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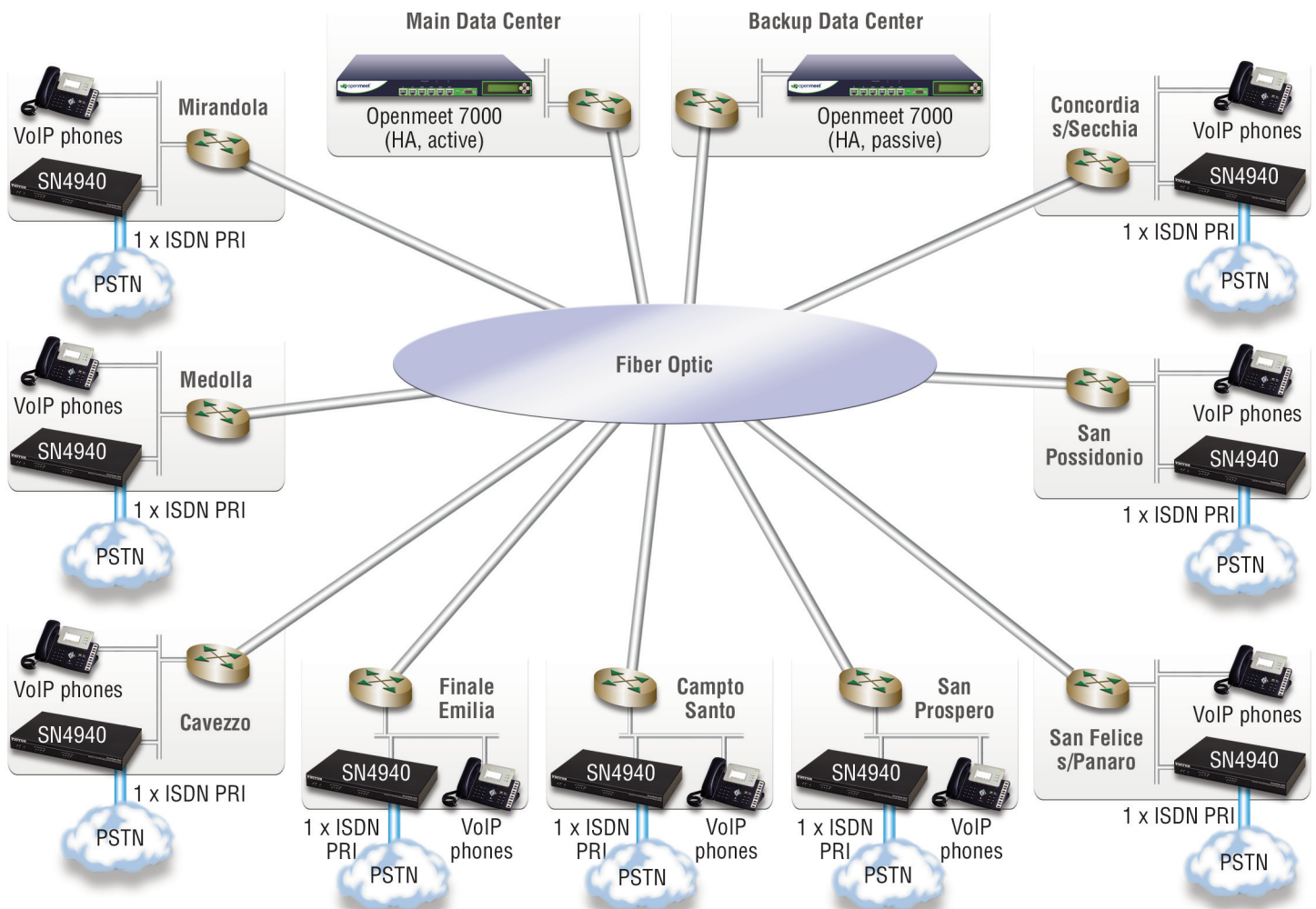
ATS and Patton Restore Public Voice Network Following Emilia Romagna Earthquake

On May 20 and 21, 2012 two major earthquakes struck Northern Italy damaging infrastructures and taking human lives. The epicenter was located among the towns of Mirandola, Cavezzo, Medolla and San Felice sul Panaro. Registering 5.9 on the Richter scale, the earthquakes wreaked havoc throughout lower Lombardia and Emilia regions.

