

smarptoptics

Case study Department of Immigration and Border Protection

# Australia protects borders – and network integrity – with M-Series

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— Grant Thomas, Network Operations & Assurance, Department of Immigration and Border Protection

## TECHNOLOGY ON THE MOVE

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s mission is to protect Australia’s border and manage the movement of people and goods across it. They are responsible for immigration and customs border policy.

They manage the migration program, the humanitarian program, Australian citizenship, trade and customs, offshore maritime security and revenue collection. Their operational enforcement arm, the Australian Border Force, is responsible for investigations, compliance and immigration detention operations offshore and onshore, across air and seaports and land and maritime domains.

## FORGOING FIBER

Several years ago, the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection outsourced the operation and management of their secure gateway. Recently, they decided to move to a dual-site active/active gateway, which brought the technology back in-house. This required them to establish high-speed connections between data centers located within the head office Canberra region.

But there was one major problem: Acquiring the fiber would take too long—up to six months. The Department’s mission to ensure secure passage through the country couldn’t wait for its technology infrastructure to play catch-up. And the IT department had only six weeks to allocate budgets for upgrading their systems before the fiscal year ran out.

Grant Thomas, from the Department’s ICT Infrastructure Operations Branch, scoured the market for a solution that would bridge the gaps between data centers. “We called in several leading players to come in and present to us,” recalls Thomas. “But they were all offering carrier communications-level solutions. They were too complex. And too costly.”

## SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY THROUGH M-SERIES

When Smartoptics presented their solution, Thomas knew it would provide the right level of speed and flexibility needed. The Smartoptics approach involved increasing the Department’s capacity through a Wave Division Multiplexing (WDM) solution to optimize its existing network infrastructure.



According to Thomas, “Smartoptics was fast. It was straightforward. Through Smartoptics M-Series, we were able to carry out a complete network refresh and load the new environment without any disruptions.”

Just as the Department’s job is to ensure a secure flow across its borders, Smartoptics ensures a smooth flow of data. Now their network capacity has increased significantly, with 12 channels all running simultaneously at 1-10 Gbps with an additional capacity readily available for future growth. The Department now has the capacity it needs to respond quickly to the changing data center needs.

The approach combines the simplicity of a passive multiplexer with the features of a more traditional transponder-based DWDM platform. Exactly what the Department required for its data center

connectivity. Thanks to Smartoptics, their data centers can synchronously connect all of their storage and data traffic together. And because of their embedded DWDM solution, it’s accomplished with minimal signal latency.

Traffic monitoring through a fully automated management system was also essential. Smartoptics’ SmartOS provides all the features necessary to handle the monitoring of the Department’s fiber network. The system automatically adjusts to the correct power levels and intuitive front panel LEDs guide the user through the installation process.

When it came to transitioning to M-Series, the process was seamless according to Thomas. “At the end of the day, your fiber management is simplified. And it costs less through Smartoptics. For us it was the obvious choice.”



**Australian Border Force**  
Network Operations & Assurance

## ABOUT SMARTOPTICS

Smartoptics offers optical transmission solutions making networks more powerful. Expanding bandwidth without the upfront investment or hassle of traditional WDM. Our products allow corporate data centers, governments, hosting solution providers and ISPs to build simple, straightforward and cost effective solutions to fulfill their ongoing and future network capacity needs. Headquartered in Oslo, Norway, Smartoptics is an international provider with thousands of installations all around the world. Our award-winning approach has helped companies from every industry sector stay ahead of expanding network demands.

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