



Connected hospitality

New twin hotels in Singapore are fully equipped to provide the best A/V hospitality facilities available. **Richard Lawn** checks into Novotel and Mercure

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY SINGAPOREAN PROPERTY

developer Oxley Holdings that it would be appointing Accor to operate two new adjacent hotels marked its maiden venture into the hospitality business. Located at the site of the former Pines Country Club, Novotel Singapore On Stevens and Mercure Singapore On Stevens combine to offer 772 rooms, a 528-capacity ballroom, meeting facilities, food and beverage outlets, fitness centres and an infinity swimming pool. Located close to the CBD at Orchard, the four-star properties are maximising their appeal to businesses and tourists alike.

Oxley Holdings took no risks when appointing a roll call of seasoned veterans to assemble its dual properties. This included DP Architects and general contractor Evan Lim. Fully understanding the vital role that A/V plays in securing events ranging from huddle room business meetings to lavish weddings and corporate events, Oxley played it safe by insisting on the expertise of Electro-Acoustic Systems (EAS). Boasting an exhaustive lineup of hotels over 35 years, EAS worked closely with Acviron Acoustics Consultants to fully equip the hotel's ballroom, meeting and events facilities, F&B outlets, suites and gymnasium with A/V and digital signage systems designed to enhance and stimulate any gathering.

As is the case with most modern-day hotels, when it comes to events the Novotel's Polaris ballroom the jewel in its crown. Measuring 450m², Polaris can be subdivided into three separate rooms by two partition walls for smaller events. Versatility is key, allowing it to be quickly changed from a theatre-style setting to a boardroom or banquet configuration by the hotel staff. While tables and chairs are being reshuffled or taken from storage, the room's lighting, DSP settings and video projections can be instantly deployed from individual Apple iPad or Crestron 8.4-inch wireless touchscreens. A Crestron AV3 processor lies at the core of these operations, enabling Gigabit Ethernet connectivity of all the IP-controllable devices within the network.

The audio network is further enhanced with Dante connectivity courtesy of a Cisco SG200-18 Dante Ethernet



Yamaha MG10XU analogue mixers provide individual audio control in each ballroom division

Switch, while the DSP settings for the individual and combined room configurations are stored in a Yamaha MTX5-D processor. Inputs include two Yamaha MG82CX 8-channel consoles for each individual 6m-high room in addition to a TF5 48-channel digital console that is used when Polaris is being maximised without partitions. Whether for speeches or music, events can utilise a combination of Sennheiser ew335 handheld and ew312 clip-on microphones, together with e835 cardioid and e935 dynamic models over 12 channels of e300 wireless receivers.

Higher SPL audio output in all three rooms is entrusted to individual L-R Renkus-Heinz IC Live FR column speakers that have been discretely integrated into the front wall panels. The 1.215m-high, self-powered modules comprise five 6.5-inch transducers and three 1-inch compression drivers to provide effective beam control down to 800Hz. For those events requiring lower SPLs, a ceiling speaker solution consisting of six Tannoy CVS8 8-inch coaxial models powered by a Lab.gruppen C16:4 4-channel amplifier can be used. Meanwhile, musical entertainers can monitor their performances on Renkus-Heinz CFX121M 12-inch monitors that can be patched into a number of floor panels equipped with audio inputs.



Renkus-Heinz IC Live FR column speakers are discretely located in wall panels



The Milky Way corridor

The visuals for corporate events and weddings can be streamed from a computer via seven Kramer VGA wall panels that are also equipped with audio and HDMI inputs. A Datavideo SE-2800 effects matrix switcher receives various signals from the wall panels in addition to the Panasonic AW-HE130 HD camera images or Blu-ray videos. The resultant image is output to a Remaco TEN (XXL) 4.5m x 2.8m motorised screen from a Panasonic PT-DZ870 8500-ANSI lumens projector. A Crestron DM-MD 16x16 media display switcher ensures that the HDMI signals can be distributed throughout the ballroom.

