

Goirle Town Hall installs first DCN Wireless Discussion System in the Netherlands



BOSCH
Invented for life

Industry:

Municipal institution/Town council

End User:

Goirle town hall,

built in 1989, was designed by the Eindhoven architect group De Bever and is noted for its stylish, round council chamber. The chamber accommodates up to 25 members of the town council and about the same number of public observers. Goirle is a busy town of more than 22,000 inhabitants located near the city of Tilburg in the south of the Netherlands.

Business Objective:

A basic analog discussion system was installed when the town hall was completed, which, after 15 years in use, began to show signs of wear and tear. RF interference from the surroundings and passing traffic became an increasing problem. Because the system was hard-wired it did not offer flexibility in configuration. It was already realized that a digital solution, with its inherent high-quality sound capability, should replace the analog one. The question was whether it should be hard-wired or wireless.

Solution:

Late in 2005, discussions between the facility management, Bosch and MK2 Audiovisueel, the company that would install the new system, led to a demonstration of the new Digital Congress Network (DCN) Wireless Discussion System that Bosch was planning to introduce in March 2006. The new system, which is digitally protected against tapping or eavesdropping, comprises two main elements – a Wireless Access Point (WAP) unit and three different types of Wireless Discussion Units. Goirle's town hall council chamber uses 25 Discussion Units with long-stem microphones.

The system combines fast set-up of the tabletop discussion units with separate battery packs for easy and rapid recharging (only 3 hours) and changing. The long-life lithium-ion batteries can be charged up to 5 at a time with the Bosch charging unit. The WAP unit's signal has an effective range of 30 meters and is mounted unobtrusively high up on the east wall of the council chamber. A single Wireless Control Unit is tabletop mounted and, to prevent unauthorized use, assigns a unique 'subscriber' name, selected by the system operator, to each Wireless Discussion Unit.



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To enhance listening, both by delegates and the public inside the council chamber, the sound system is also connected through an additional amplifier to wall-mounted loudspeakers. Also, council meetings are broadcast live through the local television transmitting station to enable proceedings to be followed both inside the town hall and in the homes of the general public.

Result:

Replacement of the analog system took place in August 2006. The town hall's facility management praised Bosch and the installer for the speed and efficiency that the old system was replaced. In only a few hours the wireless system was ready for use and worked perfectly immediately after switching it on – virtually a 'plug-and-play' situation. Flexibility is enabled by plugging and unplugging the tabletop Discussion Units and placing them where needed. This reduces the time spent in dismantling or setting up the system. Goirle's mayoress, Mrs. Machteld Rijdsdorp, commented: "The improvement in our meeting discussions was immediately noticeable. The new system contributes greatly to the efficiency of our civic proceedings."

Installed by:

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