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Crestron dealer Bri-Tech, Inc. serves Long Island, the New York metro area and Connecticut, and was recently awarded a prestigious contract to design, build and install a state-of-the-art customized home theater and fully-integrated home automation system. The location is the luxurious penthouse residence at Trump World Tower at United Nations Plaza. The 6,000 square foot, fully renovated residence will be a Crestron showcase. Installed technology will include DigitalMedia™ HD connectivity and AV switching, an ADMS Intermedia Delivery System™, V12 and V15 HD touchpanels and dedicated iPads.

Bri-Tech, with its team of certified Crestron programmers, has the knowledge and unparalleled experience needed to bring this unique project to fruition. Twelve wall-mounted touchpanels, four TPMC-3X handheld WiFi touchpanels and three iPads will provide control of 10 HD video monitors (including an 80+ inch and multiple 60+ inch screens); the ADMS; 72 zones of lighting; six zones of climate control; 15 rooms of automatically controlled dual motorized shades; 300 feet of LED lighting, an 8-camera digital video surveillance system – viewable on the touchscreens – and a player piano system. Music will be distributed through a 16-zone entertainment system with access to Internet radio and multiple iPod docks.

The iPads are intended for use in the master bedroom, den and kitchen. Bri-Tech originally customized the Crestron Mobile Pro™

control app for iPhone, and has now implemented Crestron Mobile Pro™ G for iPad™. According to Bri-Tech President Brian McAuliff, “The iPad is an addition to the touchpanels, not a replacement for them. Since you can't currently run multiple apps on the iPad at the same time, it's not practical to rely on one as a dedicated touchpanel.” He continues, “We call the iPad a ‘life remote’ – a universal device, like a technological ‘Swiss Army Knife.’ If you're checking your bank balance on your iPad and want to adjust the volume on the TV, it makes a lot more sense to reach for the handheld remote then launch the app.”

The appeal of the iPad is that it's not only versatile but simple to use, and the goal for the Bri-Tech iPad GUI is to complement the device. “Our iPad interfaces are designed to be simple, clean, elegant and easy to use. We also work very carefully to make everything look the same for the client,” explains McAuliff. “We pride ourselves on depth of control when you're at a Crestron control panel. The iPad is a convenience item, meant for easy, casual control. To keep it simple, navigation on the iPad is by room, so it only takes about two button presses to access any room function.”

Bri-Tech has also taken advantage of the iPad's larger screen, but in a different way than most. “Most people take the bigger screens and add more buttons. What we've done is made our buttons bigger, for a more intuitive approach,” observes McAuliff. “There's a large baby boomer and older population out there that doesn't want to put reading glasses on to control their Crestron systems. Also, with big buttons and simple navigation, the iPad is an ideal controller for clients or family members that are initially technology-shy.”