

## Axians Implements Cisco ACI at Aventus

**Rotterdam, 4 August 2015** – Aventus, the biggest education provider in the tri-city area of Apeldoorn, Deventer and Zutphen, has opted for a software-defined architecture based on Cisco's Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI) technology. Having this innovative technology as the foundation for its ICT infrastructure makes Aventus a front runner within the Dutch education sector. Axians, the ICT Brand of VINCI ENERGIES, will handle the design and implementation.

As a regional education centre, the educational services Aventus offers have been extensively digitalised. New applications are introduced at a very rapid pace and applications such as the cloud and the ability to work remotely from anywhere at any time are growing by leaps and bounds. Providing optimal support for the range of educational services requires a high degree of continuity with regard to ICT service provision. Moreover, the ICT infrastructure must be sufficiently scalable and flexible to enable use of cloud-based applications whenever possible. A standardised, open and secure network infrastructure is crucial in this regard.

'We must be able to quickly respond to new developments. Together with Axians, the ICT partner who has been at our side for years with an expert and solid team, we opted for Cisco ACI,' says Roy Dusink, Head of Automation at Aventus. 'With this software-defined technology we can quickly add capacity from the cloud. Furthermore, we can choose to operate applications either in our own data centre or in the cloud. On the other hand, we have the capacity for automated roll-out of development, testing and production environments. We are improving the continuity of our service provision while still maintaining maximum management control - and leaving room for alternative options. An additional benefit is that we can apply our experience to the ICT training. Because Axians is willing to share its knowledge, students can work with the latest technology. This way we make a direct contribution to creating appealing and sophisticated educational services.'

'Although the importance of ICT in the education sector is continuing to increase, we are seeing ICT budgets coming under pressure. This presents a significant challenge to educational institutions,' says Tom Greeve, CEO of Axians. 'Thanks to technological innovations such as BYOD and software-defined architecture, Axians is helping educational institutions such as Aventus by increasing flexibility and functionality in the short term on the one hand and lowering costs in the long term on the other hand. As a certified Cisco ACI partner, Axians is the right company to provide the design and set-up of the new data centre and network infrastructure for Aventus.'

Edwin Prinsen, Managing Director Cisco Netherlands: 'With software-defined architecture, organisations can make major efficiency improvements by further automating automation. What's more, with Application Centric Infrastructure - our interpretation of software-defined architecture - the IT can be adapted to the application and other needs of the organisation much more easily. We are aware how incredibly important this is for educational institutions as well. Not only because ICT management costs are reduced, but above all because Axians can directly respond to the needs of digital education.'

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#### **About Axians**

Axians is the new brand of VINCI Energies dedicated to ICT solutions and services. The brand supports its customers — private sector companies, government agencies, operators and service providers — throughout the entire lifecycle of their ICT projects, from network infrastructure to applications. In 2014, Axians generated revenues of €1.6 billion, equivalent to over 15% of the VINCI Energies Group's total revenues. Axians comprises an international network of 150 business units in 15 countries and employs 7,000 people.

<http://www.axians.com/>

#### **About VINCI Energies**

Operating in over 50 countries, including 30 outside Europe, VINCI Energies employs 63,000 people and generated revenues of €9.3 billion in 2014. With its close-knit network of 1,500 business units, VINCI Energies is now a leading provider of energy and information technology services in Europe and throughout the world. [www.vinci-energies.com](http://www.vinci-energies.com)

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