



Innovations help Vitec Videocom to “Focus” on its Boardroom

When you are among the best in the world at what you do, you have a right to expect the best! Vitec Group is an award winning provider of premium broadcast equipment to the media and film industry so they know a lot about good quality images. The company states its purpose as being: “to provide vital products and services that support the capture of exceptional images.” So, when it came to upgrading their boardroom, they wanted the best audiovisual quality that was available and Innovations delivered!

When Andy Russell, Director of Innovations originally met Ben Skinner, IT Manager from Vitec Group at the company’s offices in Bury St Edmunds, it became clear that the initial brief was not going to deliver an outcome worthy of a company that prides itself on technological solutions to broadcasting. The original brief was to provide two monitors side by side to enable presentations to be shown at the same time as videoconferencing images, controlled from a PC or laptop. In order to get monitors that would be big enough, the cost would be extremely high.



Client: Vitec Group

Requirements: To upgrade the boardroom to enable video conferencing to be shown alongside presentations on large screens controlled by a PC or laptop.

Solution: Innovations fitted two large (2metre wide) Stewart Filmscreen Luxus Deluxe Screens with two separate high definition projectors hidden in the ceiling, a new Polycom videoconferencing system and a Crestron Control system accessed via an iPad or iPhone.

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Andy Russell felt there was a better way and suggested the Stewart Filmscreen Luxus Deluxe front projection screen, which gives excellent colour balance and exceptionally clear images. Each one is two metres wide and works with two separate high definition projectors.

The HD projectors are stored in the ceiling on motorised fixings so that they can be dropped down, when required and then neatly retreat back into the ceiling out of sight. Also hidden out of sight, are two large speakers that are cunningly disguised as ceiling tiles, these flat panel speakers give crisp clear sound directly overhead and contribute to a great video/audio conferencing experience. The room also boasts a Bose surround sound system to give excellent sound definition to presentations, TV and DVD viewing.

Innovations also supplied the video-conferencing system – a Polycom high definition system, which is also available in the break out meeting room upstairs. Polycom is recognised as an industry leader in video conferencing systems and employs its natural motion technology to ensure images are not jerky and sound is crisp and clear; it is also very easy to use and reliable.

All of the equipment in the boardroom is controlled by a Crestron boardroom control system that is accessed via an iPad. Innovations' technicians spent a great deal of time programming the system and producing simple icons for the iPad to ensure it is user friendly and everything is controlled at the touch of a button.

When the iPad is turned on the screens come on, the projectors drop down and the sound system kicks in. Non-technical end-users can easily use the system, which is good news for Ben and the rest of the IT team.

The new system took about 10 days to set up and install, however, the programming was done off-site so downtime was minimised for the client. "We try to do as much as we can off site so that the customer has minimum disruption. The programming is an important part of an AV system nowadays as everything needs to integrate with the company's existing IT systems whilst being easy to use."

Anyone at Vitec wishing to use the new, state of the art boardroom is expected to use the "state of the art" room booking system, installed by Innovations. The evoko room booking system allows rooms to be booked and equipment to be reserved and is accessible over the company's network or via a neat panel outside the boardroom and meeting rooms. Vitec were so pleased with the room booking system that they asked if they could have one for the Costa Rican office, so Innovations supplied one there too!

