

#RACKS & #MOUNTS

Peerless-AV Helps Cal Riverside Scale Video Wall Obstacles

In early 2014, the University of California Riverside was putting the finishing touches on its new Student Recreation Center, a building planned as the hub of recreational, intramural and club sports on campus. From health classes to casual sports games to personal training and even a rock climbing wall, the 80,000-square-foot facility was packed with everything the campus would need to fulfill students' needs.

However, the campus was still looking to find a way to showcase school events, share news, stream sporting events and more, in a visually appealing, high-tech format that was in line with the aesthetic of the new state-of-the-art rec center. Enter integrator High-Tech Electric, which presented a video wall solution to fit the bill.

The proposed system was an impressive 7 x 7 video wall consisting of 49 Barco 55-inch LCD displays seamlessly aligned and hung using Peerless-AV's DS-VW755S Full Service Thin Video Wall Mount with Quick Release display mount solution. On the content side, the wall would incorporate a variety of tuners from Contemporary Research to stream 16 channels and content from a Panasonic Blu-ray player, along with displaying large still images to share major campus news.

One of the installation challenges was the space designated to house equipment. Many components had to be assembled and prepped a far distance from the actual wall, using remote power supplies. To reduce weight and spatial constraints, the power supplies were also pulled out of the displays and rack-mounted along with media players in a separate, temperature-controlled room with low-voltage cabling to the displays. Middle Atlantic Products provided the racks, and the setup resulted in less heat near the displays and less weight on the mounts. An Extron touchpanel created in the control room allowed the university to

easily command the configuration of the screens, from one full screen to four mini screens and more.

With the video wall starting at 13 feet off the ground, with a peak height of 40 feet, the Peerless-AV component was a key component to the installation's success. The mount allowed technicians to seam-



Integrator High-Tech Electric employed Peerless-AV's DS-VW755S Full Service Thin Video Wall Mount with Quick Release to create a 49-display Barco video wall high up in UC Riverside's new Student Recreation Center.

lessly align displays and negated tedious calculations and onsite guesswork through its reusable display-dedicated wall plate spacers. Also, the DS-VW755S offers simple, tool-less micro adjustments at eight points, and the quick-release function allowed installers to gain easy access to the back of the displays. The mount can also extend into a negative tilt position for convenient cabling.

"This project consisted of so many industry firsts — it was scary to make it all happen, but that's what you have to do to get the latest and greatest," says High-Tech Electric's James Gulke, who managed the project. Contributor Peerless-AV is an Aurora, Ill.-based designer, manufacturer and distributor of audiovisual solutions in commercial and residential applications.

>> @PeerlessAVEU, @middleatlantic, @ContempResearch

#MNEC

Make Sure You're Sending the Right MNS Messages

There has been plenty of coverage recently of mass notification systems (MNS), which are also referred to as emergency communications systems within NFPA 72, The National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, or the combined mass notification emergency communications (MNEC). But it's particularly important for commercial integrators who install security to stay up to date on such systems this year. Last month, the membership of the National Fire Protection Association voted on the 2016 edition of NFPA 72. Within this edition, the Technical Committee on Emergency Communication Systems has completely revised the existing Annex G into a new Annex H, Guidelines for Emergency Communication Strategies for Buildings and Campus.

Since the release of the 2013 edition of NFPA 72, there have been a number of active shooter incidents within the United States. In 2014, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) released a report Guidance Document: Emergency Communication Strategies for Buildings by Erica Kuligowski, Ph.D. and Hidemi Omori, in which numerous mass notification strategies are discussed. The ECS Technical Committee distilled the fundamental findings within the report into the new Annex H.

The emergency message that is to be delivered to the occupants of a building or space must be clear and precise. Additionally, prior to the message being broadcast, there must be an identifiable alert to allow the occupants to prepare for the message.

Annex H states that the alerts should have the following attributes:

- Alerts should be significantly different from ambient sounds.
- Buildings should reduce background noise when initiating audible alerts.
- Flashing, rather than static, lights, preferably one standard color for all buildings, can be used to gain attention to visual warning messages.
- There are additional methods to alert occupants to an emergency: disruption of routine activities, tactile methods,