

Stargazing Franklin, North Carolina

Corporate | **Residential** | Education | Government | Hospitality | Transportation | Health Care | Cultural and Event Centers | Commercial Lighting

When you are retired and have a life-long passion for physics and astronomy, having your very own telescope and observatory at home is heaven on earth.

A motorized dome supported by a steel structure was added to the top floor of the residence to house the telescope. About Audio & Video, Inc. of Franklin, NC had been brought in to automate AV and lighting, and in the midst of integrating these systems, the homeowner asked the About Audio team to take a shot at simplifying control in the observatory. It required ingenious design and a highly intuitive Crestron control solution.

“We took a very unique approach to integrating the observatory controls, using some techniques that wouldn’t have been possible without Crestron.”

“In order to operate the telescope and take a simple picture of another galaxy one million light years away, it would take more than a dozen complex steps - not to mention a computer degree, a career in photography, a case of Tums and a prayer just to make this thing go,” said Dan Quigley, About Audio & Video President. “We took a very unique approach to integrating the observatory controls, using some techniques that wouldn’t have been possible without Crestron.”

About Audio used 300 pictures of the most common galaxies and stars and turned them into buttons on a Crestron TPMC-8X touchpanel. The homeowner simply selects the object he wants to view and the programming automatically checks to see if the object is viewable. If it is, the touchpanel does a page flip



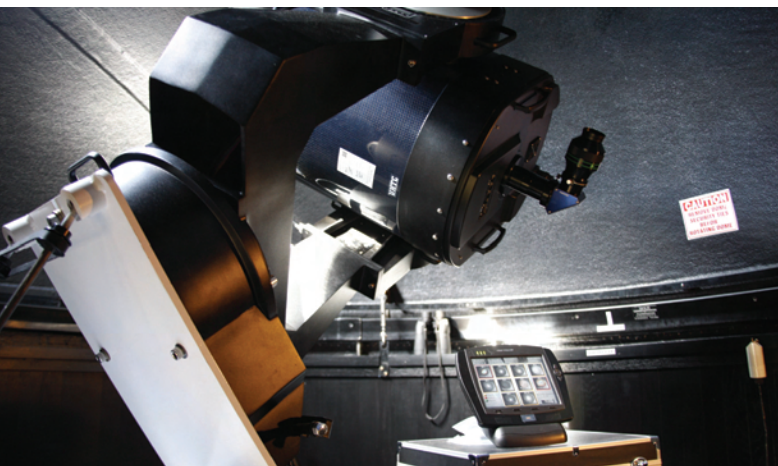
to a description of the star/constellation/galaxy with an information sheet.

With the ease of use provided by the TPMC-8X touchpanel, About Audio created a button on the information page that reads "Make Telescope Go to This Object". In all, what would normally be a 30-step procedure was reduced to two button presses on the touchpanel. The homeowner also uses the Internet-enabled touchpanel to check weather conditions, turn off the exterior light fixtures and open the motorized hatch of the dome ceiling.

Once the telescope has an object in view, the homeowner can snap a photograph or have the Crestron system route the image to the screen of any computer or TV.

“It’s one of the most entertaining things I’ve ever experienced,” said Quigley. “It’s right up there with watching movies on a big screen.”

The client observed, “You don’t have to know a darn thing about astronomy as long as you own the easiest to use telescope in the galaxy!” Needless to say, he has stars in his eyes.



800.237.2041 | crestron.com

Crestron Electronics, Inc. 15 Volvo Drive | Rockleigh, NJ 07647