



Zurich Insurance in Ireland cuts lighting costs by up to 90 percent with the Redwood® Intelligent Lighting Network

“We anticipated that Redwood would reduce our energy expenses by 70 to 75 percent and we’ve exceeded that target by an additional 13 to 15 percent.”

—Daniel Joss, head, corporate real estate and facilities management, Zurich Insurance Company (Ireland)

Zurich’s General Insurance business in Ireland, which is part of the worldwide Zurich Insurance Group, sought to achieve significant energy savings and improve the workplace experience for its employees based in its 36,000-square-foot offices in Dublin’s Ballsbridge district.

After a successful deployment of the Redwood® Intelligent Lighting Network solution, the company is surpassing its goals and could be eligible for a government-sponsored energy tax break.

Energy-saving technology reduces lighting use and costs

Daniel Joss, Ireland’s head of corporate real estate & facilities management, was looking to upgrade the building’s aging T8 fluorescent lighting system, in line with Zurich’s focus on energy saving as part of its Environmental Policy worldwide. The existing system was inefficient, using 26 watts of energy per square meter (10.76 square feet) of office space. The aim was to replace it with an intelligent solution which would reduce lighting costs by at least 70 percent.

After meeting with CommScope and the Scott Group, a CommScope PartnerPRO™ Network provider in Dublin, Joss identified the Redwood® Intelligent Lighting Network from CommScope as the ideal solution. Other Redwood® customers’ success stories of cutting energy costs by 75 percent or more—and the ability of Redwood® to interface with other intelligent building systems—convinced Zurich that Redwood® was the right solution for its General Insurance Ireland business.



“Zurich now has an intelligent lighting system that helps the company use energy and space efficiently while providing the flexibility to adapt to evolving infrastructure needs. Redwood is a robust and scalable solution that will provide actionable insights for years to come.”

—Wally Blennerhassett, sales director, Ireland, CommScope

Smooth installation on a fast-track schedule

Redwood® Intelligent Lighting Network features a high-density network of sensors that power and control LED lights. By collecting data on heat, light and motion, sensors can provide valuable real-time insights about occupancy and energy use throughout a building. In addition, Redwood® integrates with other building components, such as HVAC and security systems, to increase energy efficiency and reduce costs.

The Redwood® platform is powered over a low-voltage architecture using Category 5E, 6 or 6A twisted-pair cables. The system is able to provide real-time reporting by fixture, group, floor or building. Customers can control lighting using the web based Redwood® Management software either from a desk top or mobile device, offering an exciting opportunity for occupants to interact with the building digitally.

CommScope worked closely with the Scott Group to ensure a budget-friendly, on-time installation. The Scott Group team completed the fast-track project in eight months, while the building was occupied. Technicians worked outside normal business hours as much as possible to prevent disruptions to Zurich employees and business. They removed the old power cables, installed new network cable and fixtures, reinstalled emergency lights and commissioned the Redwood® system software and hardware.

From design through build and testing, Scott Group technicians were present to ensure the results were of excellent quality. Throughout the installation, CommScope remained attentive to Zurich's needs, providing professional input and assistance when needed.

Shedding light on more savings

With Redwood® in place, Zurich's General Insurance business in Ireland is slashing its lighting costs by as much as 90 percent, surpassing its original 70 to 75 percent target. At the same time, the firm has increased the light level in the office by 20 percent while reducing its energy draw to 8 watts per square meter—down from 26 watts per square meter (10.76 square feet) with the previous lighting system.

In addition, Zurich is poised to offset its capital investment in Redwood® through an hourly rate reduction with its local utility company and by pursuing a potential government tax-break. The firm expects to save even more energy by taking advantage of the Redwood® system's robust integration features with other building systems.

“We are proud of the fact that Zurich Insurance Group became a carbon-neutral company in 2014. It's important to us to ensure that all our corporate real estate and facilities management efforts support our overall Environmental Policy, which includes reducing our energy footprint. We anticipated that Redwood would reduce our energy expenses by 70 to 75 percent and we've exceeded that target by an additional 13 to 15 percent. On a sunny day, we can achieve up to 90 percent savings by harvesting natural light. Redwood also helped us create a brighter, better and more productive environment for our employees.”

—Daniel Joss, head, corporate real estate and facilities management, for Zurich in Ireland

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For more information about Zurich Insurance Group and its Environmental Policy, visit www.zurich.com

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