



armonea

OVERVIEW

In the Belgian senior care industry, Armonea supplies a range of high quality service and care to over 6,500 residents. Looking to update their legacy WiFi, Armonea turned to Ruckus Wireless to provide unprecedented WiFi performance with their patented BeamFlex technology.

WHAT THEY NEEDED

- System wide solution for a consistent WiFi service
- Higher performance, higher capacity indoor/outdoor WiFi infrastructure
- Guests networking

WHAT THEY DID

- Deployed Ruckus ZoneFlex system using the R300 indoor access points, T300 802.11ac outdoor access points
- Centrally managed with the Ruckus Virtual SmartCell Gateway (vSCG)
- Delivered up to three times more bandwidth and up to eight times more coverage
- Installed a separate open Smart WiFi network for visitors and doctors that bring their own devices (BYOD)



Armonea gets smart about WiFi with Ruckus Wireless

LIFE IS GOOD WITH THE RUCKUS WIFI NETWORK

Armonea is committed to providing senior citizens with all the joy that life has to offer. This includes staying connected with family and friends. Providing a network with consistent WiFi service to their residents, employees, visitors, and doctors is a key aspect of their facilities.

Founded in 2008, after a merger of two Belgian family businesses, Armonea is a leader in the Belgian senior care industry. Armonea has over 4,200 employees, 67 nursing homes, and supplies a range of high quality services and care to over 6,500 residents.

“We take a professional approach to senior care founded on our core values. Life does not stop when you move to an Armonea facility. On the contrary; we want our residents to feel at home with us and hope they can still live life to its fullest. Quality of life is one of our top priorities and being able to stay in touch with family and friends plays an important role in this respect,” states Peter Lambrechts, the Chief Support Officer and member of the executive committee at Armonea.

THE CHALLENGES

Armonea’s legacy WiFi had been scattered throughout different areas of the facilities. This was a problem since it consisted of a number of unmanaged access points that were installed in the cafeterias and a few of the residents’ rooms at their request. Armonea needed a solution and decided to tackle the issues thoroughly.

“At any rate, these weren’t enterprise-class wireless devices, and certainly not a system wide solution for us,” says Lambrechts.

“On the one hand this was based on the request of the customers and our teams; on the other

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“The new WiFi network will also be used by our employees in terms of healthcare registration and voice over WiFi and by our healthcare partners such as doctors and pharmacists that come to our sites on working visits.”

Peter Lambrechts

Chief Support Officer, Member of the Executive Committee Armonea

hand it was based on our values and our strategy to invest in and focus on innovation,” explains Peter Lambrechts.

Myrtus, the first Top Dog reseller for Ruckus Wireless in Belgium, implemented the entire project for Armonea at an operational level including site surveys, cabling, installation, implementation, budget control, documentation, and training. They were also responsible for daily management. With the Ruckus Virtual SmartCell Gateway (vSCG), the entire system runs in the cloud, providing exceptional operational efficiency for Armonea.

“IT partner Myrtus played a crucial role in this and took care of everything,” explains a pleased Peter Lambrechts.

After evaluating five different competing systems which all seemed well matched on paper, live demonstrations placed Ruckus at the top.



ABOVE: Armonea is deploying Ruckus R300, 802.11ac access points across to support over 4,200 employees, 67 nursing homes, and supplies a range of high quality services and care to over 6,500 residents.

THE SOLUTION

Investing in the new WiFi network from Ruckus Wireless has given Armonea the wireless environment they needed. It has become an essential part of their ADCP-platform (Armonea Digital Communication Platform). The Ruckus ZoneFlex system was deployed using the R300 indoor access points, ZoneFlex T300 802.11ac outdoor access points while being centrally managed with the Ruckus Virtual SmartCell Gateway (vSCG). This became the golden ticket for residents to stay in touch with family and friends through social media, quietly reading the news from a tablet, or searching the internet for a good recipe. “The new WiFi network will also be used by our employees in terms of healthcare registration and voice over WiFi and by our healthcare partners such as doctors and pharmacists that come to our sites on working visits,” comments Lambrechts. A separate open Smart WiFi network was installed for visitors and doctors that bring their own devices (BYOD).

Ruckus Wireless offers unprecedented WiFi performance, thanks to their patented BeamFlex technology. Frank Verschueren, chief operating officer at Myrtus, was skeptical when BeamFlex was being discussed. He described it as ‘Marketing Talk’. However, he was pleasantly surprised with the test results. The Flex-Beam technology makes sure that the directional antenna patterns in the Ruckus access point are optimized via patented software to ensure the best path to the client. The signal is automatically and continuously optimized, delivering up to three times more bandwidth and up to eight times more coverage. This means that residents of the Armonea nursing homes that use Smart WiFi from Ruckus Wireless outdoors in the garden and on the terraces still have coverage through the indoor APs, which competing WiFi brands could not deliver. This is not only pleasant for the residents, but also makes a significant cost difference, since fewer access points, cables and peripherals are required.

Determined to get the most out of their new Smart WiFi solution from Ruckus Wireless, Lambrechts concludes, “The rollout of the WiFi basic infrastructure is probably the least exciting part. Things will get really interesting when we roll out innovative applications for the residents and our employees in the next two years.” With that said, he points to a special app to help train the brains of Armonea residents for better memory retention, and to ZappS, a mobile application that helps enable Armonea employees to better manage work processes in health care more efficiently. ZappS allows Armonea care workers to electronically view their daily tasks and mark them as completed, consult treatment guidelines, view a resident’s profile and monitor things such as medication dispensation and so forth, all while on location in the resident’s room.

Thanks to Smart WiFi from Ruckus Wireless, health care has not only become more efficient for Armonea, but also more secure and forward-looking. Hence, Ruckus providing simply better wireless.