



## Ascom ensures the mobility and security of EDF employees within their sites in demanding environments

*Thanks to new Ascom communication technologies, the EDF group is improving the safety of its employees in its hydraulic plant groups.*

In 2011, a long-standing relationship with the leading producer and supplier of electricity in France and worldwide, at a hydraulic power plant in Martinique. Management particularly wanted to improve the safety and mobility of teams at industrial sites and optimize technical alarm management.

**“Today in our ‘industrial sector’ activity, EDF acts as customer number 1 for Ascom France,”** said Ascom Sales Manager Eric Reynaud.

### **EDF, looking for a robust, sustainable and scalable communication solution**

In 2013, Ascom responded with its experts to a first call for tenders for mobility equipment for hydraulic and thermal activities, in France and overseas departments and territories, representing 80 sites for a total of 300 factories.



In addition to a robust, sustainable, innovative mobility solution compatible with the various existing cabling at our sites, it was also a technical challenge. **“We were looking for a solution that was easy to implement, with simple maintenance and above all compatibility with any type of PABX on the market. The objective was to improve the communication network with operations managers,”** said Jérôme Susini, Project Manager at the national digital technologies unit of the producer (EDF – DPNT – DTEAM – UNITEP).

Another advantage implementing the Ascom solution was its adaptability. **“In particular, we have a problem related to high humidity which can lead to component breakdowns. Ascom was able to quickly adapt its solution to this essential and specific constraint in our hydroelectric power stations. Thus, after a first conclusive testing phase on a site in eastern France, many industrial sites have equipped themselves with Ascom solutions,”** explained Susini.

#### **Ascom quickly adapts to demanding work environments for implementing safety solutions.**

In 2015 and 2017, several projects were launched to meet employee work constraints and guarantee their safety through the intelligent management of alarm reports, a system that has become obsolete at EDF.

Many employees are on the move or isolated: maintenance technicians, production control agents, etc. The Ascom DECT mobile device is associated with a software platform in a double objective: having a global view in real time of all critical flows

and communicating them to the right person at the right time, thus ensuring the safety of collaborators, machines and infrastructure linked to phenomena such as floods, fires, low water levels, and that of automata in connection with site production. The Ascom solution makes it possible to ensure the reporting of information in the form of alert messages in an automated and centralized manner, its redistribution and the traceability of events by providing an activity log and response and intervention time statistics.

At the same time, for its project located in the Nord Department, site of the first Combined Natural Gas Cycle (CCG) in service in France, Ascom responded to the specific needs of the Bouchain site, with the addition of the PTT (push-to-talk) function, enabling rapid triggering of “fleet calls” for broadcasting massive alerts as part of EDF's Internal Organization Plan (IOP).

Finally, Ascom has deployed an IP-DECT solution for EDF's nuclear power plant control rooms, by adapting its d81 terminal to meet the control room emission power level requirements.

#### **Upcoming projects.**

**“To date, around 1500 access points, 2500 terminals and 15 alarm servers have been deployed in our various factory groups. Operational teams are better supported and protected on a daily basis. Alarms and alerts are communicated in real time to the person in charge of interventions, which improves responsiveness and decision-making,”** concluded Susini.

Soon, in French Guiana, a new EDF site will be equipped with the Ascom mobility solution and alarm servers.

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