

Press information
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REDSTONE ANSWERS NATIONAL HOUSING FEDERATION CALL FOR LOW COSTS

As part of a three-year contract to review, upgrade and manage a nationwide voice and data network for the National Housing Federation, UK voice and data specialist Redstone Communications has installed an IP Telephony system to help keep internal costs to a minimum, utilising the latest in convergence technology.

The National Housing Federation provides around two million affordable homes for nearly four million people and works in conjunction with over 1,400 independent, not-for-profit housing associations in England. Following a decision to relocate the Federation's headquarters to Holborn in the City of London and a subsequent evaluation of all services, Redstone was selected to provide the organisation's IT and telecommunications infrastructure.

Redstone has installed a fully integrated communications framework to allow seamless communication between the Federation and its regional offices. This includes an IP Telephony solution for 180 extensions capable of expanding to 2000 extensions to support regional offices, remote workers and future growth. The solution also includes dual servers for system resilience, voicemail for all users, wireless connectivity and UPS back-up.

Rob Green, head of ICT at the National Housing Federation said, "Communication is fundamental to the success of the National Housing Federation and the partnerships we forge with key agencies, including government offices and regional development agencies. Taking stock of how services were being delivered made us realise we needed to replace disparate systems with a modern, stable network that could provide immediate return on investment."

"Redstone proposed a cost-effective solution that encompassed all our requirements. Our new system is easy to manage, scaleable and takes into account the varied needs of our regional offices and employees, be they fixed location, home or mobile workers. As well as getting immediate value from IP Telephony, we now have the capacity to bring new IT and building management services online, on demand, including IP CCTV and access control. Our new HQ is a showcase for all National Housing Federation members who want advice and demonstrations of future technologies that will speed processes and have a positive impact on the service for the housing association customers across England."

Rob Bruce, product development director at Redstone Communications said, “Redstone works with many housing organisations including St Pancras & Humanist, Poplar Harca and Acton Housing Association. We have a good understanding of the housing sector’s communications needs and are seeing an increasing demand for solutions such as IP Telephony that not only enable effective communication between offices and remote workers, but can also dramatically reduce overheads.”

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About Redstone

Notes to editors: Redstone Communications

Redstone Communications Ltd delivers a complete range of specialist voice, data and smart building communications services and networking solutions. As a multi-tier ISP and network operator holding a telecom licence, the company has 320 staff in eight UK offices and turnover of over £60m (2004). As an end-to-end provider, Redstone can manage the lifecycle of any solution from consultancy to delivery and managed services, backed up by excellent customer care. It has accreditations from Cisco and Avaya as a Gold Partner and strategic partnerships with vendors including BT Wholesale and Siemens. Working across all market sectors, Redstone has particular expertise in education, healthcare, local government, property and retail. Redstone is Cisco Systems UK Mobility Partner of the Year and won the 2003 Channel Network Award for Innovation for developing the retail network infrastructure at Bullring Birmingham. **For more information see:** www.redstone.co.uk

About The National Housing Federation

The National Housing Federation is the voice of affordable housing, representing 1400 not for profit housing association in England.