



Innovations' Technical Skills Put To The Test At Imago Loughborough

Imago is a wholly owned subsidiary of Loughborough University and offers outstanding meeting venues and accommodation as well as food and extensive sport and leisure facilities. As a commercial organisation whose profits are reinvested into the University, it prides itself on providing excellent venues with state of the art technology to provide the best possible experience for customers.

Innovations has been working with Imago in Loughborough for some time now ensuring that the all important audio visual equipment is up to date and well maintained. The most recent project at the Holywell Park site really tested Innovations' technical skills though.

On paper, the latest project looked like a straight forward upgrade of a projector, but it turned out to be far more in depth than that. The Room where the new projector has been installed is a large hall with glass walls, not an ideal location for a projector and screen! Although the client had already installed blinds, Innovations recommended a high brightness projector (5000 Lumens) and a 3 metre screen to display high definition graphics.

imago

Client: Imago, Loughborough University

Requirements: To integrate the existing Bose system with Crestron and to provide an interface with an iPad

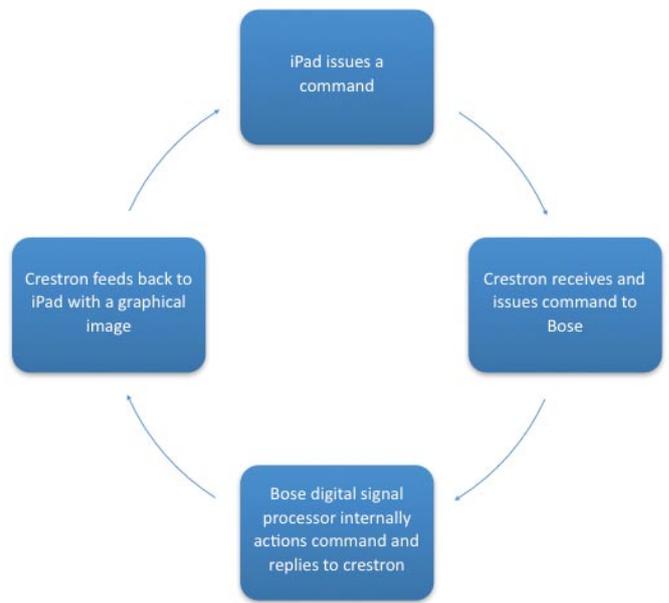
Solution: Innovations' technicians developed a system that replicates what is being done on the Bose on the iPad using the Crestron system as an interface creating an extremely user friendly system.

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The new high definition projector and Crestron control system is a standard installation for the technical team at Innovations. In this case, though, Imago had an existing Bose control system which the Crestron system had to be integrated into. A further challenge was that the client wanted to be able to use an iPad and iPhones to interface with the system. So the iPad/iPhone, Bose and Crestron had to all be configured to communicate with one another, receiving and sending messages.

Senior Technician Mick Mallen designed a system that replicates what is being done on the Bose on the iPad and vice versa to make it user friendly. The Crestron system acts as an interface, for example, the iPad issues a command to the Crestron system, which processes the command and forwards it to the Bose system where it is actioned and a signal is sent back to the Crestron system which translates it into a graphical image for the iPad. This is all done seamlessly and results in a very user friendly system.



Fortunately, the majority of the programming could be done off-site, minimising the impact on the client. After a number of days programming, Innovations went on site to set up and install the system upgrade. Previously, the AV equipment was controlled by a wall mounted panel, now users are able to use an iPad, meaning they can make adjustments to things like lighting from within the audience or on the sidelines. The iPad also provides the Bose system with additional functionality including a 31 band graphic equalizer to fine tune sound.



Commenting on the installation, Andy Russell Director of Innovations said:

"I am pleased with the way this installation has gone, the client has a state of the art system that has a very simple user interface which is accessible on an iPad or iPhone. In time, Imago technicians will be able to access the system through their iPhones remotely too if they wish."