VITEC

Parliament of Victoria

Parliament of Victoria Keeps MPs in the Loop with VITEC Integrated IPTV and Digital Signage Solution

The Parliament of Victoria is the bicameral legislature of the Australian state of Victoria. Construction of Parliament House, located on Spring Street on the edge of the central city grid, started in 1855 with various sections completed over the following decades. However, Parliament House has had several extensions and annexes added over the years to accommodate an enlarged legislature and administrative staff.

FREDON

parity
TECHNOLOGY CONSULTING

The challenge

The Parliament launched a major project in 2016 to create a two-storey building that would provide additional office space for 102 Members of Parliament. The new annexe is designed to be architecturally sympathetic to the 160 year old Parliament House building and embedded into the landscape to enhance its environmental performance while reducing interference with sight lines to and from Parliament House.

The project, managed by the Department of Parliamentary Services, included the implementation of an IPTV solution that would enable MPs and their staff to access live video from the Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly and certain committee rooms. The system would also provide access to FTA channels with a focus on news.

For the tendering processes, the Parliament commissioned an independent organisation to evaluate multiple available IPTV solutions on the market. The evaluation looked at a wide range of criteria including reliability, flexibility, ease of use and support. "With such a high-profile site, the evaluation process was extensive and one of the key factors was working with a supplier that could offer a true end-to-end solution", says Andrew Hicks, Director of Parity Technology Consulting.

With over 40 years' combined experience, Parity is a specialist Independent Audio Visual and Video Conferencing consulting firm that has worked on many high-profile government projects, including The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, The Australian Defence College and The Australian Maritime Safety Authority. As Hicks explains: "By the end of the process, it was clear that VITEC (originally Exterity, acquired by VITEC in 2021), was the best-suited to this project – especially in terms of reliability."

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> Director of Parity Technology Consulting

The solution

Parity then worked closely with VITEC to develop a design to implement 142 TV screens within the new building and selected areas of the original buildings. The VITEC IPTV system also manages any digital signage content Parliament desires to push to those screens. The system was supplied, installed and configured by Fredon, a major Australian contractor.
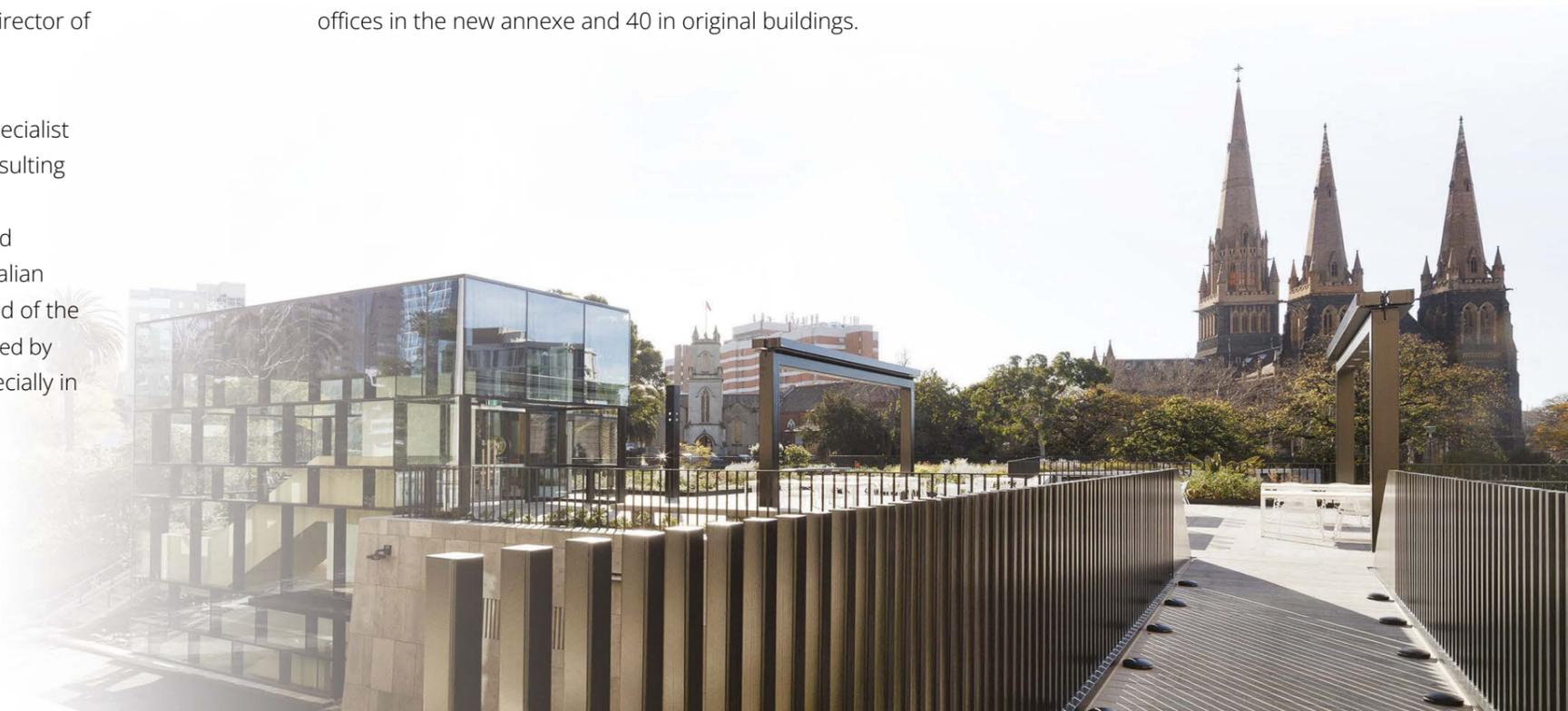
With flexibility for the future a key requirement, Hicks says: "One of the major benefits of VITEC is the floating licence model. The licences are not locked to a particular set-top-box, which means we can assign TV or digital signage to any screen through a simple software configuration change."

