Stunning Rooftop Conference Center at 745 Thurlow Enhanced with Extron Switching, Audio, and Control

745 Thurlow is a 400,000-square-foot state-of-the-art office building in the heart of the Vancouver, British Columbia business district. Managed by QuadReal Property Group, it was one of the first office buildings in the downtown area to achieve LEED Core and Shell Gold certification. Its flexible architecture, prestigious location, and easy access to mass transit are just a few of the reasons businesses both large and small are tenants.

Extron

The larger Stanley Park Boardroom features stunning views and is equipped with two 86" displays.

Among the building's many amenities, tenants enjoy exclusive access to a two-room conference center on the 25th floor with an adjacent lounge and rooftop patio. The conference center features sweeping views of the city and the North Shore mountains and is very popular with tenants who reserve it throughout the year for business meetings, events, parties, yoga classes, and more. The rooftop patio offers a gas fire pit, tables, and a casual seating area with a barbecue. It's a popular place to gather and watch the annual Honda Celebration of Light fireworks competition in English Bay.

CHALLENGES

While tenants have always had reasons to love the rooftop conference center, for at least the first 10 years after the building's construction, the AV system was not one of them. The original integrator left the system unfinished. There were button panels that didn't work. Some system functionality was never enabled. Several devices included in the original design were never installed or were installed but not connected.

The AV technology that was in place lacked the functionality needed by users. For instance, the source devices in the system output 720p or 1080p video, but there was no way to upscale these signals. And the system lacked automation. Setting up the simplest presentation required help from an on-site security officer or property manager, personnel that changed frequently due to promotions or attrition. Unsurprisingly, these issues caused frustration for users and property managers alike.

"We were confident that we could deliver the best possible solution with Extron technologies because we knew they would deliver the products on time and support us a hundred percent"

Barton Moxness
President of Limitless AV

When combined, the two rooms seat up to 80 people. TLP 1025M Touchlink Pro Touchpanels make it easy for tenants to control the system.

DESIGN SOLUTION

Limitless AV, a premier systems integrator headquartered in Vancouver, was brought in to manage and maintain the aging system. The company's responsibilities included responding to the many calls from users for support and keeping the existing technology going until the AV system could be upgraded.

After a few delays, due in no small part to the COVID outbreak, Limitless AV was awarded the contract to design and install a new system from the ground up, complete with automation and advanced technologies to enhance the experience of everyone who uses the conference center.

"This project had all of the challenges that come with retrofitting an existing facility," says Barton Moxness, President of Limitless AV. "We had to be very creative in how we leveraged the infrastructure to minimize construction costs while also maximizing system functionality and ease of use."

The design team at Limitless AV sought to deploy a system that could support a wide range of connectivity and be easy for the tenants to use without assistance. To accomplish these goals, they selected Extron switching, signal extension, audio, and control solutions.

DTP System Enables Connection and Control

A DTP CrossPoint 84 4K 8x4 Scaling Presentation Matrix Switcher provides all of the signal routing for audio and video in the boardrooms. The smaller English Bay Conference Room is equipped with a single 86" 4K display while the larger Stanley Park Conference Room features dual displays of the same size.

Room Volume

Stanley Park Left | Stanley Park Right | English Bay

Displays

On

Off

Stanley Park Sources

PC | Wall Plate

Floor Box East | Floor Box West

English Bay Sources

PC | Wall Plate

Floor Box

Mute

Audio Settings

Room Mode | February 11, 2023 - 5:58 PM | Help

The customized touchpanel GUI includes the Quadreal logo along with large buttons and easy to use sliders for complete system control.

Limitless AV included Bluetooth connectivity, wireless presentation capabilities, conferencing cameras, and ceiling microphones in both rooms so users can conduct meetings over Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Multiple HDMI interfaces are provided throughout each room so users can connect their own laptops or other source devices. The video input signals are scaled automatically to make every presentation as impressive as it can be.

Advanced Audio Processing Ensures Clarity for Everyone

Audio system capabilities were expanded by adding an Extron DMP 64 Plus DSP processor, providing support for wireless microphones in the larger Stanley Park Conference Room and on the outdoor patio. In addition, system designers were able to set up three distinct audio zones in the conference center: the conference spaces, the corridor, and the patio. This enables discrete control and fine-tuning of each area, as well as accommodating a variety of sound system applications.

TouchLink Touchpanels Simplify Control for Every User

The DTP CrossPoint matrix switcher's integrated IPCP control processor makes centralized AV system control possible. It eliminates the need for a separate controller in the rack. A TLP Pro 1025M 10" TouchLink Pro Touchpanel mounted to the wall in each room makes it easy to control all the audio, video, and integrated room components at the touch of a button. Limitless AV modified an Extron GUI design theme to create a fully customized user interface that reflects the QuadReal Property Group's branding and features the 745 Thurlow building logo. The interface is so intuitive that users no longer

have to call someone for help to start their meeting, and they have complete control of the system.

The two conference spaces can be set up individually or combined to create one large room that seats up to 80 people. An Extron ECM S10 Partition Sensor uses IR to sense the position of the movable wall between the two rooms. Based on its status, the control system automatically places the room into either Separate or Combined mode. There is also custom control for unique and personalized room configurations, when required.

A TouchLink Touchpanel mounted in the corridor outside the rooms is used for selecting audio zones and to adjust the volume in the overflow areas and on the patio. Limitless AV created separate zones for when separate indoor and outdoor events run concurrently.

RESULTS

Feedback on the new system has been very positive. "We were confident that we could deliver the best possible solution with Extron technologies because we knew they would deliver the products on time and support us a hundred percent," says Moxness. "Users are finding the system extremely easy to use, so calls for support have been reduced to nearly zero." The building's owners are delighted to see their investment already returning dividends in the shape of even happier tenants.

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FEATURED EXTRON PRODUCTS

Model	Description
TLP 1025M	10" Wall Mount TouchLink Pro Touchpanel
TLP 725M	7" Wall Mount TouchLink Pro Touchpanel
DTP CrossPoint 84 4K IPCP MA 70	8x4 Seamless 4K Scaling Presentation Matrix Switcher
DTP2 R 211	4K/60 HDMI DTP2 Receiver with Audio De-Embedding
DTP T HWP 4K 231 D	DTP Transmitter for HDMI - Decorator-Style Wallplate
DTP2 4K 230 Tx	DTP Transmitter for HDMI
DTP HDMI 4K 230 Rx	DTP Receiver for HDMI
DMP 64 Plus	6x4 ProDSP Digital Matrix Processor
ECM S10	Partition Sensor Set

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