

Washington Metropolitan Police Department

Command center uses Clarity Lion displays to enhance community policing and national security

“The Clarity system perfectly fits the mission requirements.”

Steve Gaffigan
Senior Executive of Quality Assurance
Washington Metropolitan Police Department

One of the ten largest local police agencies in the United States, the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPDC) is the primary law enforcement agency for the District of Columbia. Founded in 1861, the MPDC is on the forefront of technological crime fighting, from highly developed advances in evidence analysis to state-of-the-art information technology.

The MPDC established a Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC) on the fifth floor of police headquarters that is activated in response to terrorist threats, special events or specific public safety concerns. The center allows various law enforcement agencies to work together planning and implementing public safety and homeland security measures. A large display wall comprised of 20 Clarity Lion 67" high-resolution displays delivers real-time news and information to commanders monitoring the situation throughout the city.



Command center goes live one day before September 11 attacks

As the third and largest MPDC project using Clarity displays to date, the JOCC installation was scheduled to be completed before the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting on September 29, 2001. According to Bob Lambert, project manager at systems contractor Professional Products, the displays were received September 4 and were fully functional by September 10 – just in time to play an instrumental role in the security response to the September 11 terrorist attacks on the nation.

The 22 by 100-foot digital wall is divided into three sections – each supporting different agencies – that are viewed from 80 positions in the amphitheatre-style room. The screens in each section can display cable television and digital satellite feeds from all the news networks. In addition, there are computer inputs and video camera links from public areas around the city including major streets, the Metro subway system, and Department of Transportation highway cameras.

clarity
visual systems

Clarity Lion meets strict reliability requirements

"We considered using plasma screens initially, but they require substantial power and the heat and aesthetic features didn't make them a good fit," said Lambert. "Plasma displays also do not offer a video wall option because all sources are native and they have very thick mullions," he added. They also considered other display brands, but none had the resolution or the redundant lamp configuration required for a demanding mission-critical application.



"Redundancy was a large concern," said Lambert. "The systems absolutely cannot go down." When the command center is operational, the system must be able to function 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With this critical dependency mandate, the Clarity displays run in a redundant three-lamp mode, with a fourth lamp ready as a spare unit.

Center facilitates real-time coordination in emergencies

The JOCC contains a computer network for entering and sharing intelligence and other information, and has videoconferencing capabilities that allow officials to communicate real-time information to officers attending roll-call in seven district stations and other MPDC facilities. It also selectively monitors live video feeds from

approximately one dozen fixed cameras in and around key installations in downtown Washington D.C. that are possible targets for terrorism or other criminal activity. The state-of-the-art center has provided a regular backdrop for network news reporters covering national security issues and has been used to host tours for other U.S. organizations and many countries.

The solution

The mission-critical Joint Operations Command Center installation consists of:

- 20 Lion (WN-6720-SX) 67" digital displays with Advanced Performance Liquid Crystal Display (APLCD™) technology
- RGB Spectrum processors
- Inputs from satellite, cable television, video cameras, and IP computer connections.

The project team included:

- Professional Products
- Winbourne & Costas



Clarity Visual Systems is a registered trademark of Clarity Visual Systems, Inc. AP/LCD and the AP/LCD logo are trademarks of Clarity Visual Systems, Inc. All other trade and service marks are the property of their holder.

Copyright © 2002 Clarity Visual Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. This document may not be copied in any form without written permission from Clarity Visual Systems, Inc. Information in this document subject to change without notice.

Clarity Visual Systems, Incorporated

9025 S.W. Hillman Court, Suite 3122
Wilsonville, Oregon, 97070, USA
Phone: 503-570-0700
Fax: 503-682-9441
www.clarityvisual.com

