



## FIVE COLLEGES G4S SECURE INTEGRATION HELPS TO CONNECT COLLEGES AND BROADEN THE REACH OF DISTANCE LEARNING

The \$3.6 million Adesta network connects Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst into a primary carrier hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts. These five institutions, Five Colleges, Inc., have collaborated since 1965 and joined forces once again to develop this network to increase their data network capacity, add redundant links to handle network outages, and reduce their local circuit charges for data communications services. The 53-mile long network furnishes almost limitless bandwidth, which significantly enhances the educational reach and ability of the five institutions. G4S Secure Integration engineered and built the network for Five Colleges, in addition to providing splicing, turn-up, and testing services.

In addition to its sheer size, the network furnishes much-needed infrastructure typically lacking in rural areas of Massachusetts. The schools are expected to donate some dark fiber to the towns through which the network passes. The project involved a broad range of construction applications including aerial installation, installation within existing underground duct, new duct construction, and a bridge attachment over the Connecticut River. The splicing, engineering, and configurations were relatively complex for a project this size. They involved multiple endpoints per campus, plus the use of backbone fibers for inner-campus rings. The network provides a significant advancement for Five Colleges and sets precedence for rural area technology. The quality network incorporates technically-advanced dense wavelength multiplex cable.

"Adesta is proud to have been involved in this exciting network opportunity for Five Colleges from design throughout construction. We are confident this unprecedented network will greatly increase the distance learning and communications possibilities of these institutions," said the President of Adesta.

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