

Porto de Leixões, Portugal

Future-proof display technology

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In September 2006, Porto de Leixões inaugurated its new Coordination and Safety Center. With the installation of Barco's advanced display wall technology, Porto de Leixões has taken a gigantic technological leap forward.

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Porto de Leixões in Portugal, located down the river of the city of Porto is the country's largest commercial port, handling some 14 million tonnes of freight cargo every year at an average of almost 40,000 per day. However, until very recently this busy industrial port has operated on the most basic of technologies. Two years ago, a plan was developed to combine all of the port's management and security operations into one site. It finally came to fruition in September 2006 when, as a result of a € 1.4m investment, a new operations room unifying security monitoring and shipping traffic control was opened in the historic former harbor master's office.

The new center contributes to greater safety of the port area and to more effi-

cient operations. It allows the supervision and implementation of good environmental practices, as the planning, safety, environmental, pilotage and towage operations are now all concentrated in the same zone of the Port of Leixões. As such, integrated coordination and faster response is possible in case of emergencies.

The largest facility of its kind in Portugal

The new center is the largest facility of its kind in Portugal and consists of a Coordination Center and a Safety Center adjacent to each other. Both centers are equipped with some of the most advanced technology available today,

enabling the operating team to react quickly to any emergency situation, as well as to carry out the day-to-day port routine more effectively.

Two adjoining rooms have been outfitted with a total of 45 of Barco's new 50-inch OverView mDR+50-DL DLP™ cubes. These have been arranged in a 7x3 video wall set-up in the Coordination Center, and an 8x3 status and control video wall in the Safety Center.

During the installation, the Barco team closely involved the center's IT department in the process. Thanks to a smooth cooperation between both teams, the project was finalized successfully.





A networked approach

The Barco video wall in the Coordination Center presents GIS information of the port allowing the real-time position of each vessel at the port entrance to be viewed. The ship receives the

information of its mooring post and the Coordination Center will monitor the ship's maneuvers in real time. In addition, the video wall is used to observe the road network linking the port and the surrounding town, as well as the stock yards and cargo storage areas. The Coordination Center allows any of the 47 cameras to be selected and to monitor the ship using video images.



In the design of the operations room, Barco clearly followed a networked approach, offering Porto De Leixões a flexible and scalable visualization solution at a lower expense. The port's monitoring system was a hotchpotch of both legacy analog and new digital systems. While Barco's solution provides hybrid support (i.e. supporting both analog and digital), it was decided to convert all analog signals to digital by encoders, in order to allow for future growth and scalability. This also allows the analog signals to be routed over the control center's network in MPEG-2 over IP format. With this networked visualization approach, the center is sure that its investment is safe for the future, as additions to the camera network can be seamlessly incorporated into the system. Last but not least, with a



fully networked solution all signals can be shared by the Coordination and Safety Control Centers.

The Safety Center is located in an adjacent room to the Coordination Center, and is equipped with an 8x3 video wall, where images from the surveillance cameras spread around the port are viewed in real time.

Thanks to Barco's networked visualization approach, the port's video images can be viewed on the central system, as well as on any workstation in the room using a web browser. Thanks to the multicast mode, each image can be viewed simultaneously in more than one location, from the operators' or supervisors' workstations or from any of the video walls.

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