

For 35 years, Ballarat has been Mars' proud home. With 70 staff in 1979, it's now grown to 500 at the Ring Rd site and 100 in sales across Australia. **Employing over 1500 locals, Mars has** contributed \$3 billion to the economy through investment and wages.



Images via https://retailworldmagazine.com.au https://www.thecourier.com.au https://www.businessinsider.com https://moodiedavittreport.com/

The Project

In 2023, MARS Ballarat, a leading confectionary manufacturer, enlisted our expertise as telecommunication specialists for a significant upgrade project. Our task was to transform their vast office processing area from a legacy 3G system to a modern 4G LTE capable system. To ensure seamless coverage throughout the extensive office space and lounge areas of the facility.

We identified Nextivity's Quatra solutions as the perfect fit for this complex endeavor. Leveraging our expertise and cutting-edge technology, we embarked on the project to enhance communication reliability and efficiency within MARS Ballarat's operations.

The Challenges

Two significant challenges arose during the installation of the Nextivity Quatra Repeaters in the Mars Factory.

Firstly, the vast operations office was built adjacene a very large warehouse building which blocked most of the available 4G LTE local cells.

Secondly, there was importance placed on Telstra coverage in the spansive operations area which was not entirley connected to the main building. This was a challenge as there were not many pathways we could install the cables and the office environment was a busy, filled with MARS's busy management teams.

The Solution

We effortlessly identified the optimal macrocell, even in situations where most towers weren't visible, thanks to the remarkable precision of our technicians operating the VIAVI ONA800. Cell selection became exceptionally tower straightforward, ensuring top-notch connectivity for our project at the Mars Factory.

To tackle the challenge of limited cable pathways and the bustling office atmosphere, we embraced innovation by utilising the compact Cat6 cables provided with the Nextivity Quatra system. Instead of cumbersome LDF450 Heliax cables, which could pose access issues during installation, these sleek cables streamlined our process.

Deploying these nimble cables to the coverage units minimised disruptions to daily operations and eliminated the need for intricate cable routing, all while maintaining our commitment to efficiency and excellence.

Success

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of the installation project at the Mars Factory, resulting in a significant enhancement of phone signal coverage throughout the facility. Despite facing challenges such as signal blockage from nearby structures and limited cable pathways.

Our team leveraged innovative solutions including the VIAVI ONA800 for precise tower selection and the utilization of compact Cat6 cables from the Nextivity Quatra system.

