Making the Grade with HDBaseT

End Customer: Chinese University of Hong Kong
Vertical: Education

About the End Customer

The Chinese University of Hong Kong was founded in 1963, and consists of nine colleges, offering a series of undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 18,000 students. The University recently renovated the Shaw College Lecture Theatre, a 500-seat multipurpose room used for lectures, conferences, seminars and cultural activities.

The Challenge

The Shaw College Lecture Theatre is the center for the school's Audio Visual Services. The renovation aimed at providing a useful lecture space, as well as a venue for conferences, seminars and cultural activities, targeting both professors and students. The biggest challenge was timing: the system integrator had three months to complete the project, from design to installation, as the system had to be up and running before the beginning of the new school semester.

The Solution

The solution was a simple but state-of-the-art system, to combine performance and flexibility. Crestron's HDBaseT-enabled DigitalMedia™ was selected as the single platform solution to distribute, control and manage the array of multimedia technology in the theater. Since HDBaseT enables the transmission over a single Cat cable, the integrator saved precious time in the installation time, while also allowing for the large distances in the 500-seat theater.

The core of the system is the flexible and expandable HDBaseT switcher (DM-MD16x16), featuring a variety of input and output cards, performing flawless routing, switching and distribution of uncompressed digital and analog signals over a single cat cable to the seven displays, reducing cabling runs substantially. Crestron's software (DM® Tools) was used for testing, allowing the integrator to quickly and reliably configure the system. In addition, DM Tools allows for remote access to the system, a must in a lecturing hall.

The lecture podium also features a Crestron TPS-1700 tabletop touch panel, to provide an intuitive user interface for easy control of monitors, Blu-ray player, visualizer, projector, video conference, and I/P video mixer. The system also allows control of the displays located outside the venue. Behind the scenes, an advanced CP2E Control System manages all AV technology and system control, providing performance automation.

Results

The renovated Shaw College Lecture Theatre is a grand venue for community events. By utilizing HDBaseT, the University was able to install a state-of-the-art audiovisual system, with no compromises on quality or performance, while sticking to a tight timeframe. HDBaseT enabled the deployment of less cables while allowing for control and delivery of high-definition video to all the displays inside and outside the venue.

About HDBaseT

HDBaseT technology, powered by the Valens chipset, enables all-in-one connectivity between ultra-HD video sources and remote displays through a single 100m/328ft CAT6 cable or fiber, delivering uncompressed high definition 4k video, audio, USB, Ethernet, control signals and up to 100 watts of power.