

Integrated conferencing and information system for Spanish Parliament



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Industry:

Government

End User:

The Spanish Parliament

The Spanish parliament is housed in Madrid's historic El Palacio del Congreso de los Diputados (Congress of Deputies) in the Carrera de San Jerónimo. The Congress of Deputies is the lower house of the Cortes Generales, Spain's legislative branch, and has 350 members, elected by popular vote on block lists by proportional representation. The building, which has a distinctive neo-classical style, was constructed between 1843 and 1850.



Business Objective:

The original Philips ICS 600 Analog Conference System in the debating hall of the Congress of Deputies needed to be replaced by a modern and efficient solution with extended functionality. It was important that the new system could be installed without disturbing the hall's historic furnishings and decoration. Additional functionality of the new system had to include voting facilities and on-floor information workstation services similar to those provided in an office.

Solution:

Advised by leading Madrid-based Bosch partner installer AUDITEL, it was decided to install Bosch's state-of-the-art Digital Congress Network (DCN) Next Generation System in combination with a Hewlett-Packard PC-based thin-client server information and display system. 350 general workstations are arranged in a semicircle, one for each Member of Parliament and comprising a 15-inch LCD monitor, keyboard, trackball mouse, microphone and a voting keypad. In addition a 15" color display to show voting results, web-browsing, retrieval of files, send messages to other delegates and for in-house broadcast media streaming. Special touch-screen operated workstations for the President and Secretary General, and one on the rostrum, are located in the front of the hall facing the members. Bosch's DCN Next Generation System features innovative transmission via a non-complex and robust network infrastructure combined with a complete range of contribution units. This configuration ensures optimal audio quality for speech intelligibility and simplified installation and operation. The microphone is its most critical component providing clarity, sensitivity and range, for which Bosch has developed technology.

The HP thin-client server connects the workstation monitors (and keyboards and trackball mice) via the data network to centrally based servers. These servers control workstations (terminal servers) as well as process streaming media (video servers) and informational and messaging functions (office servers).

Result:

The combined Bosch DCN Next Generation and HP server solution is the first of its kind. It provides the Spanish Parliament with a tailored solution that functionally, ergonomically, technologically and aesthetically fulfills all conferencing requirements. The HP thin-client server approach means that all intelligence (software) is located centrally, offering considerable return on investment and operational savings.

Installed by:

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