No place in the world can be more unsettling or confusing than an airport, not only for passengers but also for employees. Increasing passenger traffic means increased monitoring, and increased monitoring can lead to difficulties or discomfort in the working environment that need to be addressed.

The Challenge
At Norway’s third largest airport, the operations center faced a challenging work environment because the airport was expanding its terminal and adding gates to accommodate the growing number of passengers. Technical support staff experienced a warm and crowded workplace as they monitored access control, fire prevention, and general airport security.

The Solution
In order to improve the staff’s environment and, at the same time, make it easier for them to monitor the hardware platform that was responsible for system management, IT decided to backrack extenders. Using the DKM FX HD Video and Peripheral Matrix Switching system enabled this organization to backrack a mix of copper (CATx) and fiber transmitters in the data center and place receivers in different rooms (using CATx) or different buildings (using fiber). This modular matrix setup enabled multiple users to easily access any computer system whether local or remote. Additionally, the employees got a cooler, quieter workplace that increased their job satisfaction and productivity.

At a different airport in Norway, the second largest, the technical division needed to design a more efficient airport operations center as well. In this case, the NOC is a little bit more compact — two desks each with 12 monitors arrayed in two rows. A large-screen monitor attached to a local PC can receive video from one of the desktop computers.

They, too, decided to backrack workstation transmitters, but wanted to run everything over copper instead of a mix of CATx and fiber cabling.

This airport opted for the DKM FX Compact HD Video and Peripheral Matrix Switches. These chassis are smaller, but still provide excellent matrix switching and extension capabilities within the DKM FXC system.

These fully digital DKM matrix switch solutions offer switching, extension, and distribution of video, KVM, USB, and audio signals over copper with a maximum distance of 280 meters. The system has a focus on redundancy operation combined with instantaneous switching of high-resolution images.

At this airport’s NOC, all systems connected to Desk 1 and Desk 2 had a dedicated screen to ensure video is present at all times. One active screen duplicates the active system the team needs to access, usually by using an attached keyboard and mouse. The operator chooses the active system via a 12-button push panel.

As in the former configuration, the workplace is cooler, quieter, and leads to improved functionality.