

Era GSM [Poland]



Within barely two years of operation, the Era GSM network recorded an over sevenfold increase in the number of subscribers and covered 90% of the Polish population in over 800 cities and villages. Given the dynamics of this growth, it is regarded as the largest cellular telephony operator in Central and Eastern Europe.

Providing top quality telephone services

Over the past few years Polska Telefonia Cyfrowa (PTC) witnessed a record increase in its mobile telephone subscribers. To fully support its over 800,000 users, the PTC management decided to relocate its headquarters and set up a brand new, high-technology Network Management Center (NMC) in Warsaw.

To be operational 24 hrs a day, the NMC currently employs two teams of operators: 20 employees manage all network activities, while 8 operators are in charge of network maintenance.

The NMC's experts are relying on UNIX workstations to manage all communication services. From the very start they were convinced that Barco's display wall would substantially facilitate data collection and activity monitoring for its operators.

BARCO

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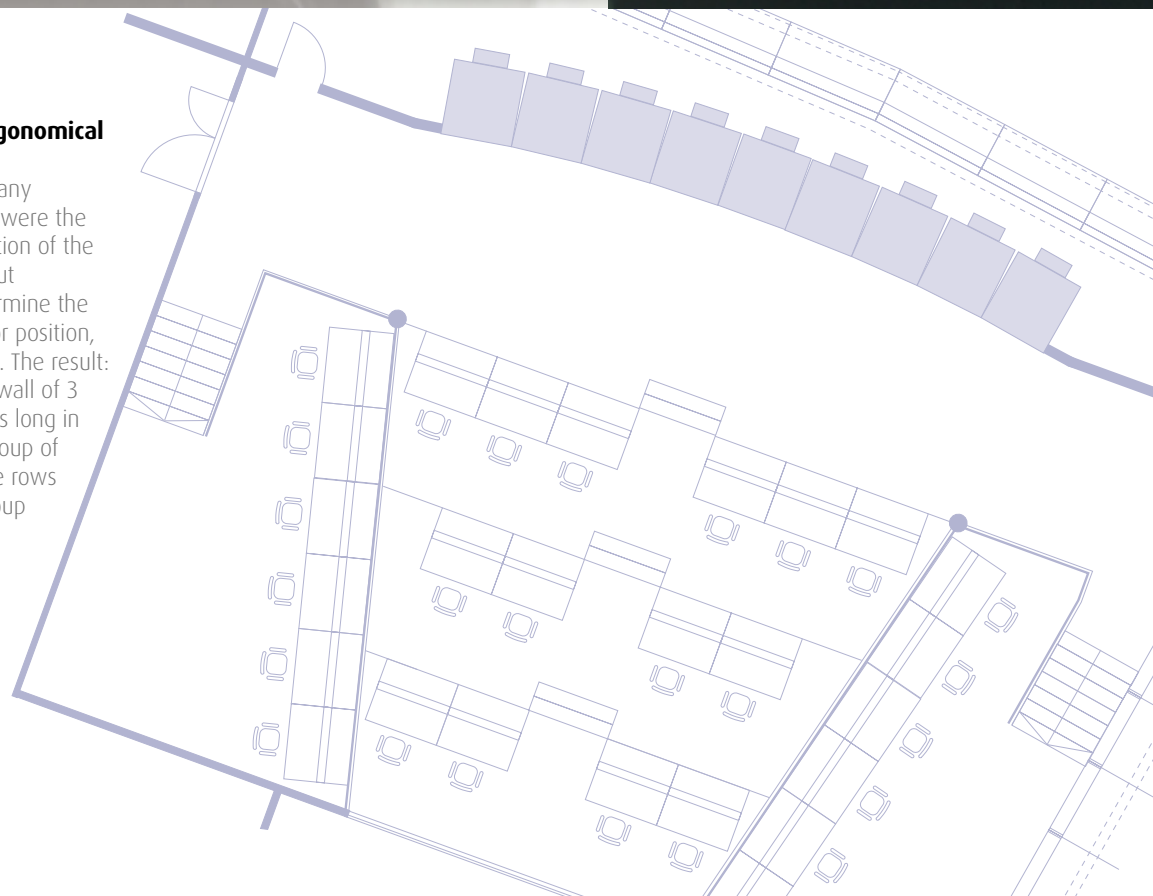
Permanent Monitoring

To be operational 24 hrs a day, the Polska Telefonia Cyfrowa Network Management Center currently employs two teams of operators: 20 employees manage all network activities, while 8 operators are in charge of network maintenance.



Architectural studies & ergonomical design

Legibility and visibility from any position in the control room were the deciding factors in the selection of the display wall. Barco carried out ergonomical studies to determine the optimum resolution, operator position, viewing angles, light path, ... The result: a 36m² (391 sq. ft.) display wall of 3 modules high and 9 modules long in a curved set-up, with one group of operators positioned in three rows in front of it and another group sitting on angled platforms.





Efficient information display

On the 36m² (391 sq. ft.) large display wall real-time status information of the entire GSM network (e.g. switches, transmission equipment, radio base stations...) is monitored. Formats are either graphics or schematics or simply listed information.

