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HONG KONG, SAR

Client's Objective Of An AV System That Drastically Reduces Labour Costs And Turn-Around Times Met

BAP Integrates at Aquarium Restaurant with the Colourful Backdrop of a Lively Underwater World

BAP has delivered AV and lighting control systems for Neptune's Restaurant, located at Ocean Park, Aberdeen, with outdoor digital signage, projection & display, audio system, touchpanel control and dimming control system. The system is designed for multi-function space which could cater to small private parties as well as large wedding/business events.

Marco Tang, BAP Director of Sales, says, "Neptune's Restaurant is the only aquarium restaurant in Hong Kong with the colourful backdrop of a lively underwater world seen through a 13-meter-wide panoramic viewing panel where guests can enjoy sustainable seafood in an elegant dining environment. This aspect is extremely important for the AV component of the project, because the system design had to embody comfort yet prestige while also following Ocean Park's compliance rules."

Design concept

The spaces are all designed to operate with flexible configurations. The restaurant is divided into several spaces where each space can be operated individually or combined into a larger space. Neptune's Restaurant required an audio-visual solution that would drastically reduce the labour costs and turn-around times, making the transition from wedding to private party mode as simple as technologically possible. This required automated handling, processing, and distribution of video and audio. Ideally, the system would be controlled from an intuitive touch-screen interface that operators could use with confidence and ease.

Audio system

The audio system is powered by Extron and Crown amplifiers and is processed and controlled by Extron DMP 128 Plus C AT ProDSP Processor w/AEC and Dante. The ProDSP Processor supports various audio tasks and signal routing. These include acoustic echo cancellation, mixing and processing of the various microphones, audio sources output to the amplification system, and audio signal transmission to the other systems. Extron's DSP Configurator Software facilitates audio DSP management of the DMP 128 Plus C AT processor. The software's flexible graphical user environment simplifies the complex assignment of automatic mixing.

The Dante capability of the DMP 128 processor is integral to the AV system design, with its FlexInputs used to receive signals from Shure QLXD Dante enabled wireless microphone receivers and multiple Dante-enabled sources. The fully networked audio system means that combining and dividing rooms is extremely simple and efficient, with all inputs and outputs automatically assigned in preset states. The four Shure QLXD wireless microphones can then be shared to use within the restaurant with the ability to assign any microphone to any partition space freely by system operator easily.

Video system

The presentation matrix switcher, Extron DTP CrossPoint 86 4K IPCP MA 70 is used with multiple DTP transmitters, DTP receivers and distribution amplifier for local inputs and outputs to route signals to Epson laser projectors and Samsung displays. The HDCP-compliant matrix switcher was selected

due to its capabilities to fulfill important application and performance requirements, such as support of 4K video resolutions on inputs and outputs along with scaling on DTP outputs to accommodate multiple displays. Its Vector 4K scaling engine ensures consistent high-quality images that match each display's native resolution. With these visual performances, guests can enjoy a pleasant dining experience at the restaurant.

Digital signage has come to the age that it has become a trend in all industries. Samsung OH46F 46" outdoor signage is deployed to showcase the corporate information and new/latest menu from the Michelin-starred chef of the restaurant. The signage has extremely high visibility and reflection prevention that captivates audiences. It gives the highest level of endurance against external impact (IK10) and high level of ingress defence with IP56 level protection that extends throughout the entire display. The built-in cooling system can sustain 24/7 operations while negating the need for additional air conditioning systems.

"A durable, robust and high visual quality signage can attract customers as well as serve as a brand image to make your business stand out from the others. It's the first eye-catching point right before you enter the aquarium restaurant," say BAP Senior Marketing Manager, Karen Ng.

Light dimming control

In selecting the lighting control system, great consideration was given to ease of use and ensuring the lighting control solution could create different lighting atmosphere for a wide variety of events – from wedding receptions to private parties, to company events – the dining area accommodates it all with well planned partition and zoning designs.

With Lutron HomeWorks QS lighting control system in place, the restaurant operators have the ability to recall the preset light environment for different uses (e.g., speech, march-in, dining, presentation modes). Transitions between lighting scenes can range from 1 second to 1 hour, in such a way that the guests won't even notice the subtle change in light level. Sequencing of scenes can also be done for special occasions like for a private party to create dramatic effect and to surprise the guests.

BAP AV Installation
- VIP room 1
- VIP room 2
- Reception area
- Stage area
- Dining area
- Outdoor entrance signage
- Kitchen
- Washroom

Systems Integrated
- Epson EB-L510U laser projector and Epson EH-LS100 short throw laser projector
- Grandview motorized projection screens
- Samsung OH46F 46" outdoor signage
- Extron DTP CrossPoints 86 4K matrix presentation switcher
- Extron DMP 128 Plus C AT ProDSP Processor w/AEC and Dante
- Extron TLP Pro 725T touchpanel control
- Apple iPADs
- JBL speakers and subwoofers
- Soundcraft digial mixer
- Crown amplifiers
- Shure QLX wireless microphone system
- Lutron HomeWorks QS lighting control system

Control

One of the challenges was to create an ease-to-use control for non-technical operators. "Building a system is not the most difficult part, but designing an user-friendly interface that facilitates users to control the audio, video and lighting systems with confidence is always a challenging task," narrates BAP Director of Engineering, Finson Lam. "Our programmer spent much effort to understand operational requirements and work flows from the client through effective communication. And then came up with a solution that allows control everywhere with a touch of a button. It would drastically reduce the labour costs and turn-around times."

A 7" tabletop touchpanel, Extron TLP Pro 725T TouchLink Pro, allows users to control video and audio signals in multi-purpose spaces. For space combined situation, a simple button press can reconfigure the AV system to display signals to designated areas. With the Extron Control app, two Apple iPad tablets can be used as wireless touchpanel control that allow convenient system control throughout the venue. Operator can control the system anywhere at anytime.

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