

Donetsk Planetarium, Ukraine

Donetsk planetarium star-struck by Barco

“With Barco’s seamless visualization system, Donetsk’s planetarium is now the major reference for new planetarium projects in the region.”

Barbara Tabb, Oxsana Beshaposhnikova,
Director of AV- PRO Div. of LEATER Group.



To serve both educational and entertainment purposes, Donetsk, the fifth-largest city of Ukraine, decided to build a planetarium to sweep visitors of their feet with impressive, hemispheric images of stars, planets and nebulae. Inaugurated by President Viktor Yushchenko, the planetarium marks an important milestone for modern culture and tourism in the city of Donetsk.

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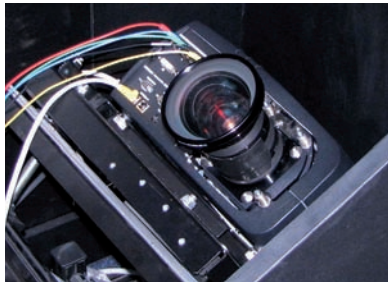
Pixel-perfect geometric projection

With an established experience in the type of dome projection required for planetariums, as well as a robust presence in Eastern Europe, Barco won the contract bid through the planetarium's audiovisual partner Group of Ukrainian company Leater and AV-Pro. "Our customer's stringent demands and specifications meant that Barco was the logical choice from the onset," comments Oxsana Besshaposhnikova, Director of AV-PRO Div. of LEATER Group.



Six Barco SIM 5R projectors together create one immersive image on the planetarium's main dome, to educate visitors on current achievements in astronomy and space exploration.

"Planetary surfaces, star constellations and other celestial phenomena are rendered in great detail thanks to the projection system's combined 6 mega pixel resolution," says Mrs. Besshaposhnikova. To tackle the challenge of creating one complete image with six projectors



on the dome's surface, Barco used techniques such as optical edge blending and geometry correction.

"For the Donetsk planetarium, the result was a seamless, geometrically correct image on the curved surface of the planetarium's dome," adds Mrs. Besshaposhnikova. "With Barco's seamless, reliable visualization system, Donetsk's planetarium is now the major reference for new planetarium projects in the region."

Great reliability, smooth operations

Barco's SIM 5R can rely on a long track record of durability and stability. As a single-chip DLP projector, it was designed for intensive use, rendering it an ideal option for a 7/7 venue such as a planetarium. Furthermore, the SIM 5R boasts a sealed optical engine, which prevents dust from entering the projector, and guarantees the same high image quality during its entire lifetime.

In addition to the six SIM 5R projectors that create one flawless image, the system is controlled with Barco's xRACU controller. The xRACU is a handheld controller that allows quick and easy projector realignment without requiring time-consuming human intervention. This helps the Donetsk planetarium to operate smoothly, serving visitors day in, day out.