The display wall continuously shows about 20 windows of 7 to 8 applications such as electronic maps, alarms, network load, connection status between operators. By generating an alert, the display wall warns the operators of failures and allows them to take the appropriate actions.

The display wall also substantially simplifies perception of the data required, e.g. the link traffic statistics.

A dynamic corporate movie, alternating with the live display of the Polish TV information channel, is permanently shown in a video window. This was made possible through the integration of BARCO's Video Insertion Unit.

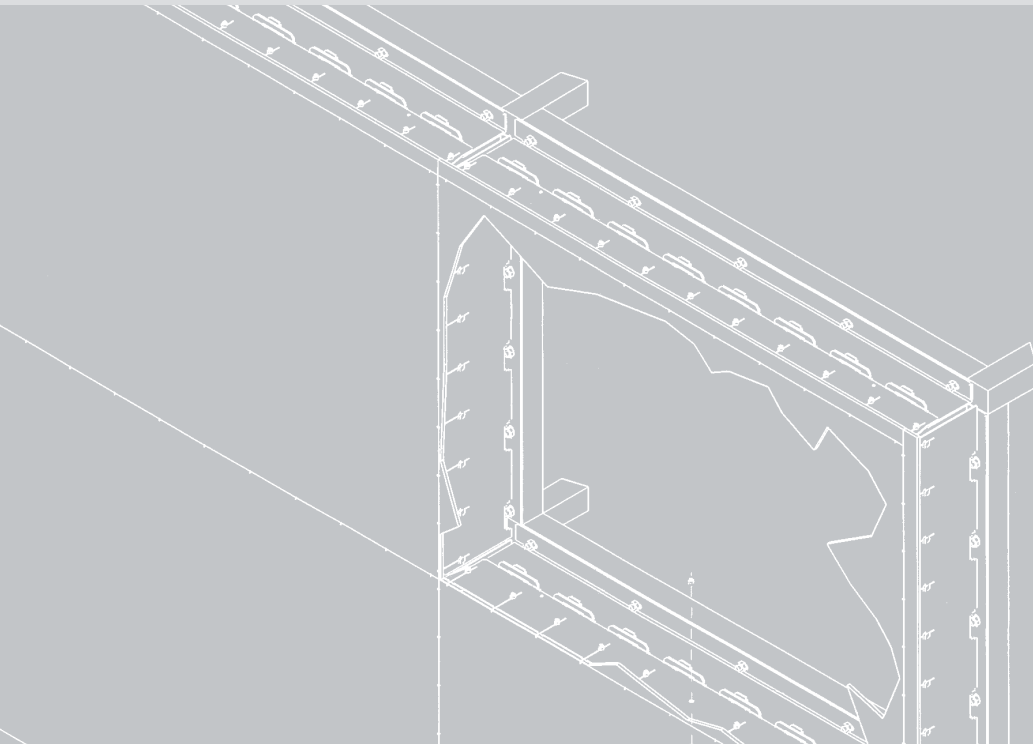
Barco's integrated approach

In order to ensure a comfortable working environment the new Era GSM building has been designed according to the highest technical standards.

Thanks to elaborate architectural and ergonomical studies, Barco's display solution ensures greater comfort of use.

This gigantic display wall of 12 x 3 m (39 ft x 10 ft) provides the best in light output through 27 Retro Block Data 2100 LCD projection modules with 67" screens. Each module offers a resolution of 800 x 600 pixels, resulting in a total resolution of 7200 x 1800 pixels.

These characteristics perfectly compensate for the distance between the wall and the last row of operators. Total Customer Satisfaction "Upon comparing with competitive units, Era GSM has awarded Barco the contract," says Mr Jan Weigel, System Engineering Project Manager, "for its unequaled image quality and the system's overall performance. With a separation of only 0.5 to 1 mm, this seamless solution ensures a complete overview of the network without any loss of information." "What's more: Barco's display wall increased the level of responsibility for each operator. Instead of focussing on the individual scope of the work, each detail can be evaluated in a more global context."



BARCO's screen mounting method consists of high-precision cuts and uses very fine steel pins to support the screen, thus allowing a truly seamless display wall with unsurpassed image continuity.

Another decisive factor according to Mr Weigel was the way Barco handled the integration of the NMC software used: a complex TMN (Telecommunication Management Software) system linked to all components of GSM and IT infrastructures. The implementation of Barco's flexible Wall Management software allows operators to automate switching, e.g. switching to dayshift layout to make full use of the display wall, to nightshift layout for a different scope of work, or to specialized applications for particular network configuration tasks.

Near 100% seamless projection

Barco has developed a patented 'stitch'-technique to allow multiple display screens to be joined in rows and columns with an almost invisible separation (0.5 to 1 mm). This results in smooth screen transitions and a unique display uniformity. Loss of vital information and disturbing screen frames now belong to the past.

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Barco Control Rooms is an ISO 9001 registered company.
The information and data given are typical for the equipment described. However any individual item is subject to change without any notice.
The latest version of this product sheet can be found on www.barcocontrolrooms.com

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