

SUCCESS STORY

Playing a part in Ireland's fibre revolution

“Our original approach (Survey, Design & Build) often required multiple design revisions. It was hard to see us scaling up to 100,000 homes per year with that kind of constraint, With Indigo it's just one revision. We get there much quicker than before.”



PROJECT BACKGROUND

SIRO, a joint venture of ESB and Vodafone, was established in 2015 as a new national “Fibre To The Building” (FTTB) communications network in response to the poor infrastructure that existed in regional Ireland. ESB was already running fibre optic cable over its transmission network for internal operations and had a telecoms division that supplied high capacity connectivity to major centres. After trials and cost modelling, ESB had sought a partner with retail telecom expertise and chose Vodafone to be its joint venture partner.

The SIRO plan, a €500m investment, aims to connect c.450,000 homes and businesses in Ireland across 50 regional towns with a high speed FTTB, gigabit network which is open to all retailers on an open access basis.

OUR SOLUTION

ESB has a record of every town's distribution network, which provides the starting point for each rollout. Networks built in the last 25 years are well documented in terms of overhead and underground infrastructure, but older records (which can date back to when ESB was founded in 1927) can be less detailed. Armed with a High Level Design (HLD) of varying details, 4site embarked on a three-step survey and design process.

Given the scale of the engineering challenge and the demanding roll out timetable, SIRO initially tendered for contract partners to survey, design and build the networks. The plan was to have one-stop providers whose primary proficiency was in electrical networks and meeting rigorous health and safety requirements. They could subcontract for expertise in fibre optic design as required.

MAXIMISING VALUE

Indigo has played a key role in the rollout of a pioneering FTTP project. A rich mix of inhouse skills has been instrumental for making it happen, from project managers, engineers and site surveyors to specialists in fibre optics and GIS. Skills are one thing but it's the Indigo ethos that has been key to success, according to Project Manager William Tobin.



We design to innovate, build to evolve, and support to enhance the performance of data centres, fibre, network services, and wireless/5G, realising and maximising a future of meaningful connection.