

Activu Corporation is an Information Technology and Services company delivering true end-to-end network solutions for mission-critical command and control room environments. With a team of dedicated engineers, Activu has the unique ability to design, build, deploy and support full turnkey, net-centric video display wall systems to help organizations improve collaborative information sharing and decision making.

For more information visit
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The Client

The Houston Airport System (HAS) is the fourth-largest airport system in the United States and the sixth-largest in the world. The HAS, a Department of Aviation within the city of Houston, brings air service to Houston's population of more than 5.5 million. The Houston Airport System manages three facilities: George Bush Intercontinental Airport, William P. Hobby Airport, and Ellington Airport. The three-airport system served more than 48.5 million passengers in 2009, including more than 7.8 million international travelers. Together, the airports form one of North America's largest public airport systems and positions Houston as the international passenger and cargo gateway to the south central United States and a primary gateway to Latin America.

William P. Hobby Airport is Houston's second major commercial aviation facility, owned and operated by the City of Houston. Presently, Hobby Airport is served by five scheduled airlines and is the 6th largest hub airport for Southwest Airlines. Hobby Airport's terminal complex, consisting of 80 acres, has undergone a multimillion dollar capital improvement expansion program designed to upgrade its facilities to meet today's standards and future growth needs.

The Challenge

The Airport Communications Center (ACC) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) within the airport are responsible for the overall security of the facility's airfield and integrity of the runways and taxiways. Their responsibilities range from managing emergencies to routine airport maintenance. In the event of emergency, the ACC is chartered with calling in the proper emergency vehicles and personnel to coordinate a rescue effort.

The airport was managing their operations using 13" TV screens which were used to monitor video cameras. They could view only one camera at a time, which was a manual process requiring them to type in the proper camera number in order to pull up and view the video feed. As the airport underwent its multimillion dollar renovation, the HAS intended to deploy a state-of-the-art monitoring center which would allow them to manage phone calls, emergencies, maintenance and security. The HAS required that their solution be integrated with their multitude of security cameras around the airport, monitor information from TV, local news, weather, and allow them to display any source of information on a screen. This would enable them to effectively assess any type of security situation.

The biggest technology value we see is the fact that we can collaborate and share content amongst team members and because the system is IP-based, we can easily view any source connected to the network. This gives us incredible flexibility.

John A. Gallo, Airport Operations Supervisor, William P. Hobby Airport, HAS

The Solution

The Activu solution was selected due to its ability to integrate within their existing network. This allows the HAS to grab and view any information source from their network and display it on their large-scale video wall and LCD monitors. As an IP-based solution, the Activu system allows the HAS to monitor the entire airport, viewing as many IP camera feeds as required, at one time.

Activu is deployed on commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware from global leaders in display and server technology. The solution uses state-of-the-art Mitsubishi MegaView display cubes and IP servers which were easily integrated into the HAS' existing network infrastructure.

Activu deployed an array of 46" NEC flat panel LCDs within three different operation centers to improve the access to and efficiency of information sharing between the Airport Communications Center (ACC), the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the Duty Supervisor.

With Activu deployed in these three locations, the Duty Supervisor gained immediate situational awareness with access to control all audio and video within the ACC and EOC for improved decision making capabilities. It also provides the HAS with the ability to control all distributed audio throughout the ACC and EOC, increasing visibility of local applications and airport flight management information.

The three rooms were designed with emergency management in mind. Equipped with break-away walls, the ACC and EOC can become one large emergency center with the ability for operators and emergency personnel to share information and collaborate effectively. With the Activu solution, the HAS can more easily manage their operations with a user friendly software GUI that allows them to pull up and monitor any type of information, connected to the network, that is required to perform their jobs efficiently.