



The world's first disappearing 103" Plasma Screen!

Global diversified mining group Xstrata commissioned Innovations Visual Communication Systems and TWP Design to create the ultimate in subtle boardroom solutions, including a system to enable its new 103" Panasonic Plasma to disappear behind a hollow boardroom wall, at the touch of a button.

AV Integrators Innovations Visual Communication Systems and TWP Design worked with distributors PSCo on the project, to create a bespoke solution for the company's corporate presentation, video conferencing and boardroom area.

Innovations designed a Crestron room system, controlling the lighting, sound equipment, Privalite glass, Sky TV, DVD and Blu-ray player as well as a Polycom HD video and audio conferencing system. The centrepiece to the installation was a new 103" screen, which is hydraulically lifted into place when in use and otherwise hidden behind a panelled boardroom wall.



Client: Xstrata Global Mining Group

Requirements: To install and hide a 103" Plasma screen in the Company's City Offices.

Solution: Innovations worked in partnership with TWP Design and PSCo to create a bespoke solution that includes a huge screen that is hydraulically lifted into place when in use and otherwise hidden behind a panelled boardroom wall.

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Tim Webster, Managing Director of TWP Designs explained:

"We designed a steel hydraulic frame which holds the 103" in place as if it is recessed into the wall and at the touch of a button it lifts the screen out into a storage space, sliding two wooden panels into place to make a seamless wall."

Working alongside the Big Screen specialists PSCo & IVCS, TWP conducted a series of tests and made slight alterations for this ground-breaking project before it was installed on site.

Andy Russell, Director of Innovations explained;

"This was a very time sensitive project to manage as we only had one week from Monday to Sunday to complete the system due to the availability of the boardroom. When the screen was in place, the lifting system worked first time, and offers the client a high tech solution, which doesn't need any additions to run unlike a projection system. High brightness projector lamps are still quite expensive. We worked with the existing infrastructure as well as co-ordinating new elements, all controlled by a Crestron wireless touch panel."

The size of the 103" screen presented a series of logistical challenges, with the PSCo team facilitating the screen to be craned through the window into the building.

Ed Martin, Technical Manager at PSCo explains;

"This installation was fascinating because not only did we need to verify the design and pre-testing of the screen's lifting mechanism but the installation itself meant we had to crane it into the building and remove internal partitioning as well as furniture in order to create a route into the office space en-route to the conference room. The screen itself was a precision fit into TWP's mechanism and joinery with little room to manoeuvre and both installation and future servicing access had to be considered early in the design phase. This is just the type of logistical planning PSCo specialises in, helping integrators to install the world's largest screens into even the least likely of places."

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Innovations knows that when it comes to audio visual solutions, once size rarely fits all. Bespoke installations like Xstrata is where the company excels because its technical knowledge is second to none. A recent survey among its key clients supports this – all participants rated Innovations' technical knowledge and ability as excellent.
