COMMSCOPE®

VakifBank builds on CommScope's network infrastructure and intelligence

Customer
VakifBank

Country
Turkey

Challenges
- Growing financial institution needed to expand its IT capabilities with two data center builds
- It was also transitioning from mainframe to distributed architecture
- Automated infrastructure management (AIM) was critical

Solutions
- imVision® AIM solution
- Category 6A UTP copper cables, patch panels, cords
- Category 6A UTP MINO6A patch cords
- OM4 preterminated MPO trunk cable assemblies and MPO cassettes
- Ultra- and high-density fiber shelves
- Fiber-optic patch cords
- FiberGuide® cable raceways

Benefits
- Enabled a reliable, scalable structured cabling approach

- Ensured complete visibility and real-time monitoring of the physical layer
- Reduced manual tasks and errors related to moves/adds/changes
- Provided a trusted partner for future growth

As Turkey's fourth largest bank, VakifBank is a major player in the country's financial markets. The company employs nearly 17,000 people and owns subsidiaries in the leasing and factoring sectors. In addition to serving as a financial anchor within Turkey, VakifBank has grown outside the country with international

offices in New York and Bahrain, as well as VakifBank International AG branches in Vienna, Cologne and Frankfurt.

The bank's growth has been powered in part by a robust IT effort that now features a network of three data centers. The two primary facilities—one in Istanbul and the other in Ankara—provide the day-to-day compute and storage capabilities for the entire organization. A smaller facility, also in Istanbul, provides system backup and data transfer between the two larger data centers.

Each data center was designed and built by VakifBank's internal IT staff, led by Data Center Manager Osman Uzuner. Each facility serves a specific purpose, but all three are aligned with a single vision: to support VakifBank's operations and customers in the most agile and reliable way possible. CommScope has been part of that vision since the beginning.

IT growth fed by innovative infrastructure

Since the bank's founding in 1954, all IT compute and storage had been handled at the company's headquarters in Ankara. By 2012, that model had become unsustainable, and the IT staff started looking at building a dedicated data center. The team chose a 400-square-meter location in Istanbul. Using their experience in facility and network design, Uzuner and his staff began developing plans that called for 135 racks.

Moving from their headquarters to a dedicated space meant transitioning from a mainframe architecture to an open systems design—placing more emphasis on connectivity. So, after the

The imVision® AIM platform delivers a holistic view of the network connectivity in real time. Intelligent software, network controllers and accessories allow network managers to locate and identify equipment and ports and track all network changes. It also guards against unauthorized physical intrusion and automatically documents all changes.

team completed the initial design, it focused on finding the right cabling partner.

"Getting the cabling right was critical," according to Uzuner. "We knew we needed a structured cabling platform, but it had to be extremely flexible in its design capabilities," he added. Uzuner was also keenly aware of the need for an automated infrastructure management (AIM) solution to help monitor and inventory the physical layer.
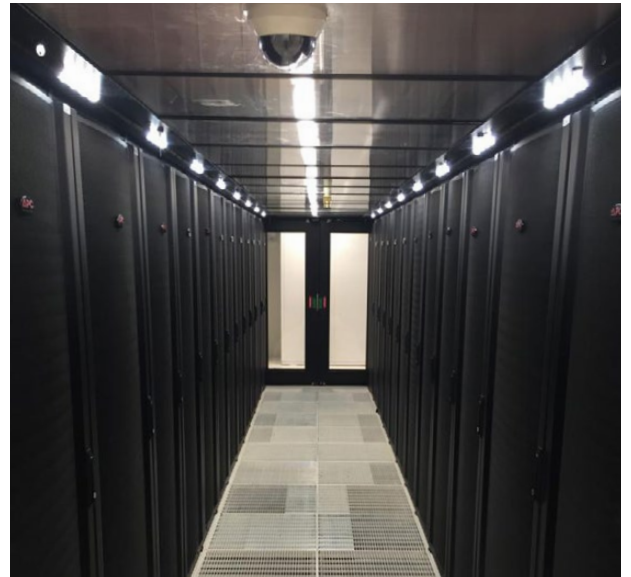

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Osman Uzuner
VakifBank Data Center Manager

After a thorough search process, VakifBank selected CommScope. The difference, according to Uzuner, was CommScope's imVision AIM solution, paired with its broad data center portfolio. "Everyone we looked at had some degree of infrastructure intelligence, but the quality and functionality of CommScope's platform was noticeably better, and the connectivity options it provides gave us far more flexibility in design," he explained.

In addition to the imVision platform, CommScope provided an end-to-end Category 6A UTP copper solution—cables, patch panels and patch cords; OM4 preterminated MPO trunk cable assemblies and MPO cassettes; ultra- and high-density fiber shelves and fiber-optic patch cords; and all cable raceways.

Extending the value

Just a few years after bringing the Istanbul data center online, VakifBank was looking for additional space. This time, they decided to rent space in Ankara. The facility is owned by Credit Registration Bureau (KBB), with whom Vakifbank has an existing relationship.

As with the Istanbul data center, Uzuner and his team handled the planning and design of the new 325-square-meter space. They began by evaluating their current IT portfolio to determine how much capacity would be needed. They settled on a design that called for 100 cabinets.

This time, there was no need to repeat the lengthy vendor selection process. Uzuner immediately contacted CommScope and began to work through the cabling and connectivity layout with them. The infrastructure solutions for the Ankara project were nearly identical to those used in Istanbul. The only exception was the inclusion of Category 6A UTP MINO6A patch cords, which were used within network racks and server rack links. And, of course, imVision was a big part of the overall design.

CommScope's global partner network also gave Uzuner access to local prequalified contractors who were experienced and certified in the CommScope solutions. CommScope engineers were also on hand for technical support and additional training to ensure all IT personnel understood and were comfortable with the technology.

Reaching a new level of network productivity

Today, business at VakifBank and productivity within its IT network are at all-time highs. According to Uzuner, the infrastructure platform and automated intelligence have significantly improved the efficiency and management capabilities in both the Istanbul and Ankara data centers.

"imVision enables us to create work orders according to demand and ensure the connectivity database is automatically updated anytime a change is made," he said.

Employees can see the location and status of every connection and port in their physical layer. Managing moves, adds and changes is

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Osman Uzuner

now much easier and less risky, and imVision's visibility and asset tracking help Uzuner's staff maintain the right inventory.
"By automating inventory management instead of using individual Excel worksheets, we've eliminated data entry errors and have centralized all information into a single pane of glass that's available to everyone," Uzuner added.

The power of a positive partnership

As the bank's influence, scope and footprint continue to increase, its growing IT network will expand as well. For Uzuner, having a trusted go-to infrastructure partner, like CommScope, who understands VakifBank's vision and business needs is one less thing he has to worry about.

"We believe in the importance of positive partnerships, and the cooperative relationship we enjoy with CommScope is worth a lot to us," he added.

CommScope Sales Enterprise Director Harun Cakin echoes the same sentiment. "CommScope is pleased to offer our expertise in high-performance connectivity and advanced infrastructure management. Now, VakifBank can quickly and easily manage and adapt to the moves, adds and changes in their data center operations and increase efficiency and reduce associated CapEx and OpEx."

CommScope pushes the boundaries of communications technology with game-changing ideas and ground-breaking discoveries that spark profound human achievement. We collaborate with our customers and partners to design, create and build the world's most advanced networks. It is our passion and commitment to identify the next opportunity and realize a better tomorrow. Discover more at commscope.com

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