



All Aboard for Savings!

How the GameChanger Cable helped Convergent Technologies save time, money and space for Metrolink.



Problem: Challenging Distances, Limited Space to Connect Security Cameras Across Train Platforms

The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA, also known as Metrolink) was looking to install security cameras throughout their Southern California footprint. This large-scale project had many factors to consider including platform sizes, limited space for new hardware and future maintenance requirements. Installing new cabling and cameras in operating train stations also means Converjint had to complete the work quickly and discretely as to not disturb Metrolink train schedules.

It was quickly determined that the platforms and locations of the desired IP cameras would exceed the standard UTP cable 100-meter length required to provide a signal from the network switches to the cameras. Previously that would have meant installing network extenders in weather-proof enclosures throughout the facilities. This would create more complexity and have its own set of challenges, such as potential reliability issues, more parts to service, and additional costs.

With these challenges considered, Converjint needed to provide Metrolink a cost-effective solution that could be installed quickly – it was time for a game changer.

Organization:

Southern California Regional Rail Authority (also known as Metrolink)

Location:

Southern California, USA

Industry segment:

Transportation

Application:

Video Surveillance

Installation Partner:

Converjint Technologies



“We optimized this cable for long distance transmission and made a few design changes compared to our standard Cat 6:

- First, it's a 22 AWG conductor, so there's 20% more copper vs. Cat 6.
- Second, we twist the conductors differently than our standard Cat 6.
- Third, we've used some specialty materials that improve overall performance.”

-David Coleman
VP, Paige DataCom Solutions



Solution: A One-Of-A-Kind Cable

This project called for a cabling solution that would exceed the standard distance limitations for category cable as well as avoid the requirement to install additional hardware on the train platforms. When WESCO Senior Account Representative Sean Bryant first discussed the project with Convergent he immediately knew what to do, “With cable run length being an issue, I reached for the GameChanger OSP Cable.”

Convergent proposed the GameChanger Cable™ to Metrolink, and within a few days a test was setup on a small section of the project. “WESCO introduced us to GameChanger Cable as a possible solution to Metrolink’s need, and it worked out great for all parties,” said Convergent Senior Account Executive Fabian Escalante. “After seeing it work in the field, we were all pretty excited.”

Developed by Paige DataCom, GameChanger Cable is the first and only cable evaluated and verified by UL to deliver 1Gb/s Ethernet and PoE+ over 200 meters. Because of this, GameChanger cabling easily solved the challenges related to the distance between the platforms.

Result: A Solution More Powerful Than a Locomotive

The results of the initial test section spoke for themselves and Metrolink, impressed with the GameChanger Cable solution, decided to add it to the rest of their specifications. Now, over 30 projects have include this solution. GameChanger Cable is now their cable system of choice and has performed flawlessly.

“One of the biggest benefits we’ve found is the flexibility of the GameChanger Cable over fiber or wireless options. You don’t have to worry about an added power element or intermediary devices like patch panels or jumper cables.”

Project Manager, Metrolink



Because GameChanger Cable does not require intermediary equipment such as patch panels, jumper cables and switches to extend beyond the 100-meter industry standard run length from switch to camera, there were immediate cost savings over copper, fiber optic or wireless cabling options. In the end, the GameChanger Cable provided Metrolink with approximately 30% in cost savings.



In addition to the cost savings, there is minimal maintenance required for the systems. Since there is no additional equipment needed and it consists of just one cable, it can easily be pulled out or cut in the middle when repairs are necessary, making it much easier to maintain than a standard Cat 6 cable. “I’ve been able to install additional cameras at the same location that I wasn’t able to previously due to cost constraints,” said the Metrolink Project Manager.

“Convergint is always looking at applying the newest technology where it can solve real-life issues. By breaking away from the way it’s always been done and presenting the customer with something new, we really delivered a best-in-class solution. I guess that’s why it’s called the GameChanger Cable.”

-Fabian Escalante
Senior Account Executive, Convergint

A Special Thanks to our
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METROLINK.



