

ATIS Equipment for German Air Traffic

ATIS supplies state-of-the-art recording solution for documenting security-related voice communications in German air traffic



The Customer

DFS is responsible for air traffic control in Germany. It is a company organised under private law and 100% owned by the Federal Republic of Germany. Founded in 1993, DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH is the successor to the Federal Administration of Air Navigation Services, a government authority which had existed for 39 years. To do this, the German Bundestag had to change the German Constitution and the German Aviation Act. Since January 1993, DFS has been controlling air traffic in Germany.

The company's Headquarters are located in Langen, near Frankfurt. Throughout Germany DFS is represented at 16 international airports and at nine regional airports by its subsidiary The Tower Company.

The Challenge

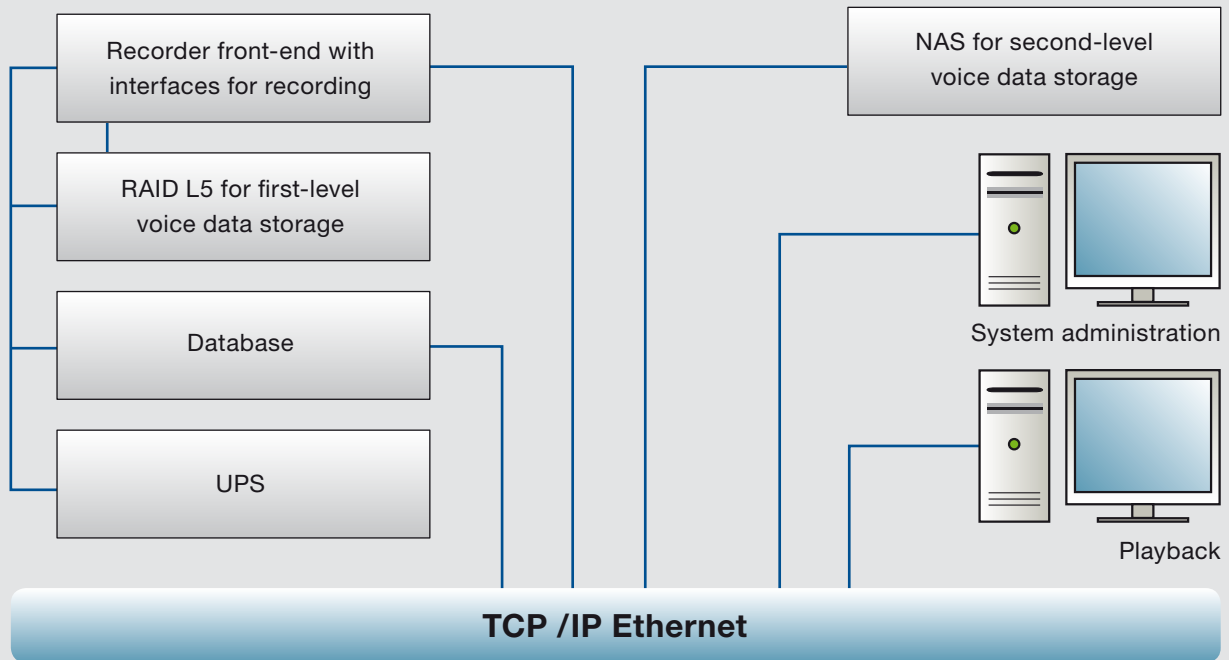
In the summer of 2002, DFS issued a two-stage call for tenders throughout Europe with prequalification for the procurement of second-generation digital voice documentation systems.

The following major requirements were specified for the systems to be procured:

- Secure, uninterrupted voice documentation around the clock
- Standard components using state-of-the-art technology
- Automated voice data archiving
- Tamper-proof voice documentation provided over analogue and digital interfaces
- Direct access to calls recorded over the previous 35 days regardless of current recording activity
- Access to analyses via LAN and WAN
- Simultaneous voice playback for up to 5 freely selectable channels
- Forwarding of system messages to a central management platform
- Recording capacity for up to 128 channels at tower sites
- Recording capacity for up to 1,500 channels at central sites



The System Concept



The ATIS Solution

ATIS developed a solution tailored to DFS' requirements based on existing digital recording systems. This involved the use of high-availability RAID 5 systems and a central database for storing the voice data. All individual recorder front-ends were equipped with analogue, ISDN and PCM interfaces in accordance with the requirements for the different sites. The quoted services also included the installation, commissioning and acceptance of the systems as well as the training of administrators and analysts.

In September 2002, ATIS was awarded the contract to supply 3 tower systems (Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Erfurt), a central system (Bremen) and a voice recording system for DFS' Aeronautical Information Service Centre (AIS-C). At the beginning of 2003, the systems were officially accepted and orders were placed for additional ones. In the meantime, all of DFS' 4 central sites and 16 international airports throughout Germany have been equipped with ATIS voice recording systems.