Among the casualties stemming from the emergency, was the administrative telephone and computer network for the Union of Municipalities Modena Area North (UCMAN). To restore connectivity among the region's eleven public administrative offices, UCMAN employed a system integrator: ATS Group SpA.

With facilities located in Modena, Milan and Rome, ATS has served the Italian ICT market for some 15 years. In collaboration with UCMAN, ATS had previously devised a plan for replacing the administration's obsolete, multi-platform phone network with a unified, new-generation voice service.

The new VoIP-based network, which ATS designed, went live in October 2012, and supports 800 users. The solution includes a pair of Openmeet® 7000 systems, configured for high availability. Once the Union's computer network was restored to service, ATS installed an Openmeet 7000 in each of two geographically separated data centers. To VoIP-enable the PRI lines at each of the eleven branch offices, SmartNode media gateways from Patton were deployed.



The system design ensures business continuity in the event of disaster by leveraging a special feature in SmartNode VoIP Media Gateways: SIP registrar. To enable such system survivability, the Patton gateways are equipped with a special SIP Registrar software license. Under normal circumstances the VoIP phones register with the Openmeet® 7000 cluster. For emergency situations, the Patton Gateways provide SIP Registrar as backup.

In case of IP-network failure, SmartNode also provides a fallback connection to the PSTN for the registered VoIP phones, with such essential telephone services as call routing and call groups, as well as emergency telephony services for each location. By registering as SIP terminals with the local SmartNode, the VoIP phones can still make calls over the PSTN during lost connectivity between a branch office and the data center (which hosts the Openmeet platform).

According to **Stefano Carlini**, Business Development Manager for ATS Business Unit Network Collaboration Solutions:

“We chose the Patton SmartNode SN4940 for this difficult project in order to guarantee maximum reliability—which in today’s market professional VoIP systems absolutely must offer. Whenever we plan and deploy VoIP and UC&C solutions, the extensive range of high-quality SmartNode™ models is a key factor in our customers’ strategic decisions.

“The combination of Patton gateways with Openmeet® 7000 offers a VoIP system with



openmeet®

optimum value. The system combines seamless integration with existing IP data networks, excellent reliability and customer service. Offering an estimated ROI payback of 8 to 12 months, the solution is more cost-effective than other UC&C VoIP platforms. The system also offers substantial savings in total cost of ownership by significantly reducing maintenance expenses. That fiscal advantage is especially important for this project since it is funded with public money.

“I would like to add that, as a resident of Mirandola I have personally experienced the events of the earthquake and its conse-

quences. I was very proud to be working with the engineer Mirko Franciosi, IT Manager UCMAN, on the realization of this important project. It is rewarding to know that we contributed the restoration of our territory.”

Michel Balabio, Patton’s Vice President of Sales for Western Europe, also offered his thoughts about the project:

“It is truly gratifying for us to know that the Patton Smartnode™ products have been chosen for such a project to support the areas affected by the earthquake of 2012 in Emilia.

“In the wake of such huge seismic events in our region, the public administration of the Common Area Modena Nord had to deal with a serious emergency situation that left many problems. The decision to replace existing telephone systems was accelerated because of the earthquake, which caused severe structural damage to all the traditional telephone networks. By adopting the Patton and Openmeet®7000-solution, which ATS SpA proposed, UCMAN was able to improve services while reducing implementation and maintenance costs. Now the public offices are interconnected with a new-generation unified communications system.

“In such a challenging situation, the recovery plan for reestablishing communication services has been of primary importance

to guarantee people and local business the best support. Because of its social aspect—and the delicacy of the scenario

in which our products are implemented—this project represents one of Patton’s most rewarding projects for 2012.

