

COMMUNITY CENTER FUTUREPROOFS BUILDING OPS WITH T1L TECH

A popular sports and wellness complex needed a smart and affordable way to integrate systems, improve building performance and create great experiences for clients. New T1L Ethernet technology meets current and future requirements without breaking the bank.

“With the T1L solution, the customer could reuse the existing network. Actual replacement costs for new wiring would have been astronomical as most of the existing network cabling was run through the concrete slab in core flex. Upgrade time was significantly reduced because no new networks needed to be installed, and disruptions were practically nonexistent.”

Justin Bisson
Automation Systems Supervisor
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Honeywell

convergint

A leading community sports and wellness centre sought a smart, affordable way to integrate systems, improve building performance, and enhance experiences for members. By adopting next-generation T1L Ethernet technology, the facility now meets both current and future needs efficiently and cost-effectively.

The centre serves as a community hub for more than 50,000 residents — a place to swim, skate, train, and connect. It is also a designated public cooling centre during extreme heat, providing a safe, climate-controlled space for residents.

Originally built in 1978 and expanded in 2012, the 335,000-square-foot facility remains the largest recreation complex in the region, featuring four NHL-sized ice pads, a modern aquatics centre, gymnasium, fitness studios, an indoor track, and therapy clinics.

Convergent, a global building systems integrator, provides comprehensive automation services for the centre. In 2023, Convergent advised that the existing Building Automation System (BAS) was nearing end of life and required replacement to maintain reliability.

CHALLENGE

- Replace the aging BAS with an advanced, IP-based solution managing HVAC, lighting, and other systems.
- Reuse existing unshielded 18AWG stranded wire to avoid costly recabling.
- Optimize energy performance through better use of building data.
- Address cybersecurity vulnerabilities discovered during the upgrade.
- Improve usability and transparency for the facilities team.
- Minimize disruption to staff, visitors and events.
- Deliver results within a limited budget.

SOLUTION

To avoid the cost and disruption of a full recabling project, Convergent proposed to the facilities team a T1L-based solution. By reusing existing twisted-pair cabling, they reduced expenses, downtime, and disruption.

Honeywell's Optimizer Advanced and unitary T1L controllers replaced outdated equipment, delivering a modern BACnet IP-based architecture that improved performance while retaining existing infrastructure.

T1L Ethernet supports cables up to 1,000 metres long and transmits data at speeds up to 10 Mbps, enabling future scalability. Because no new networks were required, upgrade time and disruption were minimized.

Competing options were estimated to cost nearly twice as much as the T1L approach.

According to the customer: "The time taken at the beginning of the process to understand the benefits of the T1L solution was very valuable. The Convergent staff was available throughout the implementation process to ensure a smooth and seamless experience. Even though the goal was to replace end-of-life equipment, we were also able to identify operational efficiencies, which we continue to pursue."

RESULTS

The upgraded BAS delivers faster data communication, improved reliability, and actionable insights for building performance. By leveraging T1L technology, the centre futureproofed its infrastructure, enhanced energy efficiency, and reduced lifecycle costs — all while maintaining uninterrupted access to a critical public facility.

Find out what your building can achieve with Honeywell Optimizer Unitary Controllers and T1L Ethernet.
[Optimizer Suite - Honeywell Building Management Systems.](#)

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