



MPS-300 Multimedia Presentation System

A real-world review from an integration expert



Reviewer: Tony Caliento, President and Chief Engineer, ATC Audio

Key Crew: Bob Pelletier, Systems Specialist/Programmer
Wayne Krupa, Systems Specialist/Programmer

Based in West Springfield, MA, ATC Audio specializes in the sale, installation, design, service, and rental of pro audio, video, and lighting equipment. The company is also factory-trained in product system design and has won a number of awards for its customer service.

Recently, ATC Audio received the very first shipment of MPS-300 Multimedia Presentation Systems and successfully integrated the solution in a multi-use room in Western Massachusetts.



For our most recent project — a multi-use room in a military institution that we do a lot of work with — we originally designed the whole system with QM routers. The client needed a reliable solution that would give

them superior audio performance in a single- or split-room setup, as the room can be split down the middle and used as two separate spaces. So our original plans called for QM, but when we saw that the MPS-300 would soon be available, we waited the extra time for the product to ship so we could fit them into the design we had in place. From a functionality standpoint, it offered us the same versatility and power that a lot of our previous MPS-200 projects demanded, but with the front-panel controls we were able to provide the level of control redundancy that is vital for military facilities.

The MPS-300 also condensed a lot of everything we love about a Crestron solution into one unit. We choose a number of QM-WMC panels with microphone inputs for the room, and routing those inputs through the 300 via CAT5 and Cresnet® just made the entire system so much more streamlined and neat — not to mention less wire to pull. This solution took the place of bulky analog cabling and line driving amps, which would have meant just a mess of audio, video, and control cabling.

The DSP capabilities on the MPS-300 are just outstanding. It was very easy to setup and calibrate the systems using the Crestron Toolbox™ — aligning video signals and also laying out various EQ functions to account for room EQ, feedback, time delay, noise gating, and compression on the mics.

We installed one MPS-300 in the front of room rack with other sources for the room, and another MPS-300 in the back of the room rack. If the operators need to split the room for a certain function, they can do so very quickly with one button touch via any of the touchpanels that are mounted throughout the room.

We worked very closely with Crestron tech support throughout the entire project, and they were very helpful, especially with the SIMPL programming. Mark Reilly and his team were great.

All-in-all, we are only scratching the surface with regard to the functionality of the MPS-300. While this is the first shipment of the MPS-300, we have had no problems or glitches with the units, and we have it quoted for future jobs already. It speaks volumes about Crestron and quality of product they manufacture.

The MPS-300 gives us a whole new way of designing. With the QM I/O built in, we can design a system that runs source and control signals at almost any distance without concern. The product is truly a joy to work with. ■

MPS-200: 5 Questions

Mitch Brown, CTS, Assistant Director of Media Technology Services, Claremont McKenna College offers his views on the MPS-200

Describe the application or environment in which you installed MPS.

MITCH BROWN: All the MPS-200 units are installed in classroom locations. The majority of them are 70V systems that replaced an existing control system. Most of the rooms contain an LCD projector, DVD, VCR, and two VGA sources. They also have a 70V audio system, as well as ceiling mics and one wireless mic.

How easy is it to install? Does it change the way you design or install systems?

The installation process was fairly simple. All the connectors are provided and the manual is very detailed. This system streamlined our equipment needs. We were able to remove two switchers, an amp, an equalizer, and a feedback suppressor.

What features are particularly important to you?

For our applications, the important features are the number of conventional inputs and the network interface. We are able to upload and troubleshoot via a network connection from anywhere on the network. Having the combined switching, audio amplification, mixing, and control all in one box is a great advantage.

What challenges did the technology help to overcome or improve?

We improved the reliability of the system by eliminating quite a few older components and consolidating them into one unit. We have less equipment to monitor. Network management was one of the greatest improvements. Also, the use of RoomView with this system enables reporting and real-time status, which is used by our help desk to solve minor problems.

Would you standardize on MPS for presentation and classrooms?

The unit works very well. We have standardized on this unit for our classroom installs. We currently have 14 rooms installed, and will be adding 18 more this summer.