

An Independent Government Body which conducts in-depth inquiries has recently upgraded their audio visual capabilities

Their decisions are frequently seen in the news and front pages of the financial papers.



Located in central London, there are five hearing rooms, three of which have removable partitions to enable the spaces to be opened up into one large room or three independent rooms, depending on the business in hand.

The rooms are always busy and on some days, they can be set up in several different configurations when a major hearing splits into smaller break out sessions, then reconfigured back to one large room, all in an afternoon.

Hearing rooms 1, 2 & 3 are next to each other and require a standalone audio systems running independently and then, at the touch of a button, have all three systems working immediately and seamlessly as one when the partitions are opened up.

“We carried out a radio spectrum scan and the needle nearly went off the dial, there was so much wi – fi and electronic “noise” in the area that one 2.4 Ghz radio system could possibly work, but certainly not 5 together” commented Sound Advice’s Project Manager Chris Tait. “The client’s requirement was to have the facility for automatic camera follow, integrated recording with identification of the speaker, top quality audio and total flexibility. Quite by coincidence, we had seen a demonstration of the new ACT Infrared digital conference system from Audio Technica which solved all of the client’s requirements in one hit.”

“Being cableless and infrared, the three systems can work side by side without interference and by switching the emitters, the rooms audio signals can be reconfigured immediately. There is a central stock of delegates units which can be laid out in any number, in any configuration, in any of the three spaces”



Each of the three main equipment racks, below, has a Nexia CS processor that switches the audio paths and provides equalisation, a Nexia TC that provides remote telephone conferencing facilities, a Marantz digital recorder for the audio and a laptop in the room runs the Audio Technica recording software that provides a time line for the recording and a log to show which delegate unit was open and when. The next phase is to add autotrack video camera and videoconferencing for archiving and remote delegate participation.



From a touch panel in each room, the staff have control of the lights, blinds, video signal paths, DVD transport and when the rooms are opened up, the controller automatically switches the other systems off and re routes the audio via the Nexia processor. The telephone dial out and audio levels are operated from the touch screen and recording and room layout status are also available.



Sound Advice has programmed all of the switching and processing behind the scenes so that the rooms can now be reconfigured at the touch of a screen by non technical operatives.

The Department now has a totally flexible audio system with a host of features that enables them to provide a professional environment for their enquiries to take place.

