

Customer Application: City Council Meetings

Background

A city government in central Florida was faced with the problem participation at important city council and mayor sponsored meetings due to the inconvenience of having to meet frequently in a central location. In addition, it was becoming increasingly more difficult to host the large meetings due to the size limits of the various meeting rooms. These constraints were causing delays in reaching decisions on important city matters and reduced effectiveness due to an inability to distribute documents and presentation materials prior to the sessions. The IT department was challenged with finding an interactive solution that could link together the various meeting rooms and enable officials to participate in meetings from remote locations. Budgets were tight and money was unavailable for infrastructure improvements

Why NCast was Chosen

Out of all the systems reviewed, NCast provided the only affordable solution that did not require software installation by the remote users, did not require any room reconfiguration or network enhancements and could be up and running in 2 weeks. In addition, the NCast Telepresenters' superior graphics enabled officials to present complex spreadsheets, detailed documents, and high motion video images to all the meeting rooms and to the desktops of remote users. The integrated picture-in-picture feature enabled the speaker and his or her materials to be viewed on one computer or projected screen thus eliminating excessive equipment costs. The compact equipment also allows the device to be easily moved from room to room for spontaneous meetings.

The Execution

A Telepresenter was deployed in each of the primary government offices and plugged into a document camera, conventional video camera, PC and overhead projection device similar to a home entertainment system. Each remote user was provided with a standard URL address through their current browser is linked to the meetings.

Evaluation Comments

The response to the NCast deployment has been very positive. There has been an immediate productivity improvement when debating and deciding on important city matters. Attendance at meetings has risen dramatically as members can participate from virtually any location. In addition, outside citizens, professionals and other contributors can be easily included in the meetings to improve overall information flow. Sessions relevant to the community can be archived on the city's web page for general viewing. Lastly, the mayor's office can now hold spontaneous meetings with staff and elected officials without disrupting day to day work activities. Find out more at www.ncast.com or by calling 1-800-765-7718.