the specific needs of distinct user groups: IT administrators, employees, athletes, spectators, media professionals, and any other visiting guests. It also meant that their network hardware would have to deliver powerful, reliable wireless connectivity to the entire sports complex, especi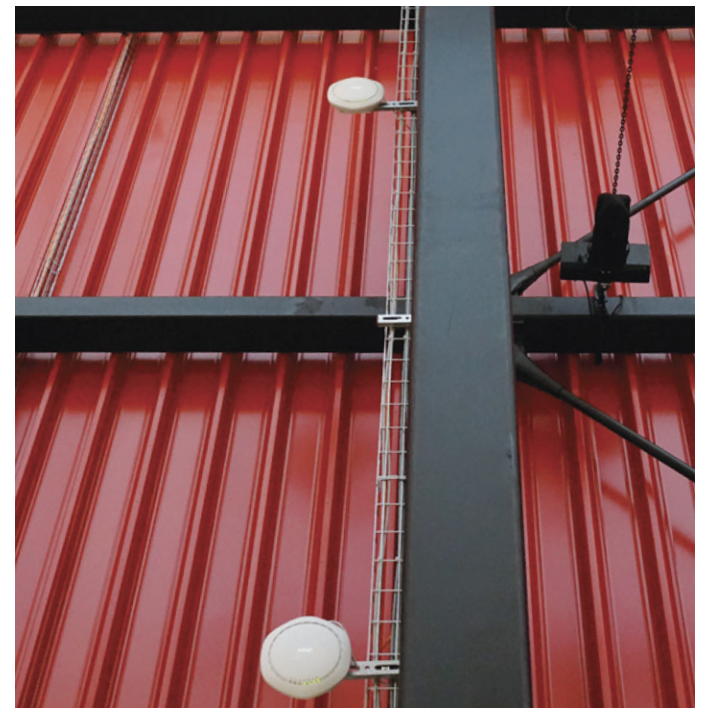ally during competitive events when the seats would be packed with fans wielding smart devices. Adding another layer of complexity to the project, Swiss law stipulates that such public hot spots must abide by a detailed user registration protocol—a hurdle that would likely require the help of outside specialists. Studerus, a long-time Zyxel distributor, and GGA Maur, a Zyxel partner, were enlisted for the massive, multi-faceted project.

Solutions and Benefits

The AXA Arena was able to provide its guests—both professionals and patrons—with a warm, high-tech welcome. Their top-rate WiFi was the result of Zyxel's state-of-the-art Nebula cloud solution. "Nebula is ideal for WiFi projects," commented Urs Kammermann, GGA Maur's project manager, "because the solutions can be tailor-made for the customer."

In order to achieve arena-sized signal strength and coverage, GGA Maur installed nearly 60 **NAP303 Nebula Cloud Managed Access Points**. The AP's zero-touch, auto-configurable installation makes the deployment process a breeze. Once connected to the powerful **Nebula Control Center**, it can be quickly monitored and managed from a single screen. And, its smart-antenna technology has the ability to navigate through high-capacity environments like stadiums and event halls with ease. But how to meet the WiFi needs of thousands of players, patrons, and professionals? The AP's comprehensive feature set provides fast and stable connectivity through an easily accessible captive portal.

GGA Maur tech specialists, unbound by time or location, can oversee and manage the arena's network via browser

or app. Now, as the AXA Arena plans and prepares for its upcoming sporting events, it won't have to think twice about its wireless network. The watchful gaze of Zyxel's Nebula has everything covered.

ZYXEL

Products Used

NAP303 • 802.11ac Dual-radio Smart Antenna 3x3 Nebula Cloud Managed Access Point

- Cloud-managed, dual-radio 3x3 MIMO 802.11ac AP
- Supports combined data rates of up to 1.75 Gbps
- Smart antenna provides breakthrough performance
- Self-configuration and zero-touch deployment
- Enterprise-class security and RF optimization
- Dynamic channel selection, load balancing, and smart client steering
- Industry-leading receiver sensitivity as low as -102 dBm
- Tool-less bracket design for streamlined installation

Nebula Control Center (NCC)

- Responsive web design and intuitive user interface
- Multi-tenant and multi-site view
- Role-based administrative privileges
- Real-time as well as historical monitoring and reporting
- Site-based auto and smart configuration tools
- Misconfiguration protection to prevent NCC disconnections
- Rich, site-wide management tools (dashboard, map and floor plans, and topology)

About Zyxel Communications

Focused on innovation and customer-centricity, Zyxel Communications has been connecting people to the Internet for nearly 30 years. Our ability to adapt and innovate with networking technology places us at the forefront of creating connectivity for telcos and service providers, business and home users. Zyxel is building the networks of tomorrow, unlocking potential, and meeting the needs of the modern workplace — powering people at work, life, and play. Zyxel, Your Networking Ally.