GameChanger Part Numbers:

258310333 - Riser, Yellow w/ Black Stripe
258300336 - Plenum, Blue w/ White Stripe
258300310 - Plenum, White
258330804 - OSP, Black
258340804 - OSP Shielded, Black

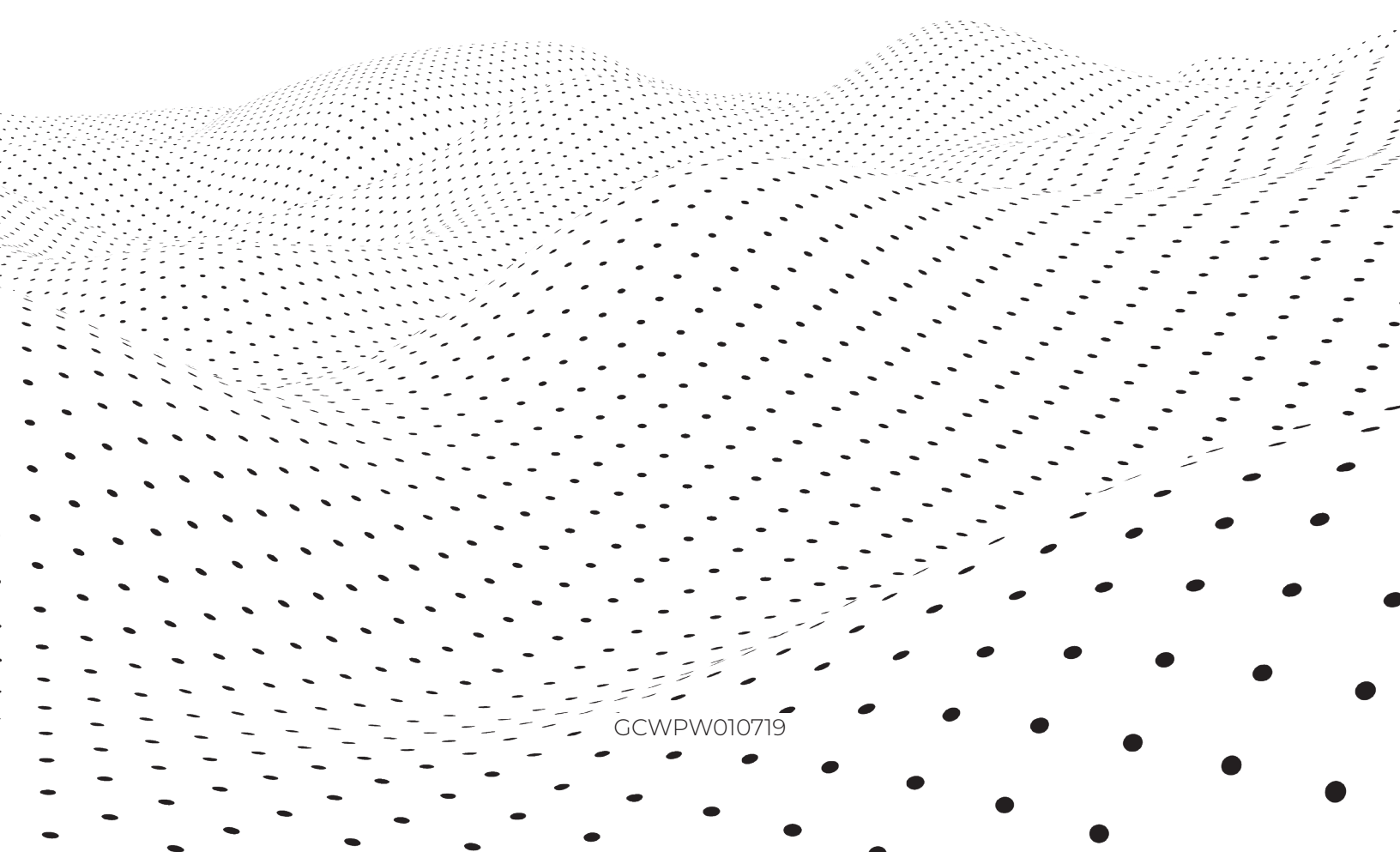
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