“We especially want to thank thank ATS SpA—who has always been one of our most active VoIP technology partners in Italy—for their professionalism and the competence with which they submitted and carried out this project. To them and to the engineer Mirko Franciosi, IT Manager of UCMAN, we extend our earnest thanks—with sincere hope that the hardships experienced by the local population will soon be fully resolved.”

About the Union of Municipalities Modenesi North Area

The EU Common Area Modena Nord (www.comunimodenesiareanord.it) was founded on November 21, 2003 with the signing of the Memorandum by the Mayors of the nine participating municipalities.

The total population of the Union, in January 1, 2009, was 86,121 inhabitants distributed as follows:

Municipality	Population
Camposanto	3,210
Cavezzo	7,231
Concordia	8,992
Finale Emilia	15,861
Medolla	6,248
Mirandola	24,163
San Felice sul Panaro	10,923
San Possidonio	3,841
San Prospero	5,652
Total	86,121

The Union of Municipalities is a Local Authority with statutory autonomy within the principles established by the Constitution and the national and regional Community rules. Its territory encompasses the several municipalities that comprise it.

The Statute lays down the basic rules of the organization with the many activities functions and services performed by the participating municipalities.

Headquarters

The headquarters of the Union is Medolla in Piazza Garibaldi, **1 tax Code:** 91019940369 • **P. VAT:** 02900760360 • **phone:** 0535.53811 • **fax:** 0535.53809 • **E-mail:** unione@unioneareanord.mo.it

Socio-Demographic Data	
Population	86,121 inhabitants
Area	462 Km ²
Density (ab/sq km)	179

The Nine Municipalities (January 1, 2009)

Camposanto		Finale Emilia	
Population	3,210	Population	15,861
Area	23 sq km	Area	104 sq km
Main Industry	Paper	Main Industry	Ceramics

Concordia s/S		Cavezzo	
Population	8,992	Population	7,231
Area	41 sq km	Area	27 sq km
Main Industry	Clothing	Main Industry	Cabinet

Mirandola		Medolla	
Population	24,163	Population	6,248
Area	137 sq km	Area	27 sq km
Main Industries	Productive Biomedical	Main Industries	Biomedical Agroalim.re

San Prospero s/S		San Felice s/P	
Population	5,652	Population	10,923
Area	23 sq km	Area	51 sq km
Main Industry	Agroalim.re	Main Industry	Agroalim.re

San Possidonio	
Population	3,841
Area	17 sq km
Main Industries	Textiles Clothing

About ATS Group Spa



Stefano Carlini, Business Development Manager

The **ATS Group** was founded in 1997 and consists of companies operating in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) market. ATS is structured as a network of competence centers. Each center acts as a single point of contact that can rapidly and effectively solve the unique problems facing each individual customer. With main offices located in Modena, Milan and Rome, and branches in the

United States and North Africa, the group provides system design, system integration, consulting and training in such fields as Networking and Network Security, Unified Communication, Digital Media, Network Testing and Management.

Since 1997, the ATS Group has generated steadily increasing business with Italian and foreign customers in such market sectors as telecommunications, IT and media, industry and finance, and public administration (at central and local levels). Total sales for 2011 reached 30 M €.



About Patton

Patton is all about connections. It is our joy and mission to connect real-world customer challenges with high-quality, right-priced solutions—complemented by unrivaled customer service and technical support. Incorporated 1984, Patton has built everything from micro-sized widgets that connect “this-with-that,” to carrier-grade Telecom gear that connects subscribers to service providers. Patton’s specialty is interconnecting legacy TDM and serial systems with new-generation IP-based voice, data, and multi-media technologies.

Headquartered in Gaithersburg, MD, USA, Patton equipment—including VoIP, Ethernet extension, and wireless router technologies—is up-and-running in carrier, enterprise and industrial networks worldwide. Patton works in connection with a growing network of technology, business, and sales-channel partners. To connect with local-market requirements, Patton operates training and support centers in Switzerland, Hungary, Lebanon, India, Vietnam, and the USA.

Patton... Let's Connect!

Michel Balabio, VP Sales Western Europe

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