



The BGFIBank Group completely upgrades its WAN architecture

Monaco-Libreville, 14th march 2018

The world of Financial Services has changed significantly over the last few years: developments in customer usage, the establishment of Digital Banking, increased regulations, geographical expansion and competition from new companies... In this ever-changing environment where businesses need to stand out, data management and operation are key factors which require strategic choices, particularly when offering services in remote zones.

To meet these challenges, the BGFIBank Group decided it was necessary to upgrade their WAN infrastructure.

The new WAN infrastructure now allows optimal management of the available bandwidth, making it easier to use management tools and to guarantee an adequate level of security to meet these new requirements.

The Wan infrastructure redesign was therefore launched in order to meet the 3 main issues which have arisen from these changes :

- Improving productivity - upgrade network performances through bandwidth optimisation ;
- Simplifying critical application management by pooling management and centralising the IT system ;
- Securing connectivity solutions using redundant infrastructures with tailor-made and efficient automatic backup systems.

To successfully undertake and complete this redesign, the BGFIBank Group decided to entrust the design, implementation and maintenance of this new WAN architecture to its partner SONEMA.

SONEMA has been working on both international and domestic connectivity projects with the BGFIBank Group for over 15 years.

Following a research and testing phase plus an analysis of the local components and requirements, SONEMA established the implementation of a Hybrid solution (terrestrial and satellite).

Initially, the aim was to centralise the architecture on the two (2) CEMAC and UEMOA zones where the BGFIBank datacenters are hosted. SONEMA also implemented a dedicated satellite infrastructure using only one satellite on the Libreville site in Gabon and the Abidjan site in the Ivory Coast.

The installation of this new WAN architecture was accompanied by the activation of a dynamic satellite bandwidth management feature called 'Vipersat', an automated bandwidth system which automatically allocates a pool of bandwidth to agencies providing on-demand bandwidth services as required.

Following this phase, the two UEMOA and CEMAC zones have optimised satellite connectivity with automated bandwidth allocation and sharing for the entire perimeter, allowing automated switching between datacenters and subsidiaries.

« This infrastructure will allow us to pool our services and our business applications with secure data replication. Once the project is finished, the BGFIBank Group will have a Next Generation network, capable of meeting all the new challenges for our development. This secure and scalable infrastructure will enable our staff to be more efficient and available to our customers, allowing us to

maintain our position as one of the leading banks in Africa. » stated Henri Claude OYIMA, CEO of the BGFIBank Group.

Catherine DELOM, Managing Director of Sonema added: « We are very proud to have worked with the BGFI Group since 2002, and we are delighted to support them once again with this very important project. The issues facing our customers are evolving, they need to focus on the relationships with their own customers whose needs are becoming increasingly complex. We need to prepare for these changes and be capable of developing services to meet their requirements efficiently. The BGFIGroup have confidence in our technical knowledge and expertise in building hybrid connectivity networks, and we look forward to delivering an optimal experience to live up to the trust that BGFIGroup's management has placed in us for more than 15 years. »

ABOUT SONEMA

In a digital environment which is continuously evolving, data control and exploitation are and will remain an integral part of competitiveness and distinctiveness of companies. It has become essential to set up a strategy to secure flows and protect data.

By operating and managing scalable, bespoke telecommunications solutions, SONEMA supports its customers in their projects every day. With commitment in mind, and with a strong understanding of what is at stake, we want to be a proactive partner for our customers by allowing them to concentrate on the heart of their profession and on their business innovation.

Faithful to our values of respect, transparence and responsibility, we place trust at the heart of the relation with our customers.

SONEMA, also means:

- 70 colleagues who are committed to our customers, every day
- 670 customer installations in 40 countries
- 40 certified partners all over the African continent

More information: www.sonema.com - Press contact: communication@sonema.com

ABOUT BGFIBANK GROUP

The BGFIBank Group is a multibusiness International Financial Group that combines financial strength, sustainable growth strategy and risk management, with the ambition of being the reference bank in its markets in terms of Quality of service. Faithful to its values of work, integrity, transparency, responsibility and team spirit, the group places the quality of service at the heart of its profession. It accompanies its individual, corporate and institutional clients in a sustainable relationship with a wide range of products and services.

The BGFIBank group continually enriches its offer by relying in particular on the expertise of its partners, thus opening up new areas. 1938 collaborators present in eleven countries accompany the daily diversified clientele in Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Ivory Coast, France, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Senegal. The Group's teams offer advice and customer services around the four main trades, the commercial bank, the investment bank, the specialized financial services and the insurance. The Group's teams offer advice and customer services around the four main trades, the commercial bank, the investment bank, the specialized financial services and the insurance.

*The BGFIBank Group is also ... *1st financial Group in CEMAC * Capital 100% private *1 938 collaborators of 20 different nationalities in the 11 countries of implementation *Leader in its home market *A multi-traded financial portal with 19 strong brands *Over 80 agencies Banking *An ISO 9001 version 2008 Certification in the subsidiaries of Gabon since 2005 and Congo since 2010.*

More information: www.groupebgfibank.com