

EDF CNEPE

Tours, France

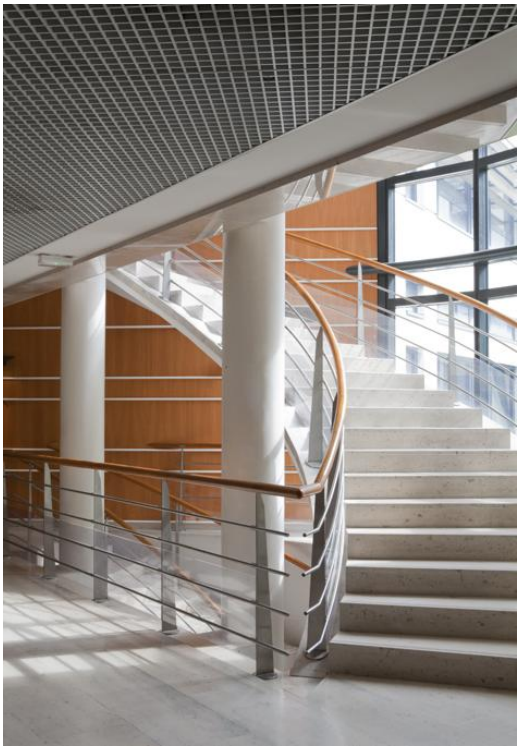
Reference

Haworth's partnership with EDF: a resounding success



Haworth has recently been listed as a potential subcontractor for the EDF Group, and as such was invited to tender along with others for the Tours site renovation project.
For over 30 years now, EDF has been operating the largest fleet of standardised nuclear power stations, with 58 nuclear reactors in France located in six nuclear engineering centres: (Villeurbanne (2), Marseille, Tours, Saint-Denis and Montrouge) and a further 82 worldwide. This makes it one of the leading players in the nuclear industry worldwide.
Such a position ensures that the long-term operating performance of France's existing nuclear power stations can be maintained for at least the next 60 years, and means that EDF has all the industrial expertise required to build new reactors.
The Group's Nuclear Engineering Division, (Division Ingénierie Nucléaire, DIN) has an important responsibility: that of providing engineering services for the existing fleet of nuclear plants as well as plants being deconstructed. In addition, it acts as systems architect for new reactors in France and worldwide. Constantly improving safety, care for the environment and the protection of individuals are all key values for DIN staff and for the Group as a whole.

The Nuclear Engineering Division brings together a wide variety of skills, ranging from technical expertise to project coordination via the management of teams – in France and internationally. The jobs present within DIN are a rich resource of skills and expertise in state-of-the-art techniques.
In addition to its real-time support for power stations in service, the National Electricity Plant and Generation Centre (Centre National d'Equipement et de Production d'Electricité, CNEPE) in Tours designs and oversees technical alterations to installations (machine rooms, pumping stations, site installation and power plant protection) to help extend operating lifetimes. On site, dedicated staff provide project management for this type of alteration, as well as maintaining civil engineering infrastructure at power plants. The unit also designs the conventional components and heat sinks for all new reactors, in France and internationally.

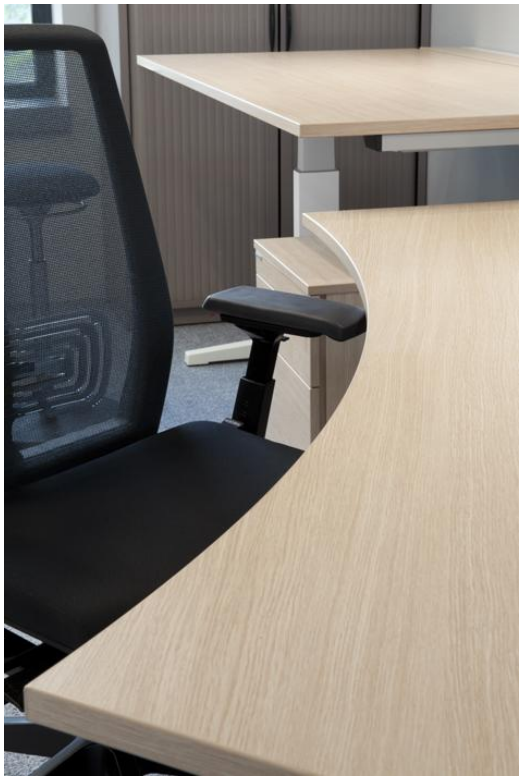


From teams to specific needs...

