US SIGNAL

Cultivating a partnership enabling today's modern farmer

CHS Inc.

Challenges

With more than six dozen operations in 16 states and Canada, with more than 500 locations serving more than 75,000 producer-owners and other customers, CHS has grown way beyond its humble beginning in 1929 to a modern farmer-owned cooperative working to help America's farmers be more successful. But with this success comes tremendous responsibility that requires reliable technology that will not fail.

Like many large organizations with a long history of service, CHS was struggling with an aging on- premises network environment, and it was time to look at additional options that would guarantee them the access to their applications and data their business demands.

When CHS realized their current primary, on-premises data center was not sufficient to meet the increasing needs of the business, they started shopping around.

CHS Inc. is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives across the United States. Diversified in energy, grains and foods, they're committed to helping their customers, farmer-owners and other stakeholders grow their businesses through their domestic and global operations.

Highlights

Challenges
- Find flexible, scalable and secure colocation.
- Partner with a data center that is local, yet has enterprise capabilities
- Need to keep pace with advancing technology whileaddressing technology debt

Solution

- Migrated to US Signal's Tier III data center.
- Rapid SAP and hardware deployment within deadlines.
- Leveraged US Signal's hybrid IT services for scalability.
- Proactive, flexible support for ongoing needs.

"Data centers are focal to our business, We needed a well-established colocation company that was conveniently located in the metro area, but far enough away to mitigate risk."

Jeff Gresenz,
CHS Inc. IT Operations Manager.

Solution

The answer to CHS became clear when they toured US Signal's Tier III data center in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Located in the Golden Triangle Business Park in a Minneapolis suburb, this data center set the standard for Minnesota-based data centers when it was built in 2010. The now Tier III design certified, 50,000-foot facility features fully redundant data and power connections, along with on- site backup generators and carrier-neutral connectivity. Additionally, the data center features 24/7 security, biometric access scanners, real-time tracking of staff and visitors and more than 50 HD closed-circuit cameras for monitoring.

CHS decided this was the location to house much of their critical data. They started with their SAP environment, and then expanded with additional hardware colocated in the data center. The second move of their colocated hardware had to be completed in a very short timeframe due to year-end deadlines, and US Signal rose to the challenge. Gresenz continues, "In the very short timeframe we had to implement our second colocation phase, US Signal was incredibly helpful. They did a fantastic job keeping us informed, so we didn't have to have one of our incredibly busy IT resources on site while hardware was arriving, and they enabled us to get it set up in a very short manner of time."

In addition, Gresenz states, "As the CHS board of directors has been in town, we have at times brought them to the US Signal data center for tours, often on short notice, and the US Signal team has been incredibly accommodating and welcoming, eagerly showing them around the facility."

In addition to colocation, US Signal offers a myriad of hybrid IT services that complement any IT strategy an organization may set, which was a key differentiator when CHS chose US Signal. "Flexibility was important in our choice," continues Gresenz. "If we need additional services down the road, we already have a partner that can deliver in US Signal."

Digital Infrastructure Solutions Built for Your Business

US Signal, established in 2001, is a premier national digital infrastructure company that operates a fully owned fiber network to deliver a wide range of advanced digital solutions. Our offerings include robust cloud services, secure colocation facilities, high-performance connectivity, comprehensive hardware resale, and managed IT services, empowering businesses to enhance their operational efficiency through tailored network, data center, data protection, and cybersecurity solutions.