

Intria Data Centre

Owner:

CIBC

Contract Value:

\$ 7 million

Type:

Design Build

Size:

3000 sq foot

Job Completed:

January, 2007



Intria, a wholly owned subsidiary of CIBC, operates a coast-to-coast network of highly secure payment and information processing centres that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and handle more than two billion items a year for clients in the financial, utility and retail sectors. More than 3500 employees deliver business solutions such as cheque clearing, remittance processing, document printing and mailing, ABM envelope and commercial deposit processing, treasury management and ABM cash forecasting using rigorous service levels, best of breed processing methodologies and ISO 9001:2000 quality management. – all requiring a physical infrastructure providing top notch security and 100% availability.

So, in the fall of 2006, when Intria required construction of a 3000 square foot data centre inside an existing facility on a critical timeline, there were very specific requirements and expectations that few contractors could meet.

CB Richard Ellis, outsourcing managers for CIBC, turned to Ainsworth because, in the words of project manager Bert McQueen, “We have a lot of confidence in Ainsworth and their track record is excellent. But what was more important to us, given the constraints of this job, was that we got to specify that project director Gareth Fellows and his crews would complete the job. We knew that good communication and interaction between CBRE and Ainsworth would be crucial and that this hard working, knowledgeable team could do the job.”

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- Bert McQueen, Project Manager CBRE

This was not a typical construction project. Besides being a \$7 million design/build job that had to be completed on a very tight schedule,

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Ainsworth also had to deal with the security requirements and minimize disruption to the 24/7 operations already in the building. This meant background checks and security clearance for all workers, security escorts for anyone leaving the immediate work area, placing and removing furniture covers, installing and removing exhaust fans each weekend, and the use of temporary power generators.

It was an onerous undertaking but Ainsworth came through, completing the data centre on schedule in January 2007 and the accompanying power station in April. According to project manager Gareth Fellows, “We worked 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, from the second week of October to the first week of January with two days off – Christmas Day and Boxing Day. There was a lot of pressure to meet the target dates and we did.”

There were a few unforeseen problems that necessitated ‘on-the-fly design changes’ but, in McQueen’s words, “For the kind of project it was, this job went extremely well. Intria is a demanding customer and Ainsworth certainly satisfied their requirements. Ainsworth is our number one supplier.”

CBRE and Ainsworth have worked together on numerous projects for more than ten years and this relationship is ongoing. In fact, the first phase of Intria’s new data centre only utilized 60% of the renovated space and enhanced infrastructure, and expansion plans are already underway.

