



Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group: “Our SD-WAN solves today’s challenges and opens up new opportunities.”

From IT islands to a single global IT infrastructure

Joost de Rore, Group IT Director of Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group (BBRG): “Bekaert had grown its ropes business through the acquisition of a number of smaller business. After the merger with Bridon we were facing a situation of a large number of IT islands, each with their own domain. Some branches were connected through MPLS, but we had no Wide Area Network (WAN) at the group level.

In order to improve our efficiency, speed and collaboration after the merger, we wanted to move to a modern global IT environment with standardized and shared IT resources, such as the Bekaert datacenter and SAP ERP system. Since the BBRG management team expected results on a short term, we were looking for a secure WAN connection that could be deployed fast.”

About Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group

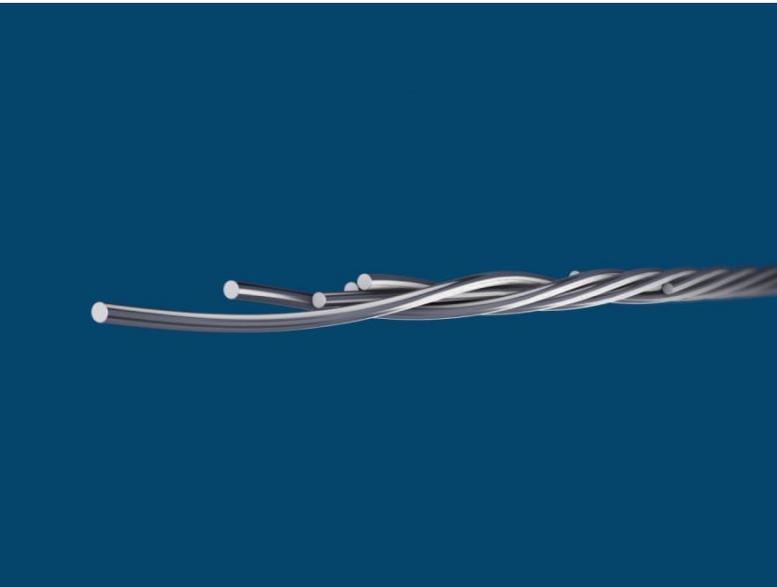
Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group is the world’s premier supplier of mission-critical advanced cords and ropes. As a leading innovator, developer and producer of the best performing ropes and advanced cords globally, the Group provides superior value solutions to the oil & gas, mining, crane, elevator and other industrial sectors. Two of the most enduring wire and rope pioneers joined forces to make this ambition real.

In June 2016 Bekaert, world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies, and Ontario Teachers’ Pension Plan, the previous owner of Bridon, have successfully closed the merger of their ropes and advanced cords businesses under the name Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group. Bridon-Bekaert Ropes Group has a global manufacturing footprint and employs approximately 2 500 people worldwide.

www.bridon-bekaert.com

WAN requirements

Joost de Rore and his team defined a number of requirements for the new Wide Area Network. The WAN needed to provide access to the centrally managed business applications and platforms for all branches in a secure way. Another important consideration was the performance of applications for users in all of BBRG's worldwide locations.



The team also wanted to bring the overall user experience to a higher level. In the old situation, many employees were working via Citrix clients and needed a token to login to the Citrix gateway. The objective was for all users – in the office as well as mobile – to get access to all business applications in an efficient and user friendly way.

“Videns IT Services is a capable and knowledgeable partner for BBRG.”

Software Defined WAN and Videns IT Services

Joost de Rore: “MPLS based connections were not alone too expensive, but also had far too long delivery lead times. We needed a cost effective solution with more flexibility and shorter delivery times: SD-WAN. After research for a technical solution we found Aryaka to be a good match with our requirements and after evaluation of a number of potential partners we chose to partner with Videns IT Services.”

The SD-WAN implementation

After a successful Proof of Concept with the Aryaka SD-WAN solution, BBRG and Videns IT Services started the roll out. Videns engineers prepared the solution design in close collaboration with BBRG.

