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Extending Your Network

CONSTRUCTECH

Recent growth at Shawmut Design and Construction, www.shawmut.com, Boston, Mass., forced the general contracting and construction management firm to expand beyond its corporate headquarter location, with roughly 100 employees being relocated to nearby office space. One issue that quickly came to mind with regards to this expansion was how best to extend the corporate IT (information technology) network—including voice, video, and data—in the most cost-efficient manner.

While the initial thought was connecting the two sites using fiber-optic leased line service, the estimated cost to trench and lay fiber conduit between the two buildings of \$60,000, not to mention another \$12,000/month in leasing fees, prompted Shawmut to explore alternative methods.

The company instead chose to deploy two BridgeWave GE60 wireless links from BridgeWave Communications, www.bridgewave.com, Santa Clara, Calif. According to BridgeWave, the extremely narrow antenna beamwidth of its links provide interference immunity and data security.

The low latency radio accommodates Shawmut's use of VoIP (voice over Internet protocol) video conferencing services. Chris Ryan, network and systems manager, Shawmut Design and Construction, terms the links as “wireless fiber” and says the benefit is in the technology's ability to help the company expand without compromising network performance.

According to officials at BridgeWave, its radios deliver fully redundant building-to-building connectivity and can be deployed and running within days, as opposed to months it could take to get some fiber solutions installed and provisioned.
