Case Study: Kenyatta International Conference Centre

When the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, in Nairobi, Kenya decided to replace their existing conference systems, they needed a future proofed, modern system that offered maximum flexibility. This case study details how NTE supplied and project managed the installation of a Bosch DCN Next Generation conference system for the KICC.

Customer Background

The Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) is an iconic building situated in Nairobi, Kenya. It is East Africa's premier meeting venue used for assemblies, exhibitions and Presidential Conferences.

The Tsavo Ballroom had previously used a mix of legacy vendors to build a conference system to suit each hirer's requirement. The Ballroom at 80 x 35m posed a technical challenge for legacy technologies as restricted cable distances limited conference layouts and the old analogue IR systems suffered from external interference and poor coverage.

The Project Brief

The KICC Management team was faced with the challenge of upgrading the conference system and integrating both audio and visual technologies. The aim was to offer a solution covering 100% of the Ballroom so that a client hiring the hall could host a conference in any orientation. Any replacement systems would have to be manufactured by a proven and reliable brand, enhance the look of the new conference facility, provide quality sound reproduction and be capable of integrating with a new Video Wall, Internet Streaming solution and any other 3rd party systems, both now and in the future.

The system would have to be supplied by an established conference system integrator that could assist during the design and pre-sales stage and provide advice on the equipment required. The installation would have to take place with the minimum disruption ensuring that the Tsavo Ballroom was available to fee paying clients during the installation period.

The system integrator would also have to provide thorough customer training for users of the system, conference administrators and in depth product training for the conference technicians.

The Solution

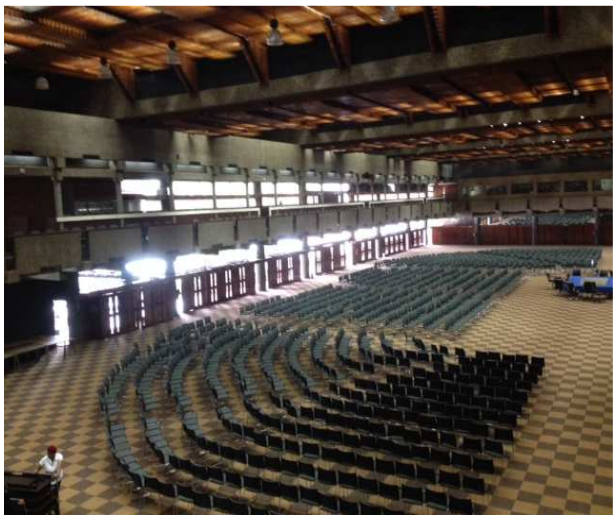
International Bosch reseller and system integrator NTE was chosen by the KICC management team to design install and commission the new conference system.

A Bosch DCN Next Generation system was chosen as the solution.

The main DCN Next Generation control equipment was permanently installed in a central Communications Suite. Using a Primary-Secondary arrangement with a portable cabinet, a conference could then be hosted in any place and in any orientation in the Ballroom.

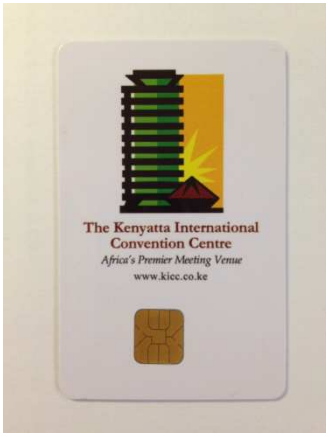
The system was designed to manage 150 Full Function Wired Delegate units and 110 Wireless Delegate units.

Parliamentary voting along with camera integration was also incorporated.



Delegate unit and chip cards

The DCN Concentus Full Function wired delegate units were chosen for their small footprint and modern styling. The provision of a KICC branded chip card complimented the KICC marketing activities and in conjunction with the associated software modules, weighted voting, delegate attendance and voting rights could be assigned to each delegate. With these cards VIP clients were also assigned system priorities. The built in channel selector provided delegates with access to 16 interpreted languages and LCD screen allowed them to view voting activity locally. This information was also output to an existing 60 panel video wall.



Wireless connectivity

The Bosch DCN Wireless Delegate Units were selected for their modern styling, functionality and the lack of mobile phone interference. Each delegate position had the ability to engage in multi-layer Parliamentary voting and also have full access to the 16 stereo language channels. The DCN Wireless Access Point was not permanently mounted but used in a portable scenario. Combined with the NTE designed cabling system it could be deployed in any position in the 80 x 35m Ballroom.

Language distribution

The Presidential Conference operates in two languages and fee paying clients would want to take advantage of the full 16 stereo channels available. Two interpreter desks were installed into each of the seven interpreter booths so that two interpreters could work together as a team, translating either the floor language or a translated language. It is normal for large venues to have translators working in pairs to allow for comfort breaks without disruption to the service.

