

Acentech

Acentech Provides Consulting Services for Pennsylvania Convention Center Expansion

Information technology and audiovisual systems design play prominent role in new addition

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – October 3, 2011 – [Acentech](#) Inc., a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary acoustics, audiovisual systems design, and vibration consulting firm, today announced that it completed consulting work for the expansion project to the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Convention Center spans 20 acres of central Philadelphia real estate, making it the largest single public works project in Pennsylvania history. Acentech served as technology and acoustics consultants for the 1,000,000 SF addition to the existing 1,300,000 SF convention center, beginning work in June 2009.

Acentech's audiovisual consultants designed a highly flexible multimedia distribution system that includes a network-based digital audio system for speech reinforcement, program audio playback, and centralized recording for 23 new meeting rooms, the divisible Terrace Ballroom, and existing exhibit halls. The audio network interfaces with the main building's analog audio system, supports general purpose paging, and interfaces with the Convention Center's fire alarm and mass notification system. A fiber optic network and matrix switcher supports the distribution of high quality video throughout the meeting and recording rooms. A companion digital signage system includes a three-by-three display matrix in the Broad Street Atrium, as well as multiple way-finding displays on the concourses and event specific displays at the entrances to each meeting room and the ballroom.

Acentech has designed an audiovisual upgrade to the existing facility to match the technology in the expansion space. The upgrade is expected to be completed in March 2012.

The firm's acousticians also provided specific recommendations for the ceiling, wall, and floor finishes and background sound levels in the critical spaces based on their proposed uses. Acentech provided guidance on suitable permanent and operable wall systems, and helped the design team manage acoustical expectations pertaining to the limitations of the preferred space layout in certain areas. In the ballrooms, Acentech worked closely with the architect, VITETTA, to design suitable ceilings to fit the visual intent but not compromise acoustics; the floor and wall treatments in these spaces work well acoustically and complement the aesthetics.

Finally, Acentech analyzed the building structure and provided recommendations to minimize footfall-induced vibration in the more sensitive expansion spaces.

About Acentech

Acentech Inc. is a multi-disciplinary acoustics, audiovisual systems design, and vibration consulting firm providing a wide range of services to a diverse group of clients. With offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Trevese, Pennsylvania; and Westlake Village, California, the company's professional staff of more than 50 consultants has broad and deep expertise in acoustics and audiovisual systems design consulting. Having celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2008, Acentech is one of the oldest and largest organizations of its type: an unequalled resource to engineers, architects, and designers worldwide. For more information, please visit www.acentech.com.

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