



CRESTRON POWERS NEW AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTROL AND TRAINING FACILITY

The Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) is a division of The Great Western Ambulance Service (GWAS) that provides ambulance response to major incidents involving hazardous materials. These can include events as varied as train crashes, large-scale motorway accidents and chemical spills and explosions. The requirement for both highly trained personnel and effective operational systems are never more important than in these scenarios. As such, HART has invested heavily in a new training and control facility that is fully automated with Crestron technology.

UK-based AV, communications and controls integration specialist, Smartcomm, was invited to HART to discuss how the inclusion of integrated technologies could translate to both the newly acquired training and briefing rooms. The resulting facility showcases how

the workplace efficiencies of integration can benefit not just high-end corporate complexes but also for the vital work of the emergency services.

The Briefing Room

The briefing room is the hub of the facility with teams using it every day to assess real-time emergencies and to review events during shift changes.

An array of LCD and plasma displays decorate the briefing room with the entire group reflecting the range of functions that are performed within the space. A 50 inch smartboard has been recycled from the old HART facility and incorporated into the new project, either working as an interactive whiteboard or as a touch screen desktop when connected to the resident PC.

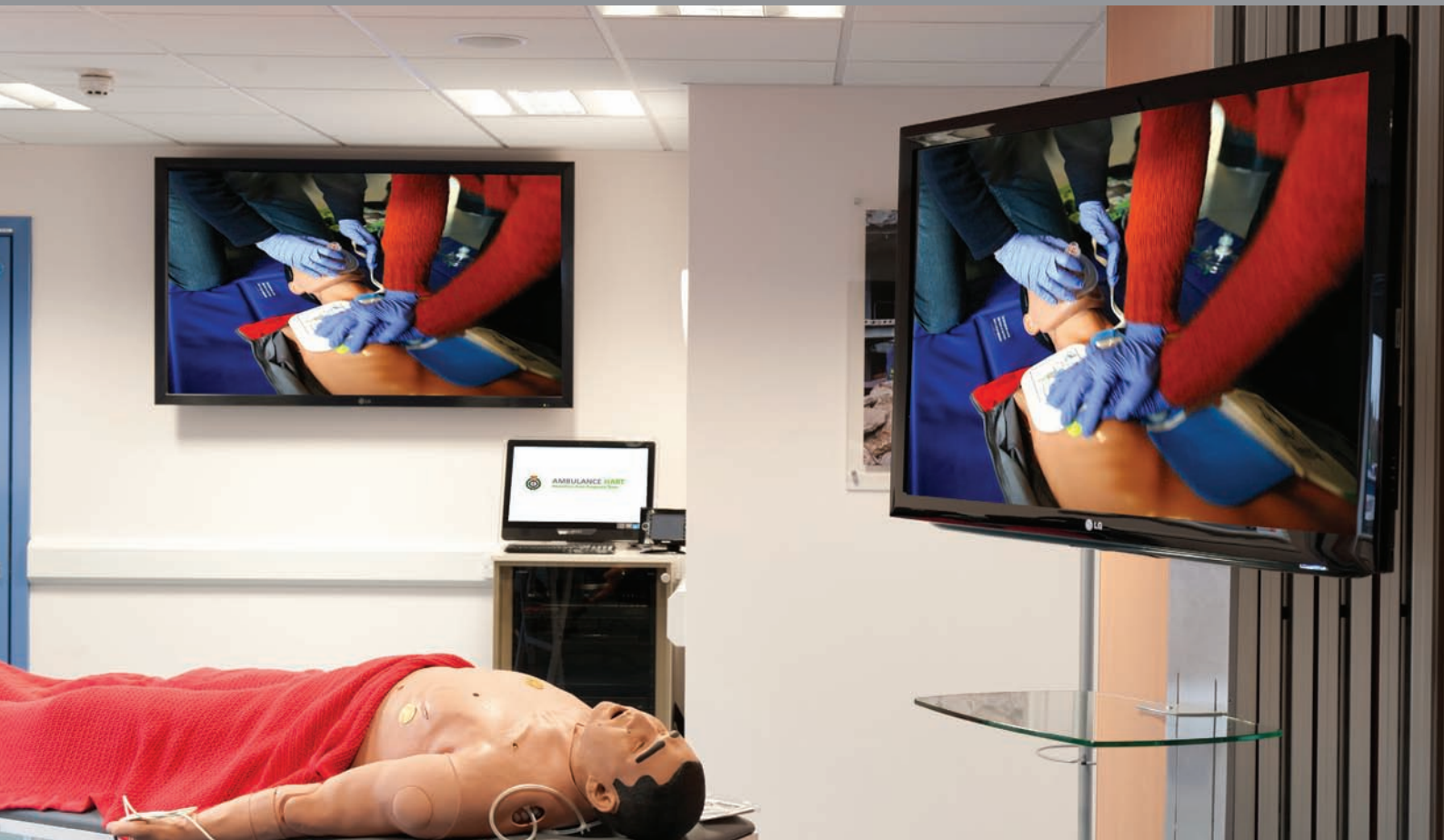
A wall-mounted 47 inch LCD screen and HD camera takes care of the video conferencing with a second screen relaying images

taken from cameras mounted to both ambulances and paramedics' uniforms. This allows teams at the base to assess hazards with the paramedic teams on site at major incidents.

The final display in the briefing room provides a television connection for HART to stay up to date with any breaking news. Smartcomm has also installed a number discreet access points providing HDMI and VGA connections for laptops and other mobile devices. Control of the system and I/O comes via a sleek and versatile Crestron TPS-6X wireless touch screen.

The Training Room

HART's training room facility can either function as one large room or three independent areas and the Smartcomm designed AV system has been arranged to reflect and work with this level of flexibility. Sitting pride of place in the room is the primary display – a 65 inch



LCD. This screen is big enough to address the entire room when the breakout spaces have been opened up. In the accompanying rack a range of facilities are housed, including a Blu-ray player, resident PC and local laptop connections.

Two 47 inch repeater screens are also in place, mounted to trolleys for portability with both working independently when room two and three are set up. A system of in-ceiling speakers has been installed to provide audio throughout with Crestron also providing control in this area via a further TPS-6X unit.

Each element of the system is unified by the installation's primary organ – two Crestron CP2 processors (one for each area). The technology has been well received by the organisation and the end result makes a significant contribution to the lifesaving service provided by HART.

This installation showcases how Crestron control can extend to a number of varied deployments

and realise extensive workplace efficiencies from boardroom IT services and energy management to the lifesaving systems in place at GWAS's HART training and control rooms.

