



## DANTE Delighted with New Boardroom from Innovations

**DANTE (Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe) based in Cambridge, was set up to build pan-European research networks for use by research and academic communities. The nature of the business means there is extensive inter-country and inter-continental communication. This means there is no room for unreliable video conferencing and communication systems. When it came to its boardroom refit, DANTE needed a company that was up to date with the latest technology and down to earth enough to get to grips with requirements on the ground. They chose Innovations AV from Peterborough.**

DANTE's existing boardroom system was around 6 years old and was considered no longer fit for purpose. Their current Crestron Boardroom control system had not been set up and installed properly and had ended up in the cupboard! This was not good because the technological advances in audiovisual mean that a control system is essential to make the user experience simple, allowing them access to everything by pressing a button on a touch screen.



**Client:**  
DANTE Cambridge

**Requirements:** To upgrade the boardroom with new projectors and video conferencing system with an integrated boardroom control system.

**Solution:** New ceiling mounted projectors were installed, a LifeSize Room 220 video conferencing system installed and new Crestron control system programmed to operate via an iPad. Easy, user-friendly and no unsightly cables.

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inputs without the need for lots of separate cables stretched across the floor to the main control system. A clever product was used called a Kramer SID X1 which allows almost anything to be plugged in and re-routed to the main control system. It not only makes the system extremely user friendly, but is also better in terms of health and safety with cables being common trip hazards.

The existing monitors were OK and were incorporated into the new system to maximise the budget. The room is a large one that is often split into two and needed to be equipped accordingly so that it would work individually or as one large room.

Having met with Ross Winter from DANTE to listen to his requirements for their new boardroom, Andy Russell, Director at Innovations wanted to restore Ross' faith in technology. He wanted to give DANTE a simple, easy system that could be navigated through touch screen options on an iPad. The complex back end programming would be made easy by the front end user interface. Understandably, Ross was sceptical because of his previous experience with a poorly set up system, but Andy was able to reassure him that the technicians employed by Innovations are extremely experienced – they didn't disappoint.

A new LifeSize Room 220 video conferencing system was specified which is fully HD and capable of multi-site, multi-continent conversations. In addition to this, new Mitsubishi HD projectors were installed, which are very quiet when in operation and are extremely bright with HD quality.

Two ceiling mounted projection screens were fitted and these can be lowered and raised at the touch of a button on the iPad. This means the rooms are smart and tidy with the screens neatly.

New cabling was required and one of the biggest challenges was to integrate various analogue and digital



In order to have minimum impact on site, most of the network programming was done off site on the Crestron control system. This was then installed and tweaked on-site. Ross and his colleagues discovered some extra requirements as the build progressed and Innovations provided solutions throughout.

Commenting, Andy said:

*"The system we have installed is seamless; everything can be controlled from an iPad which sits in a cradle on the table. Users can simply switch it on, they no longer need to swap cables, change settings or call on-site support. The system is programmed to automatically start, set up and adjust the equipment quickly and easily."*

Asked his views on Innovations and the installation, Ross said:

*"I can't fault them; Andy worked tirelessly to give us a good service and I would recommend them to anyone looking for AV or boardroom equipment without a shadow of doubt."*