Bill Youngblood is Global IT Infrastructure Manager at BBRG. He was involved in researching the solution and responsible for the roll-out. “The project has been very successful. Videns sent pre-configured Aryaka appliances to our locations and our local IT infrastructure teams took care of the actual installation, supported by the people of Videns. The implementation itself was pretty much ‘plug and play’ and would typically not take more than an hour. Of course there are always a few small hick ups in projects like these. But Videns was always fast to respond when that occurred.

The actual SD-WAN roll out happened in three batches. We covered our major facilities in North America and Asia Pacific first. Within six months we connected 90% of our branches. We now only need to connect our branches in New Zealand and Brazil, which are specific cases because of the local network aspects at these sites.”

Benefits and experiences

Bill Youngblood: “We are looking back at a successful project. Feedback from our users is very positive: they are satisfied with the easy login facility and the improved performance. My experience with the collaboration with Videns IT Services is also very good. I always get a fast response and they are reliable: they do as they promise. We received very good support from their engineers when we were preparing our migrations and implementations. All the support of our Aryaka network is handled via Videns: we put in a support ticket with Videns and they take care of the issue. With our new SD-WAN solution we could also eliminate the use of Secure ID's, which has lowered our cost and improved user satisfaction.”

“I always get a fast response and the people of Videns are reliable: they do as they promise.”

Joost de Rore: "Videns IT Services is a capable and knowledgeable partner for BBRG. They convinced us in discussions with our internal specialists and could prove their capabilities through references. What I really appreciate is the fact that they are willing to share experiences and cases of other clients – not just commercially, but also practical experiences. They have put us into contact with one of their other clients, a company with a totally different business but comparable IT challenges. This helps us to make better and more effective use of all the benefits that SD-WAN has to offer."

Next steps

Joost de Rore concludes: "Our SD-WAN works according to the defined parameters and complies with our initial objectives. What we see now is that SD-WAN opens up a lot of new opportunities and therefore provides us with a path towards a next level. With the adoption of new applications, new challenges arise and we want to use SD-WAN technologies to resolve some of those."

We are currently defining and gradually rolling out our global cloud strategy. One of the first steps is the migration of BBRG to Microsoft Office 365,

which must provide a high performance for all users worldwide. This is a good example of how BBRG is used as a pilot within the larger Bekaert group. We are a separate and independent group, but try to leverage the Bekaert organization where we can. We are small enough to test new concepts fast, yet have enough critical mass to validate these for the whole group. We also act as a pilot for our WAN strategy. The Bekaert WAN is MPLS based. Together with our enterprise architects we want to evaluate and validate if the SD-WAN concept proves to be the better option, after which we may replace our MPLS based infrastructure, or parts of it, with SD-WAN.

Our 'lessons learned' when it comes to SD-WAN: it opens up new opportunities and possibilities, but in order to take full advantage of those you will need to build up additional knowledge and experience. Videns has proven to be a valuable and experienced partner to guide us on our journey."

"Our SD-WAN opens up a lot of new opportunities and possibilities."



About Aryaka Networks

Aryaka is transforming how global enterprises connect sites and users worldwide, and use mission-critical applications to support modern business execution demands. Aryaka's Global SD-WAN combines a purpose-built private network, SD-WAN, optimization and acceleration techniques, connectivity to cloud platforms, and network visibility in a single solution that is delivered as a service. To learn more, visit www.aryaka.com.



About Videns IT Services

Founded in 2012, Videns IT Services is the leading network-independent service provider of managed SD-WAN solutions. Videns is the alternative for enterprises that are looking to replace their traditional telco services with flexible, cost-effective cloud-enabled WAN services. We combine deep customer knowledge with specialist SD-WAN knowhow, proactive service management and a no-nonsense approach. Videns is currently supporting over 40 international customers, managing 1.500+ sites in more than 50 countries.

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