« The time of Virtual and Remote Commissioning for Datacenters has come ! »

The COVID-19 global pandemic had a huge impact on all our lives, including our way of working. All sectors of activity have had to adapt and opt for a remotely way of work - *in order to comply with the measures announced by the government but also in order to continue their activity during shutdowns and lockdowns.*

And unfortunatelly, the impact of this new reality was felt across all industrial sectors of the global economy, including the construction industry.

One of the biggest effects of this situation, has been a large increase in the number of people working from home in Europe. And this was made possible thanks to the datacenters industry. Indeed, Data centres are the core infrastructure that allows virtual workforce to remain productive, while away from the office. And so, big cloud players and global IT companies are spending billions on building and equipping new data centres in order to meet this huge demand of teleworking.

But this is not easy in this troubled time. Indeed, it becomes challenging for the owners of these infrastructures to manage constant moves, adds and changes all over the world. Without forgetting that many owners of critical sites have restricted on-site access as a result of global and local guidance around social distancing. So it can be difficult to perform some commissioning tasks which require site visits, face-to-face contact and functionnal testing.

This is why a new form of commissioning was born. **The virtual and remote Commissioning !** And contrary to what one might think, this new form of commissioning has a lot of advantages.

But before identifying the benefits**, do you know exactly what commissioning is ?**

According to the National Conference on Building Commissioning here is the closest definition of total building commissioning : *« systematic process of assuring by verification and documentation, from the design phase to a minimum of one year after construction, that all facilities perform interactively in accordance with the design documentation and intent, and in accordance with the owner's operational needs, including preparation of operational personnel ».*

And this verification of the proper functioning of the building is also made possible thanks to virtual tools. Indeed, many operators can still, in this situation, perform virtual inspection of their critical assets with tools that provide visibility into cooling, power, network, security and other such functions. They can see virtually what works and what doesn't (including "Faults"). In this way, they can easily identify the problem and solve it and this remotely. So Digital solutions help to reduce the number of personnel on site as well as the duration of tests (20% time saving). Which is quite positive !

The Uptime Institute *(the global datacenter certification center)* recommends by the way that these facilities use remote monitoring, remote management and remote automation softwares when it's possible. As for the industry insiders, they report that after using these systems, the results of virtual and remote commissioning have exceeded all expectations this year.

So, This solution seems to be validated and recommended by professionals for Datacenters.

Connected load banks for Virtual and Remote Commissioning :

The load banks come to test and verify the various Data Center installations. It's thanks to them that we are going to come and guarantee or not the smooth running of the Data Center before its launch and operational implementation. So it is an important equipment in the test and commissioning phase of the data centre.

Rentaload offers **connected loadbanks** to the data centres *(by the way, the first fleet of connected loadbanks in Europe).* The connected loadbanks contrary to traditional load banks will allow a virtual and remote commissioning.

More specifically, these load banks can be remotely controlled by a computer - up to 200 loadbanks at the same time which limits the number of people on site and saves time. It will also collect specific measurements both electrical and thermal of the IT room. The virtual commissioning provided more recorded data than we would have had with the traditional process which is a considerable advantage for the end customer. Then these measurements are recorded and processed and forwarded to the end customer in a full test report. These data in addition to validating or not the facilities, can help optimize the performance of its Data Centre and limit potential risks.

- In fact, connected loadbanks appear to be the future of data centres : reducing on-site personnel, reducing test duration (20%), checking data center equipment and installations, Collect & Record Data and drawing up a final test report for the customer in connection with the final phase of the commissioning.

That's why we talk about **« Virtual & Remote Commissioning » ! A new era for Data Centres.**

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You can also download your free Commissioning Guide on : https://rentaload.com/en/data-center-commissioning-guide/ or our **White Paper** « Load banks and Data Centre Commissioning : tips, field notes and best practices » : https://rentaload.com/en/white-paper-load-banks/