The deployment includes both VITEC IPTV and extensive audio capabilities from Dante to integrate the existing audio feeds from both chambers into the IP-based system. The IPTV distribution uses one headend for FTA (terrestrial), Foxtel (satellite), and a second headend in the broadcast facilities for Internal Parliamentary broadcast that integrates seven SDI cards. The IPTV runs across a shared Gigabit Ethernet network that connects to VITEC AvediaStream® m9300 IPTV PoE media players across 102 offices in the new annexe and 40 in original buildings.

The result

"The first phase delivered an IPTV service that is very simple and intuitive to use and has been well received by the MPs and administrative staff", says Hicks. But with futureproofing a crucial requirement, Parity continues working with the Department of Parliamentary Services to extend the capabilities of the system. For instance, the in-house facilities team have added six IPTV screens to modernised press rooms and set up new media recording features that retain content from ten TV channels for 30 days – with the option for clips to be recorded and securely retained to help with parliamentary tasks.

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Andrew Hicks,
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The project has been deemed a success and as James Scott, the Manager of Hansard within the Department of Parliamentary Services says: "The IPTV deployment has been delivered on time and within budget and offers a system that has more than met our expectations. VITEC has proven it can be a one-stop shop for delivering, recording, managing and scheduling all our network-based content. The management software is also easy to us, yet powerful enough to allow us to adapt it for our future needs".

The success of the project has been recognised by the wider AV industry in the region. In 2019, Parity Technology Consulting's work at Parliament of Victoria (Office Accommodation Project) won the "Best Application of AV for a Commercial or Government Project" category at the annual Audio-Visual Industry Awards.

Industry Leading Video Innovation

VITEC is a market-leading provider of IPTV, Video Streaming and Digital Signage Solutions that help organisations harness the power of video to engage, empower and evolve. VITEC is a pioneer in the design and manufacture of hardware and software for video encoding, decoding, transcoding, archiving and streaming over IP. Our end-to-end video streaming solutions enable customers to capture TV and video content directly from any source and manage its delivery, as channels or within digital signage screens, to any connected device via an existing network.

From corporate, broadcast and venues, to accommodation, government and military, VITEC has global expertise in delivering complex, proAV solutions.

VITEC's award-winning IPTV platform is a powerful suite of services for content management, digital signage, video archiving, and video wall processing. Our encode/decode solutions are 100% hardware based, including PCIe cards with SDK for custom design or OEM for high-performance video systems.

Headquartered in Paris, France, we have a global reach through our offices across the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific.

Making a difference with green initiatives, VITEC is the first Zero Carbon MPEG company and encourages customers to 'buy GreenPEG' for continued environmental efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

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