



## Cargill Optimizes Cooling Efficiency with KoldLok Raised Floor Grommets

### Key Highlights

#### Customer:

Cargill

#### Data Center Details:

Two 9,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facilities

#### Needs:

Cargill noticed cool air escaping from cable cut-outs and uneven temperatures throughout its data centers, which significantly detracted from its cooling efficiency.

#### Upsite Solution:

KoldLok Raised Floor Grommets

#### Results:

- Temperatures are now much more even throughout the data centers.
- Cargill optimizes its server configuration, filling racks completely with pizza-box servers and blade servers without any overheating.
- As the company looks to add equipment at one data center, it sees KoldLok as a key preventative step for keeping temperatures down.



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**“We have looked and looked for a solution like KoldLok. If KoldLok had been around 10 years ago, we probably would not have needed to add a cooling unit back then. It improves the efficiency of our cooling system a great deal.”**

– Doug Becker, IT Operations Supervisor,  
Cargill IT Services, Global Hosting Service



### Customer

Cargill first opened a grain storage facility in 1865, Cargill, Inc. has grown to become one of the largest, privately owned businesses. With 124,000 employees in 59 countries, it provides food, agricultural, and risk management products and services around the globe.

### Data Center Needs

Two 9,000 ft<sup>2</sup> data centers serve Cargill headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota. With worldwide operations, the company depends on “24 by forever” system availability. In fact, a full outage caused by a cooling system failure several years ago cost the company more than \$1 million in lost business and time.

In 2004, Doug Becker, IT Operations Supervisor and 30-year Cargill veteran, noticed a significant amount of cool air escaping between cable cut-outs, instead of going toward cooling hardware. As he passed through the data centers, Becker also felt major shifts in air temperatures throughout. To address the problem, he tried a sandbag-style solution to block bypass airflow, but the bags never stayed in place. Ultimately, the company had to invest in another lever unit for its cooling system.

### Solution

Becker discovered KoldLok Grommets at an AFCOM conference. Looking to increase overall cooling efficiency, Cargill brought in the Grommets to seal tile cut-outs in both data centers. Becker easily installed the products on his own, finding they fit well, even in tight areas.

Since adding KoldLok Grommets, Cargill has noticed clear improvements in data center cooling optimization. As he walks through the data centers,

Becker feels much more consistent temperatures through the rooms, rather than the dramatic changes he experienced before.

Additionally, Cargill has been able to fill some racks completely with pizza-box servers and blade servers – a move the manufacturers warned might cause overheating, but in fact has not. “This shows that we can get the air where we need it,” Becker said.

Next, Cargill will condense one data center and move some equipment to the other location. Becker sees KoldLok Grommets as a key preventative step for keeping temperatures down with the additional equipment.

“We need to be prepared for more heat in the room with better cooling,” he said. “With KoldLok, I feel confident that we’ll be able to do it.”

Becker’s only regret: not finding KoldLok earlier.

“We have looked and looked for a solution like KoldLok,” Becker said. “If KoldLok had been around 10 years ago, we probably would not have needed to add a cooling unit back then. It improves the efficiency of our cooling system a great deal.”