

Finance & Government Case Study



The British Columbia Securities Commission gained the resiliency, security & cost-effectiveness of colocation while averting a costly technology refresh

The British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC) is the provincial government agency responsible for regulating BC's capital markets through the administration of the Securities Act. As a crown corporation, the BCSC is independent, and has the legislative authority to regulate BC's dynamic securities market to deter misconduct, protect investors, and ensure the province's capital markets function fairly and efficiently.



BRITISH COLUMBIA
SECURITIES COMMISSION

BCSC reached a point with its on-premise server room that required a substantial refresh of much of the key components. Faced with the decision whether to continue to invest resources and time in an on-site deployment when it's not the organization's core competency, BCSC started a request for proposal (RFP) process for a state-of-the-art, downtown Vancouver colocation centre. After reviewing the submissions, BCSC found Cologix made the best overall fit.



“The key benefit of our relationship with Cologix is that it allows us to concentrate our resources, both labor and financial, on our core business – overseeing BC's capital markets, supporting our customer base, and protecting investors – versus worrying about supporting a data centre.”

– BCSC Chief Technology Officer Linda Cowan

Requirements & Challenges

- Downtown Vancouver location
- Experienced data centre partner willing to meet timing, cost & project requirements
- Rapid overnight installation to minimize downtime
- Redundant & adequate power feeds & backups
- Seismically & flood reinforced facility
- Security including physical access checks & balances
- SLA guarantee of 99.9% availability

Solution

- ✓ Cost-effective colocation to avoid exorbitant technology refresh costs on-premise
- ✓ Cologix's newest downtown Vancouver data centre (VAN 2) at 1050 West Pender
- ✓ Redundant power & cooling supporting wide cabinets & fibre cross connects
- ✓ Reduced BCSC system risk in a hardened facility versus on-site
- ✓ Connectivity to contracted telecom providers
- ✓ Access to almost any other networks available in the region – future proof network

24 Network Neutral Data Centres Throughout North America

Columbus - Dallas - Jacksonville - Lakeland - Minneapolis - Montreal - New Jersey - Toronto - Vancouver



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“Cologix was the best overall fit for BCSC based on our extensive list of requirements laid out in the RFP. Cologix won our business by delivering the right balance of what we need at the right price. We also saw value in being able to rely on professional data centre operators to manage the facility, which falls outside our core mission – we’ve had good delivery on all fronts. And it clearly reduces our risk by having BCSC in a more hardened facility than we have on our current premises.”

– BCSC Chief Technology Officer Linda Cowan

Results

Prior to issuing the RFP, BCSC completed a business case evaluating whether to move its infrastructure offsite versus keeping and maintaining a server room on-premises, including tabulating the massive technology refresh costs for key components like the uninterruptible power systems (UPSs), air conditioners and generators. With clear results pointing toward moving the deployment to a managed, third-party colocation facility, BCSC issued an RFP. The organization intended to contract with a provider that delivered the highest value, taking infrastructure quality, proposed approach, experience, service, timing and cost into account. Based on those requirements, BCSC selected Cologix as the best inclusive fit, gaining:

Smooth, Efficient 24-Hour Migration & Installation

Cologix facilitated the migration from on-premise to the Cologix data centre, making it manageable for BCSC and greatly minimizing downtime. Starting on a Friday afternoon, BCSC shut down systems, unplugged, un-racked and relocated equipment to Cologix in a “hot cut.” Pulling an all-nighter, BCSC staff benefited from a consistent flow of information from Cologix engineers, who were happy to help in all ways necessary, including testing support. Cologix had set up the rack, dealt with telecom vendors to ensure all the cross connects were in place, and overall made sure everything was ready beforehand for BCSC’s move. By 5 p.m. on Saturday, BCSC systems were re-racked, connected and tested (thanks to pre-cabling and other pre-planned work) to be fully up and running within 24-hours.

Simple & Accommodative Service Approach

BCSC sought a straightforward colocation setup, which is what Cologix offered without all of the extra overhead of a fully managed service arrangement. BCSC gained a unique setup, as Cologix offered wider 23” cabinets beyond the traditional 19” cabinets to accommodate the deployment. BCSC’s CTO noted that the Cologix staff have been excellent to deal with and cooperative, making the whole process and relationship with Cologix easy. Also, with regular facility upgrades like power enhancements, it’s nice for BCSC to know that attention is given on an ongoing basis to upgrades and maintenance to the facility, which is reassuring for BCSC. From the experience so far, BCSC is confident in Cologix’s ability to maintain the BCSC equipment securely, reliably and cost-effectively.

Prepared for Future Growth

BCSC is independent and flexible, which is helpful when regulating a dynamic market. Through colocation, BCSC augmented this flexibility with the ability to modify its IT footprint quickly, while also being able to reallocate IT staff and budgets to other assignments.