



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Longreach Airport is the gateway to Outback Central Queensland in Australia. Owned and operated by Queensland Airports Ltd., the airport is located off the Lansborough Highway and services the central west region covering Longreach, Winton and Barcaldine townships.

www.longreachairport.com.au

Case Summary

Customer Name: Longreach Airport

Vertical: Transport - Airport

Location: Australia

Vertiv Solutions:

- SmartCabinet™



Background

Located 700 kilometres from the coast, Longreach is known as the 'Heart' of Queensland. The airport serves more than 3,000 passengers every month and is a hub for travellers seeking the outback experience in areas such as Mount Isa and Barkly. It is one of the oldest airports in Australia and was one of the founding centres for Qantas before being acquired by Queensland Airports in 2012.

Faced with extreme weather, one of the challenges the airport faced was bugs. Bugs, including crickets and grasshoppers, are common in the region, with the worst locust plague Longreach had experienced in 30 years occurring in 2010. These bugs can creep into IT systems and cause them to crash, forcing the airport to sweep them out every two months.

The area also suffers from extreme temperatures that can see highs of more than 45 degrees and lows below zero, putting pressure on IT systems and previously forcing the Airport to constantly replace its key IT infrastructure and restart systems daily. Outages have the potential to delay flights and require regular early starts for the airport's staff.

The Solution

Vertiv, assisted by local partner Power Quality Consultants, deployed its SmartCabinet, an enclosed, mobile data centre with remote central monitoring, to run systems including CCTV, access control and connections to corporate systems across the airport group. This has stopped a number of issues that had long been a burden on the airport.

The enclosed design of the SmartCabinet made it secure against external elements such as bugs and insects, preventing breakdowns that could hamper airport operations. Moreover, the technology in the solution, including its built-in cooling system, protects against extreme heat. Because of its small footprint, the SmartCabinet can be easily installed and deployed in just days.



Longreach Airport chief operating officer Kevin Gill said the Vertiv SmartCabinet had answered some of the toughest questions the environment asks of the regional airport team.

“Our systems are now operating well, even during the summer’s most extreme temperatures,” he said.

“As a small regional airport, the airport team is small in size, but procedures around check-in, security, departure, baggage, and everything else, are the same as in larger airports. It is vital technology doesn’t get in the way and instead enables staff and makes them more effective and mobile,” said Gill.

The Outcome

With the airport free from its IT challenges, it has increased its focus on IoT, opening its data to universities and industry to trial initiatives in areas such as video analytics, and then sharing results with the local community. Queensland Airports is also looking at how it can improve energy monitoring across the region’s ports and use solar power and other initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint.

“Longreach faces a range of typical airport challenges as well as unique ones not encountered by the world’s largest airports,” said Robert Linsdell, managing director A/NZ, Vertiv. “This was well illustrated by a curious emu who kept a close eye throughout the instalment.



“The airport is putting the right infrastructure in place to ensure its IoT and smart city initiatives work and bring benefits not just to passengers and staff, but the wider Longreach community. The model of more robust IT infrastructure coupled with remote central monitoring could bring similar benefits to other regional airports and transport hubs, which often face challenges around climate and sparse technical staff.”



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