

World-Leading Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Picks Xirrus to Deliver Best-in-Class Wi-Fi



MCEC continues to raise the bar by deploying a robust and scalable wireless network that easily supports 10,000+ concurrent users across 30,000 square metres of conference space.

Xirrus delivers ultra-density wireless

As the centerpiece of the new South Wharf development, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) is a prestigious 30,000 square metre venue located in Melbourne, Australia. The first '6 Star Green Star' environmentally-rated convention centre in the world, the MCEC represents world leadership in best practice, innovation, and sustainability, and continues to raise the bar to new heights in technology and service options. Hosting a variety of events, from meetings to large scale conferences, the MCEC is Australia's most versatile convention and exhibition centre. Their newly deployed Xirrus Wi-Fi network easily scales to support the 52 rooms, grand banquet room, entry level foyer, and the 5,550+ state-of-the-art plenary that can be divided into three self-contained, acoustically separate theatres.

"Technology for us is one of our key points of differentiation. We opened the Melbourne Convention Centre in 2009, and technology was one of our flagship paces for the venue," said Michael Walsh, director of technology operations at MCEC. The venue deploys the latest audio visual element for all of their clients, and all the latest IT capabilities for networking both fixed and wireless telecommunications and computing.

The MCEC had a conventional wireless system in place, but the system could not support the growing client demand for wireless connectivity, despite being only a few years old. Due to the mounting amount of trouble tickets and complaints from clients, the MCEC sought a new wireless network that was robust and dynamic enough to support a few hundred to 10,000+ concurrent devices in a given day.

Requirements

- A system that is reliable and scalable for small and large events
- Scale to accommodate high density usage — 10,000+ users at a time
- Easy deployment as well as a manageable system

Solution

- 50 arrays for entire facility
- Able to support anywhere from 100 to 10,000+ concurrent users at a time
- Able to use Xirrus in conjunction with Nomadix and other identity networks for Wi-Fi guest management

Benefits

- Xirrus used 80% fewer devices, requiring 80% fewer man-hours to deploy, saving substantially on infrastructures costs and cabling
- Capability to centrally manage the network from one management screen
- Unmatched wireless coverage
- Excellent support from Xirrus account team

As technology is a large part of the vision of the centre, deploying a system that was robust and dynamic enough to support a few hundred to 10,000+ concurrent devices in a given day was a top priority.

“There has been a growing demand in the market for high density wireless,” stated Walsh. “In the last 2 years, we have seen a real increase in the number of wireless devices that people have with them at business events. Two or three years ago it was purely laptops, now we’re finding a lot more people carrying a laptop, an iPad or other tablet device, and an iPhone or other smart phone, so any user come in can have up to 3 different wireless devices with them at all times, which all want to associate with a network.”

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) trend has introduced countless problems for convention and exhibition centers in the past years. With an enormous amount of clients wanting to use up to 3 or 4 devices to connect to a wireless network, consistently providing a good connection to clients is a must. In addition to accommodating multiple devices per user, there must be enough bandwidth to allow uploading and downloading large files such as video, and other major data consuming applications, such as Skype.

However, with the Xirrus system in place, the MCEC now has no trouble keeping their clients connected, even in the highest of density situations.

“We found the Xirrus system to be an incredibly dependable system. The Wireless Arrays and the Xirrus Management System have been absolutely rock solid for us,” he added, “We had a large conference a week ago with 8,500 internet connections and no support tickets the entire time, which was an amazing experience for us, and obviously our clients were exceptionally happy with that as well.”

The Xirrus Advantage

With the explosion of smartphones and tablets, mobility has become ubiquitous. People expect to connect wirelessly. Organizations depend on high-bandwidth to send and receive voice, video and data, from any device to any one. And no one delivers better than Xirrus. Our array-based solutions are unique. They draw from cellular tower design principles to provide wired-like reliability, increased user density and capacity plus superior security. They perform under the most demanding conditions and have lower infrastructure requirements. When integrated with business and IT objectives, they help you do more than ever before.

At Xirrus, we apply the “best practices” of wired networking to wireless infrastructures by distributing the intelligence to the edge and outfitting the Array with dense multistate radios in the same manner as a wired switch. That’s how Xirrus delivers the best performing, most scalable wireless solutions in the industry. It’s a strategic IT infrastructure advantage that fuels organizations. Because Xirrus does wireless networks right.



“We needed to design a system that was flexible, could work for a small client and for large, and was something that was dynamic enough for us to be able to scale up and down even throughout the day.”

MICHAEL WALSH,
Director of Technology Operations



1.800.947.7871 Toll Free in the US
+1.805.262.1600 Sales
+1.805.262.1601 Fax
2101 Corporate Center Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, USA

To learn more visit:
xirrus.com or
email info@xirrus.com