

Walthall & Associates Pensacola, FL

For the new Interactive Technology Center located in the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Florida, Walthall & Associates standardized on a Crestron control solution for the prototype classroom that will ultimately serve as the standard room configuration for all of the classrooms.



The newly opened facility will be used for a number of different functions and events but will primarily serve to further education for youth who will visit in the museum's National Flight Academy: a space camp-like experience, with an emphasis on math and physical science through aviation.

Another successful QuickMedia™ installation, the prototype classroom provides instructors with the ability to host presentations as well as videoconferencing session, live video streaming and video on demand. The QuickMedia solution, controlled by a Crestron Isys® touchpanel, connects classroom instructors directly to the master control room, where the content delivery is managed. The control room is also home to a PR02 processor, populated with a C2ENET-1 card and three C2COM-3 cards, as well as a CP2E unit.

Inside the classroom is a UPX-2-MSO Universal Presentation Processor with Windows®XP embedded, providing instructors with access to the virtual whiteboard, Media Player and the MS Office suite.

"This prototype classroom will enable the Museum and the Flight Academy to reach out to other educational facilities and state school districts to provide live or on demand content," said David R. Ebbert, Technical Systems Consultant, Walthall & Associates, Inc. "The Crestron solution for this project was vital, because we knew if we could install a near-perfect prototype room, we would be called on again to install all of the other rooms being upgraded in the National Flight Academy. As it turns out, the system performs perfectly and we were able to hand the project over on time and under budget."

Walthall & Associates also installed a portable, rackmounted CP2E that communicates with the master control room via Cisco WiFi, so the museum can host presentations and other functions anywhere in the museum. A Crestron QM-RMC is also housed in the rack to provide auxiliary control over cameras and other presentation components being used.

Ebbert recalls that installing the wireless network proved to be very interesting. "This is a completely wireless system, so we installed a separate network from the other wired and wireless networks being used in the museum, and more importantly, the adjacent airfield. Data is sent over a dedicated 10MB Internet pipe so the classrooms can stream live video, provide video on demand, host the website, and hold video conferences, among other functions. It also allows the museum to lock access to the WiFi points by specifying and only allowing specific IP addresses."

"For instance, the museum is home to two of President George H.W. Bush's airplanes and they've invited him to do a presentation," says Ebbert. "The portable system will allow freedom of location and will transmit audio and video signals via microwave, as well as provide an audio IFB backup so he can monitor audio in his ear. It means the entire museum, and not just the classroom, is a teaching venue."

"The whole thing is very cool," says Ebbert.

