



PROJECT SUMMARY

Organization

MonCre Telephone Cooperative

Solution

Communications

Project Objectives

Migrate from CAD drawings and Excel spreadsheets to an intelligent network engineering platform to reduce errors and re-works and to speed provisioning processes

Products Used

MicroStation®
Bentley® Fiber
Bentley® Copper
Bentley® Inside Plant

FAST FACTS

- MonCre provides telephony, broadband and ISP services to over 3,500 customers in rural Alabama
- MonCre implemented the Bentley Communications solution to streamline network engineering, provisioning and maintenance workflows
- The entire fiber network is now fully documented and the copper assets are in the process of being completed

MONCRE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE CHOOSES BENTLEY® COMMUNICATIONS SUITE TO BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

MonCre Telephone Cooperative (MonCre), founded in 1954, serves an extensive rural area of Alabama covering over 500 square miles. This is an area that MonCre was created to serve after the second world war, when BellSouth decided that it was too expensive and uneconomic to provide telephony services to such a sparsely inhabited area.

Although MonCre is a small organization, it is under pressure to change. Change is being driven by the need to introduce new services and to be

able to support its new fiber infrastructure from an engineering and provisioning perspective.

Prior to implementing the Bentley communications suite of products, MonCre had been doing what many rural communications companies do, struggling with multiple sources of data based on CAD files, Excel spreadsheets and diverse other forms of documentation.

As Thomas Tapley, an engineer at MonCre says, "We had an over-riding objective of going beyond static CAD-based documentation to introduce an intelligent network engineering system. This means that we would move from having several conflicting views of the network to a single source of data that all users would share.

We decided to start with the newest part of our network, the fiber backbone, which connects 35 fiber wire centers."

Unusually for a rural communications organization, MonCre has all of its plant underground. All this copper and fiber plant is direct buried. This helps MonCre provide a high quality of service with few service interruptions due to adverse weather events like Hurricanes Katrina and Ivan. Bentley's communications products are now used to support streamlined workflows for circuit assignment and provisioning. Thomas Tapley explains how, "It is now easier for us to distinguish between our optical circuits for DSL



Bentley Fiber: Fiber splice schematic at a central office

"The key for us, is that Bentley offers a solution that is comprehensive, does not require customization and is not dependent on any third-party components"

ABOUT BENTLEY

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versus circuits for telephony and to be sure that we are fully utilizing our fiber assets."

And this is important, because although MonCre covers 500 square miles of territory, every customer has access to broadband services if they want it. The process of migrating from CAD-based printed outputs to an intelligent network model is an important and potentially tricky one.

As Thomas Tapley points out, "Although the benefits of moving from our old systems to the Bentley solution makes enormous sense, we were careful to do our research before we made this decision. We looked at 8 or 9 different vendors before opting for Bentley. The key for us, is that Bentley offers a solution that is comprehensive,

does not require customization and is not dependent on any third-party components."

And MonCre is already seeing several benefits from having access to more accurate, real-time data. It is now easier to do scenario planning and to model future demand and to provide more accurate data to management and to the board of trustees.

"All in all, we have made a positive step forward in deploying a system that makes us more nimble, more knowledgeable and more effective," says Thomas Tapley, "and we will continue to build on these initial successes until all of our network assets are documented, viewed and manipulated in a single environment."



Tom Ellis of MonCre Telephone Cooperative is using Bentley Fiber tools to splice telephone SONET fiber rings.