A Bosch Integrus Infra-Red language system was permanently installed in the Tsavo Ballroom. NTE technicians used signal modelling to ensure that only six high powered radiators were required to provide 100% hall coverage, which included both the floor and the

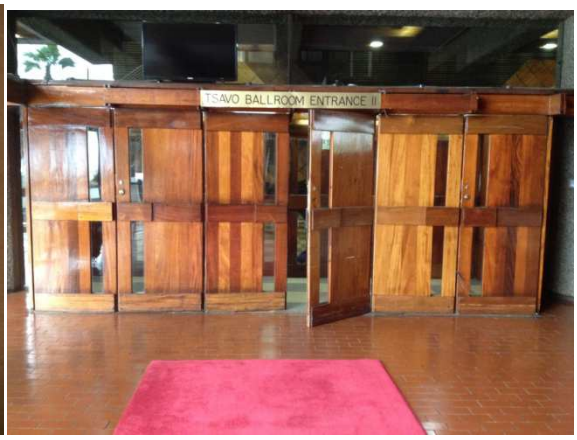
upper gallery. The superior performance that the Bosch Integrus offers resulted in no interference from the high powered over head lights. The system was able to cater for 500 delegates with 16 stereo channels available.

Camera control

Automatic camera control was installed so that images of the current speaker could be projected on to an existing video distribution system. To provide the very best image the KICC management team chose a Bosch HD camera system with PTZ (Pan, Tilt and Zoom) Autodomes. Using only five cameras NTE technicians designed a camera system to meet the client brief that a conference could be held in any orientation and in any place in the Tsavo Ballroom and a good quality image could be broadcast.

Asset control

The KICC Management team also expressed concerns that expensive assets could be lost if delegates inadvertently removed conference equipment when departing. NTE designed a passive RFID system which covered the Integrus IR receivers, the DCN Wireless delegate units and the DCN Wired Delegate units. The RFID readers covered the four main entrance/exits to the Tsavo Ballroom, with a database recording system alerts on a central server but also external sounders and beacons notifying KICC security personnel. Handheld RFID scanners then allowed security personnel to conduct a close contact search if required. Particular attention was based to the choice of antenna to blend with the warm oak wood used for the doors, making them virtually invisible.



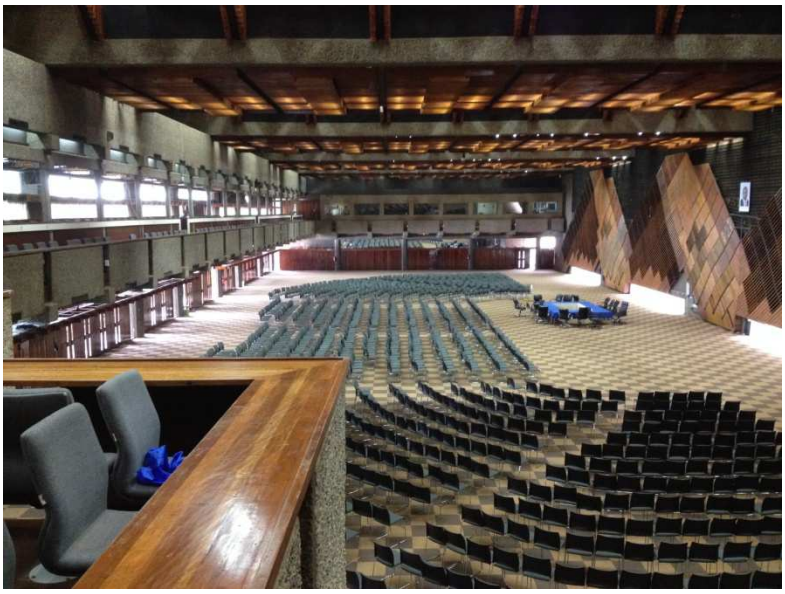
Smooth installation

The system was installed without disruption to the normal Tsavo ballroom activities, using night working kept the venue free for fee paying clients.

Training

Training was provided for users of the system and administration staff. The conference technicians underwent a training programme In the UK that included both theory and 'hands on' training with more specific training delivered in Kenya. At the end of the training programme, the technicians completed an examination on conference system design, conference set up, programming, and automatic camera control.

NTE is providing continued support for the life of the product.



Redeploying legacy equipment

NTE also provided options on how to re-cycle and dispose of the old conference systems in a green and environmentally friendly manner. The KICC management team chose to redeploy the legacy conference equipment in an annex and NTE technicians provided practical advice to assist the self-install.

Bosch Accredited Reseller for the DCN family of Conference Systems

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