The previous renovation and infrastructure project at the Tours CNEPE dates back some twenty years. The premises were no longer suitable for the staff's new working methods and practices (such as collaborative work in project mode) or geared to teams' business-specific aspects. In particular, design office employees complained of inappropriate premises as well as a host of other issues, including noise pollution, a lack of interaction between teams, and the shortage of concentration-friendly spaces.

An initial observation phase allowed the various working environments of the Design and Engineering Production employees to be reviewed – some fifty people working on three different floors. The study looked at how they moved about, as well as existing disturbances, the need for staff interaction, and so on. A number of working groups were set up during this phase, bringing together users, managers, the HSE Committee, a firm of architects and a firm of ergonomists.
Everyone had a chance to express their views, and these were then taken into consideration in devising the most efficient layout possible – one that would ensure quality of life and wellbeing for all the Group's employees.

...as identified by observing actual working situations



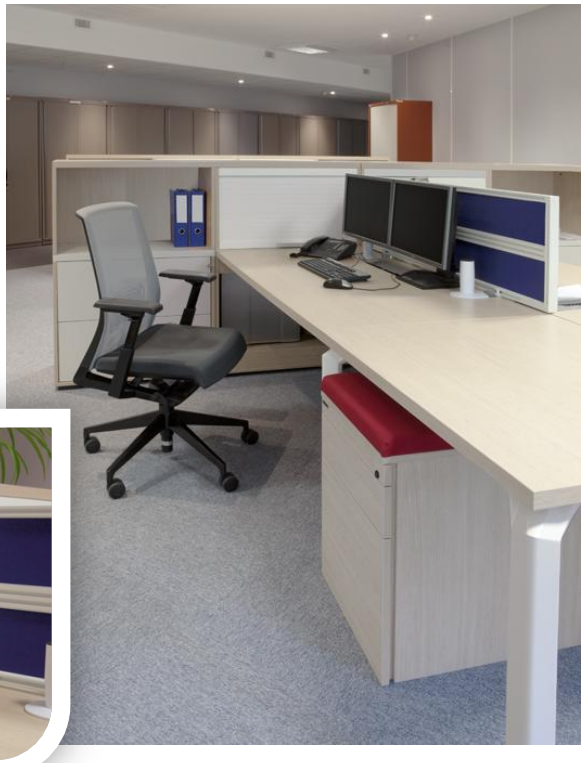
A series of requirements emerged from this study phase, including a number of key needs on the part of employees. These included being able to have discussions at their workstation – or nearby, in formal and more informal meeting places; benefiting from larger workstations more suitable for the work of DIN, with space to spread out plans and install up to four computer monitors; as well as room for a design engineer to sit down next to (rather than opposite) an employee. Other needs included having a variety of working configurations possible (teamwork, work sitting down, standing up, and so on), minimising noise disturbance in the workspace and nurturing concentration.
These considerations made it possible to note the ergonomics of various working practices by observing real-life situations, and as such were a decisive phase in the development project.

Haworth: creating high-performance workspaces

Once this audit had been completed by project ergonomists OMNIA, furniture makers Haworth drew up a proposal based on the key needs identified: facilitating discussion, gaining space and productivity. The challenge was to produce an airy, “open-space” type working environment bringing together different types of job whilst offering a maximum of space at the workstation.

It is worth pointing out that while the project fell within the EDF Group’s development charter, it was nonetheless specific in that it addressed the business needs of the Design and Engineering Production teams.
As a result, for the Design department the Epure range (Design: Emmanuel Dietrich), with its simple and contemporary design, was chosen to meet the various needs expressed by the users and the required organisation of space – implemented here using bench systems, meeting tables, and so on.







