

CASE STUDY

CREDIT SUISSE

DATA CENTER DECOMMISSIONING: HANDLING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

AT A GLANCE:

CHALLENGE

Credit Suisse wanted to decommission a sublevel data center in preparation for a data center upgrade one floor up. The project required the safe removal, transport and disposal of 731 wetcell batteries from two floors below street level.

SOLUTION

DSA Encore strategically decommissioned Credit Suisse's sublevel data center and took extraordinary care to safeguard the existing structure and assets.

RESULTS

DSA Encore safely dismantled and removed all gear and materials with no spills or incidents.

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Credit Suisse needed an expert in surgical data center decommissioning with experience in hazardous materials, and they knew the solution was DSA Encore.

CHALLENGE

By summer of 2011, Credit Suisse knew that it was time to upgrade their data center at 11 Madison Avenue in New York City. But with tight quarters on sublevels 1B and 2B in their Midtown Manhattan building, the management team of this leading commercial bank knew that options were limited. Ultimately, Credit Suisse chose to decommission the data center on 2B, and focus exclusively on equipment upgrades to the data center one floor up.

The logistics of the project were immense. Before any work could be done, Credit Suisse needed first to remove all electrical and mechanical equipment from the level 2B site.

This included, among other items:

- (2) 4000 AMP ATS
- (11) CRAC units
- (6) 2500 AMP battery disconnects
- (731) batteries and racking
- (6) 1000 kVA Exide UPS systems
- (2) Lot Switchgear (28 pieces)

In addition to the hazardous materials they contained, the batteries alone would take up 183 pallets weighing 2,420 pounds each—and would need meticulous transport to grade level for proper disposal.

Could Credit Suisse safely remove such a tremendous amount of sensitive equipment (and hazardous materials) in time for work to begin?

SOLUTION

Credit Suisse needed an expert in surgical data center decommissioning with experience in hazardous materials, and they knew the solution was DSA Encore. Credit Suisse had leveraged DSA Encore's expertise for a 2009 data center design-build in Princeton, NJ—and felt confident selecting the firm for this critical project.

Right away, the DSA Encore team took precautions to prevent any damage to the existing building and adjacent properties. All doors, walls, floors and carpet that were in the path of the equipment leaving the UPS electric rooms to the freight elevator were covered with plywood in order to be protected during all rigging of the equipment.

“DSA Encore handled this project with the ultimate care and precision. Our team dismantled the data center quickly, safely and in total regulatory compliance. Credit Suisse had worked with DSA before, so they knew to expect nothing less than absolute skill and professionalism.”

Steve Friedman
CEO and Chairman
DSA Encore

SOLUTION (continued)

Meanwhile, DSA Encore also filed plans and pulled permits for all steps of the project. At its own expense—and with much of the work conducted afterhours—DSA Encore successfully:

- Disassembled and removed all power associated with the switchgear, panelboards, static switches, UPS output switchboards and ATS’s with the “A” and “B” UPS systems
- Removed all conduit, copper, conduit supports, ladder racks and wire ways for control wiring associated with both UPS systems
- Removed Hot Tie Switchboards
- Removed chilled water upflow A/C units from both UPS rooms and the Hot Tie Switchboard room
- Removed all batteries, battery chargers, battery racks, battery monitoring systems and battery main breaker cabinets
- Removed all conduit, copper, conduits supports, ladder racks and wire ways and control wiring associated the with the “A” and “B” battery systems
- Removed Hot Tie Switchboard feeding the “A” and “B” UPS system
- Drained, cut and capped off chilled water system
- Removed all chilled water piping and pipe hangers associated with the (2) UPS rooms
- Facilitated all hazardous material handling and disposal in accordance with NYC and EPA regulations

The DSA Encore team was confident the equipment could be completely removed and the batteries could be safely transported without incident.

RESULTS

DSA Encore completed the project and presented Credit Suisse with a broom-clean 2B sublevel space, along with all environmental documentation required by the client. All materials—the batteries in particular—were removed and handled without spills or incidents.

ABOUT DSA ENCORE

DSA Encore, headquartered in Brookfield, CT, is the nation’s leading provider of independent end-to-end data center solutions. Empowered by a totally client-centric, absolutely ‘vendor-neutral’ customer service philosophy, DSA Encore designs, builds, equips, maintains and restores data centers to fit any client requirement. To learn more about data center solutions from DSA Encore, visit www.dsaencore.com or call (800) 755-6492.