



Communications on the wall

UK: A giant display comprising 36 dnp Black Bead Screens forms the centrepiece of BT Wholesale's mission-critical National Network Management Centre.

British Telecom (BT) has upgraded the CRT-based display wall in their Network Management Centre in Oswestry with a new, state-of-the-art control display solution. Several years of hands-on experience with operating large display walls allowed BT to create a detailed wish list of ideal display wall features that would aid NMC operation. These strict requirements included:

- Low maintenance requirements
- Long term image quality
- Zero screen burn-in effect
- Ability to freeze an image on the wall, then display the image real-time on an adjacent screen to monitor the progress of a fault or a fault rectification
- Ability to simultaneously display the same source image on different screens, in different formats (zoomed, unzoomed etc)
- No restriction on the size or location of an image – i.e. the ability to display an

image across the complete wall

- A totally resilient system

The contract was won by Synelec, who put forward a proposal with their strategic alliance partner, CCC Network Systems. The result is a curved 16 x 3 metre display wall and a 3 x 1 wall – with a total display area exceeding 50 m² – which combines Synelec's display wall technology with optical screen technology from dnp and CCC Freevision Switch technology. The solution fulfilled all the wishes on BT's wish list. Furthermore, the image quality was judged far superior – especially at wide viewing angles.

The new display provides engineers with a helicopter view of the UK's communication network enabling them to snapshot potential hot spots, and respond to incidents worldwide that put the network under pressure.

It also allows engineers to manage the surges in traffic generated by tele-voting polls (such as Big Brother, music charts etc), maximise the impact of charity pledges, and seamlessly re-route calls following damage caused by extreme weather – or if fibre cables are accidentally severed. And in the event of an unprecedented incident like the September 11th terrorist attacks, the centre's 130-plus staff have a role to play in safeguarding the UK's comms networks. In addition, with the growth of the Internet and e-mail, data, broadband and other communications technologies and services, the new centre will also enable BT to maintain and manage the new generation of networks that continue to evolve.

Facts

Installers = Synelec and CCC Network Systems

Screens = 39 LM-1000 SIP cubes from Synelec with 67" dnp Black Bead Screens in a 12 x 3 and 1 x 3 configuration

Projectors = 39 Synelec XGA DLP projectors

Control = Synelec's e-LAN NetGraphic + control system, CCC Freevision Switch