

Case Study > FEMA Grants & Training

ABOUT FEMA

FEMA's Office of Domestic Preparedness (now the Office of Grants and Training) initiated the rebuild of an existing space to create a new Conference and Training facility.

Initially envisioned as place to educate state and local government agencies on how to acquire and use training grants, the facility's use is being expanded to cover a full range of course types and other uses.



THE CHALLENGE

The new space was designed to provide two separate areas that could be combined into one when necessary. The larger portion of the room serves as a Conference Room, with a retractable wall which sections off a smaller traditional classroom area. With the wall put away, the entire space is converted into one large training or conference room with capacity for up to 100 people.

The facility required an information visualization system that could accommodate an extensive quantity and diverse range of video and data sources, as well as provide display technology that would be flexible and ensure complete visibility in different types of presentation situations.

THE SOLUTION

Activu designed and built a visualization system which was integrated into the DHS Enterprise Architecture to deliver highly dynamic, network-based information access and display, as well as equipping both areas with different types of display, audio and conferencing technology.

At the front of the Conference Room near the podium, a 1x4 matrix display wall of 67" XGA display cubes was installed as the primary presentation display, plus several 57" LCD (1920 x 1080 resolution) panels mounted on pillars at the midway point in the room. The panels mounts are moveable arms which allows each panel to be rotated towards the audience in back half of the room. The smaller Training area behind the retractable was outfitted with a 1x3 display wall using the same 67" DLP cubes.

The Activu system enables simultaneous training sessions and conference presentations, with both groups having instant access to information residing on 55 networked computer sources, as well as to 48 analog NTSC video sources and multiple digital video streams. Activu makes presentations easier with the ability to create, save and instantly recall unlimited number of layouts of data and video information, greatly enhancing the ease and flow of their presentation.

A dynamic whiteboarding capability enhances communication and comprehension. Presenters, using a special Teflon pen, can 'write' directly on the wall, with the option to change colors for other participants in the session.

Since Activu enables device control, a multi-zone audio playback system for both the Conference and Training Rooms, and two Tandberg video teleconferencing (VTC) systems were integrated. A special Activu GUI interface was created for the VTC systems to support operator switching between different audience-directed and presenter-directed cameras.



We are proud of our association with 3H Technology as the prime contractor for this project funded through the DHS Eagle (Enterprise Acquisition Gateway for Leading-Edge Solutions) contract vehicle.