In addition to ETC lighting dimmers, each Polaris section has been installed with four Leviton retractable lighting bars hosting ETC Source Four 750W spots and fresnels. Three Martin Mac 350 Entour LED Profile moving heads can be called upon for a more dazzling display. Lighting control settings have been entrusted to an ETC ION 1024 console located with the other A/V control systems in a back-of-house, upper-level room.

An elegantly decorated pre-function corridor aptly named the Milky Way separates the ballroom from six business rooms named Aquila, Cygnus, Draco, Hercules, Lyra and Orion. Varying between 21m² and 53m² in size, the individual rooms carry variable A/V inventories but are all Crestron-controlled from individual Apple iPad Air 5.7-inch touchscreens via CP3 processors. Like Polaris, computerised presentations can be conducted from podiums and displayed onto Remaco motorised screens by Panasonic 5000-ANSI lumens projectors via Kramer WP-5VH2 wall plates. Individual Key Digital KD 4x4 digital media presentation switchers ensure uninterrupted screen transitions during source selections in conjunction with HDBaseT over Cat-6 receivers. Once mixed through a Biamp Nexia SP processor, the audio signal is output to overhead Tannoy CVS6 ceiling speakers via Lab.gruppen E4:2 amplifiers. The larger Draco and Hercules rooms are further equipped with Sennheiser e835 microphones that wirelessly transmit to ew112 G3 receivers.



Suspended crystals in the reception area detract from the Tannoy CVS8 ceiling speakers



Lab.gruppen E-series amplifiers power the Tannoy ceiling speakers throughout

EAS has installed compatible Tannoy CVS6 speakers, Lab.gruppen E4:2 amplifiers and Biamp Nexia processors into the Food Exchange and Ren Tapas restaurants, as well as bars and gymnasiums. An Apple iPod Touch source can be interfaced into any of these individual systems, although volume and source selection is operated from a Biamp Vol/Select 8 wall panel. Workouts in the gym are enhanced by the provision of Tannoy CMS801BM subwoofers.

The BGM and digital signage systems for both hotels operate over Cisco SG200-18 and SG-300 Ethernet network switches, respectively. For the BGM, a Biamp TesiraForté AVB DSP matrix processor is connected via Cat-6e cabling to an Acer Veriton 8-channel server interfaced to Kramer 712N receivers. Twenty-four Brightsign HD222 players feed their content from a PC to the various 22-, 40-, 55-, 65- and 75-inch Samsung LED screens, ensuring that the meeting rooms and ballroom correctly display the user host in operation.

EAS' residency on site commenced in November 2016 when the various audio, video and Cat-6e cabling infrastructure was routed through a labyrinth of conduits. 'As ever, it was a tight timeframe as we neared commissioning on 10 August with many other contractors still on site finishing their works,' says project manager, Chester Tan. 'Despite some delays, however, we weren't hindered in the execution of any of our plans. Both the electrical and general contractor made all the provisions we had highlighted so that we could accurately install all the audio and video components.'

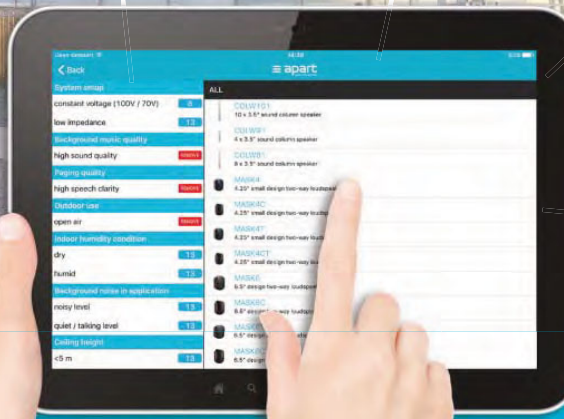
Having completed almost a full year on site, EAS has maintained its exemplary trademark works within the relatively strict budget. Likewise, the flexible, networkable A/V systems should allow both hotels to successfully market themselves to those event organisers desiring five-star facilities at a four-star cost.

www.easpl.com.sg

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WHICH LOUSPEAKER TO USE BEST IN THIS HOTEL & RESORT?



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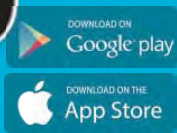
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