



Isabel Group

We process 7 billion euros of digital payments daily



Virtually every Belgian benefits from Isabel Group's services, often without knowing it. Indeed, Isabel Group facilitates electronic payment transactions between a large number of companies, as well as access to documents and identities in Belgium. It is the undisputed market leader here. Stable, reliable, and secure connectivity is therefore vital for the FinTech company. The choice of Eurofiber Belgium's digital infrastructure was therefore a logical one, says Roel Liers, Head of IT Operations Isabel Group.

Additional connectivity needed

With over 300 employees, 2 data centers, and offices in Antwerp, Brussels (head office), Leuven, Paris, and Tours, more than 72 million invoices per year and 7 billion euros per day in processed payments are currently being realized. Isabel Group's growth, both

organically and through acquisitions, in early 2019 necessitated additional connectivity between sites, two in-house data centers, and the public cloud. Eurofiber was already the party providing connectivity for Isabel Group. And Eurofiber was also contracted for the new connections in Belgium. For example, the existing dark fiber connection between the data

centers was redundant and two additional internet connections were provided. The headquarters in Brussels already had a direct fiber connection to the data centers. Furthermore, the various branches were given WDM connections for data traffic between them and for data communication with the head office. Those additional connections were delivered two months after the contract was signed.

Own disaster recovery center set up

"We also needed our own disaster recovery site that would allow our operation to continue working unhindered in the event of a disaster. There was already a collaboration for that with an external party, but we wanted to start controlling that ourselves," adds Roel Liers. The location in question became Leuven, in the office building of CodaBox, a subsidiary of Isabel Group. "A good location, right next to the station. And for that, Eurofiber came back into the story. Because a disaster recovery center must have dedicated fiber connections to the data center so that data traffic is not routed through the public internet. This is crucial to ensure operational continuity. Our employees, who may use the data and applications from home, do so through their own internet connection with Virtual Private Network software."

From 'simple job' to more complex project

Said and done. The contract for the new connectivity for the disaster recovery center in Leuven was signed in April 2019. "But it turned out to be easier on paper than in the obstinate practice," says Roel Liers. "It soon became less enjoyable. Because an office building in the old part of Leuven, near the station, and then wanting to break ground. That's just asking for trouble. Indeed, because of its location, the city of Leuven had to be involved in the physical laying of the fiber optic cables in the ground. The city council and its subcontractors had to give us permission to break open the street. We also had to take several existing cables in the ground near the station into account. The work itself is trivial: a cable must be laid underground and then snapped into a router in the office building. Just everything around it, like getting the permits and coordinating between the various parties, ended up delaying us by quite a few months. I should add, however, that everyone—from the municipality to Eurofiber and the various subcontractors—have always been of good will. But what first seemed like a simple job ended up being a complex and lengthy project that was finally completed in November 2019. Over a year later, everything is still working satisfactorily and without any problems, as we have come to expect from Eurofiber."



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Roel Liers

Head of IT Operations
Isabel Group



The case

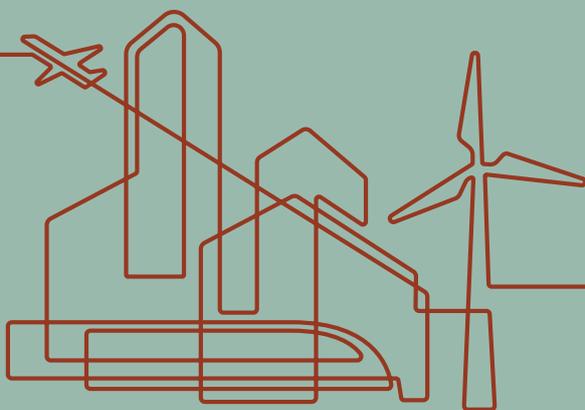
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Curious to hear more about what we could achieve for your organization?

Eurofiber has been a fast-growing international provider of industry-leading digital infrastructure since 2000. Relying on our own fiber optic network and data centers, we provide smart, future-proof solutions for companies, government bodies and non-profit organizations. Customers have complete freedom to choose the services, applications and providers they need, allowing them to tap into the full potential of digital innovation. Eurofiber has an extensive fiber optic network in the Netherlands and Belgium, it unlocks its four data centers of its own and almost all public data centers in the Benelux.



Eurofiber. Lifeline for the digital society

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