



IDF conference Paris – Installation & Support

The International Diabetes Foundation conference was held in central Paris within one of the world's largest conference centers and was attended by 22,000 delegates. Technique won the tender to supply the IT equipment for the major event from Sportsworld Martlet. They also successfully dealt with the outbreak of the Sobig-F virus on the eve of the conference.

It was a huge project and a team from Technique visited the conference centre prior to the installation to plan the layout of the IT equipment and perform risk assessment for the overall event, which ran from 22nd – 29th August 2003.



Technique installed a Microsoft Windows 2003 server farm with an events based software package, data was then migrated from the UK servers as an exact duplicate. This data facilitated delegates arriving and registering for the event in a fast and efficient manner.

The server farm was equipped with full fault tolerance and disaster recovery due to the amount and sensitive nature of the information being processed within the server farm. In conjunction with the server farm over fifty Desktop computers running Microsoft Windows XP French operating system and Microsoft Office XP French were supplied and installed at the conference for the delegates to use during registration.

Technique's team of engineers left for France in a fleet of vans and support vehicles. The vans contained all of the equipment. As some of the items had been preinstalled, freighting the equipment had been deemed too risky. If anything went missing or was damaged there was insufficient time to source and configure replacements.



It took just three days to implement the entire solution, which had been fully tested in time for the conference to begin. A team of Technique engineers remained on-site during the conference to provide support in the event of difficulties or failure – not that they were needed.

The conference was a great success, all delegates were successfully registered and Sportsworld Martlet has indicated that there will be more conferences in the future requiring IT and Technique will be a strong contender after the levels of professionalism they have demonstrated.

Sales Director of Technique, Mr John Prince was responsible for winning the tender and performing all of the account management throughout the installation. He said, "The tender logistics were definitely a new challenge for us, although we have won European business in the past we haven't ever had to take it to site in person! I'm now looking forward to getting my teeth into the next solution."



Mr Geoff Fraser, IT Director of Sportsworld Group Plc offered high praise indeed for the work carried out by Technique. He said, "The International Diabetes Federation is Sportsworld Martlet's biggest event and one which we have been working on for three years. <http://www.sportsworld-group.com>

"To have all our systems taken down by the Sobig-F virus two days before 22,000 people were due to register was a disaster of major proportions to us.

"So naturally, I cannot thank the team from Technique enough. In the days leading up to the conference the boys stayed on, working through the night and didn't leave the office until everything was running. When all systems came back on, the relief was immense. Technique must surely know what a good team it has, but sometimes it is easy to overlook the obvious - the professionalism and dedication shown by the Technique staff before and during the conference has been amazing."