



CLIENT: RAIL SAFETY AND STANDARDS BOARD
PROJECT VALUE: £150K
PROJECT TIME FRAME: 3 MONTHS

SETTING A HIGH STANDARD

The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) is an independent company owned by rail industry stakeholders, including Network Rail and train operating companies. It is responsible for the British Railway Rule Book, which defines technical standards and operating procedures.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

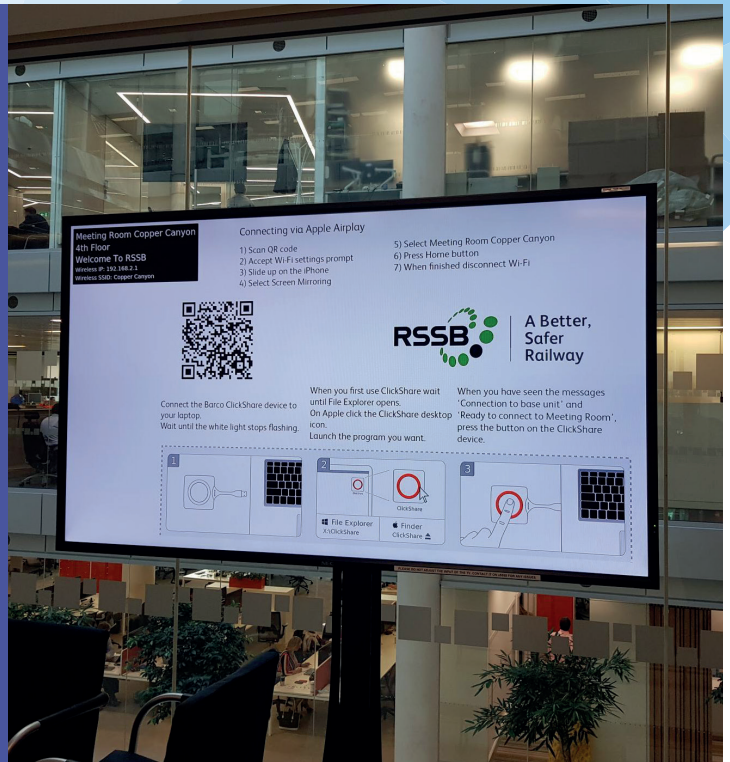
RSSB is a corporate client whose line of business includes hosting meetings, corporate events, presentations and video conferences. Its London-based office was fitted with legacy AV that no longer met the needs of the business, as it was not flexible enough to support the variety of scenarios the customer needed, it was old and difficult to support when it went wrong, and it took up a lot of space and power in the office (as well as contributing heat to the spaces).

RSSB wanted to make better commercial use of the space by hiring it out, as well as hosting conferences and events for peers in the sector. Previously, this meant hiring in equipment and event staff which was disruptive and costly. There was also a drive to save energy and implement technology that



KIT INSTALLED

- Extron control (IPCP Pro 350 x4), TLP 720 touchscreens in every room
- Wyrestorm NHD AV over IP to re-use existing CAT6 cable and avoid infrastructure in rooms
- Cisco SG350 range of network switches
- Atlona HDVS-300 switchers for standard consistent interface across all rooms
- Biamp TesiraForte and TCM-1A conferencing microphones
- Barco Clickshare CSE range of wireless collaboration devices
- AMX Hydraports providing HDMI, Displayport and VGA connections in each space as well as power and device charging via USB.



minimised infrastructure in rooms, so that credenza cupboards which previously housed equipment could be used by events staff.

Several of the rooms at RSSB are divisible (3-room and 2-room designs) which were difficult to manage because the complexity of the equipment and age of kit made separating and joining the rooms unreliable.

PROJECT BRIEF

RSSB called on CDEC to come in and remove the legacy AV and install a new flexible, network-based AV system which was easy for customers to use, with a simple and standardised interface. As well as a first/second fix approach to installation, CDEC provided both on-site and video training materials for end users, technical help guides for IT staff, and contracted second line support, including on site field engineers where needed.

CDEC won the tender for this project based on our innovative approach with the AV over IP system, and our credentials as an ISO-accredited organisation (9001, 14001 and 27001). The IT-based solution appealed to the customer's on-site team, who appreciated easy administration via web GUI and the ability to monitor and manage network traffic, as all signal transmission, control and communication ran over the network.

The first phase of work involved a number of smaller meeting rooms and a large divisible space. Following successful completion of this work, CDEC was awarded further work to

integrate the rest of the spaces into the AV over IP system, so not only can divisible spaces be joined but all meeting spaces can link together in any configuration.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

In a project such as this which involved a lot of legacy equipment and a quite challenging setup, we came across a number of challenges. On the technical side, for example, it was necessary to re-use the existing network cabling which was a mixture of Cat5e and Cat6. It was necessary to lift the floor and ceiling to ensure cabling was in the right place for the equipment

In addition, the office was very busy and so work had to be carried out flexibly around the availability of rooms to complete the install. This involved implementing a "minimum viable solution" and adding more features over time.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

A particular highlight of the installation is the fact that the system is infinitely scalable by adding further AV over IP transmitters and receivers, so new spaces can easily be added with a plug-and-play approach.

In addition, there is minimal infrastructure in the rooms – each display or projector has an AV over IP receiver and HDMI inputs are located under the tables, with cables in an attractive AMX Hydraport. The core of the solution is running on commodity hardware from Cisco and Netgear.