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For the Engineering Production staff, on the other hand, Haworth went beyond the standard ranges listed with EDF in order to fulfil user expectations more completely. It suggested the Kiron workstation (Design: Andreas Struppler and Sebastian Frank): a flexible, multipurpose outfitting solution that allows for space that can be extended, reconfigured and reorganised at any time as required. When set out as a bench system or shared office, the workstation also features a divider that provides aesthetic enhancement and soundproofing, as well as stands for accessories and computers.
Each workstation also boasts handy storage space with roller doors, along with mobile storage units featuring fabric tops that serve as additional seating.

The new layout encourages communication and discussion – just what the users were looking for.
To implement the ergonomist's idea of having 'breathing' and 'break' areas despite limited space, Haworth suggested 'Meeting Point' zones near the offices, able to accommodate informal meetings as well as providing access and storage.



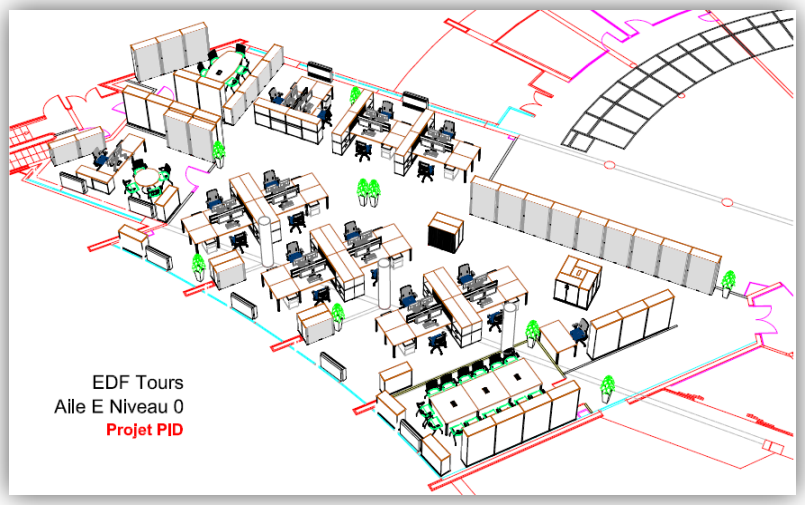
A winning tender for Haworth

For this project, EDF chose to put Haworth – a new subcontractor for the Group – in competition with its usual supplier, so as to have a broader range of proposals and stimulation.
As Mr Rodolphe Dupuis, in charge of the Development Project, said:

"We were keen to put Haworth in competition with our usual supplier, and were delighted to discover Haworth's ability to understand and analyse an expression of needs. Over and above the traditional catalogue of service-related products, Haworth really did function as a consultant in its approach, and has provided us with an effective workspace solution."

EDF is planning to continue renovation work at Tours for the other departments on site through into 2014 – so there is every expectation that after this initial success, Haworth will once again be invited to bid.





Typical layout

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Key figures

• m²/workstation: 7 - 16m²/individual workstation (except managers)
• 20m² gross usable area/employee for Engineering Production
• 20m² + gross usable area/employee for the Design Office
• Total space concerned (m²): 14,000m² (currently) 23,000m² (planned for 2014)
• Number of workstations in the project: 50
• Number of occupants / Group employees: 800 staff on the Tours site

Products

- Workstations: Epure andt Kiron
- Task chairs: Comforto 6265
- Storage: Vados

Project benefits

- Greater effectiveness at the workstation
- Greater variety of spaces and working configurations: individual, pairwork, groups, etc.
- Work ergonomics (based on actual observations not theoretical job descriptions)

Calendrier

• Project phase: 2012
• Commencement of works: June 2012
• End of works: May 2013
• Move in: June 2013

Client's project officer:

Mr Rodolphe Dupuis, Head of Site and in charge of the development project

Space-planner :

SG Design, Tours

Ergonome :

Cabinet OMNIA, Paris

Visuals and photo credits: ©Airy Goullet for Haworth

HD visuals and contacts of all stakeholders available on request from Empresarial:
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