

CASIA, Australia

Smarter, safer air traffic starts on Barco's LED-lit OL video wall



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*Grant Williams,
Innovation Manager CASIA*

Did you know that one in every two airplanes, worldwide, is brought to the ground safely thanks to an air traffic management system of the Thales group? To support its efforts to make air travel safer, more efficient and greener, the group has recently moved its R&D team to a brand-new Centre for Advanced Studies in Air Traffic Management (CASIA) in Melbourne, Australia.

At the heart of the centre's innovation lab are eight Barco 50" full HD LED-lit OL projection modules (OL-521). Grant Williams, Innovation Manager at CASIA praises the quality, ease-of-use and easy maintainability of the OL-521 modules: "The video wall blows away everyone entering our innovation lab."

BARCO

Visibly yours

Research and Development really is the lifeblood of Thales. Around 7% of the group's revenue is reinvested in R&D. Thales has a global network of 25,000 engineers and researchers who look for ways to overcome the latest challenges across a range of civilian, military and aerospace markets. The Melbourne-based Centre for Advanced Studies in Air Traffic Management (CASIA), which Thales proudly inaugurated in May 2011, perfectly fits Thales' commitment to innovation.



"Global air traffic will grow significantly over the next few years, with more aircraft carrying more passengers to more locations than ever before," opened Grant Williams, innovation manager at CASIA. "Our EUROCAT air traffic management system, which guides all flights within Australia and 50% of the world's airspace today, can really help make air travel safer, more efficient and greener." To advance its R&D activities, Thales Australia decided to set up an air traffic management world centre of excellence. The initiative was supported by the Victorian State Government.

Foster collaboration

"Our idea was to set up a place where engineers and researchers would collaborate on new solutions, together with partners from the industry and educational institutions. Moreover, we wanted it to house facilities to showcase our ideas and solutions and organize training courses," Williams continued. "Hence our decision to install a large video wall in our innovation lab."

Barco product is just awesome

Thales and Barco have a long-term history of collaborating together. Nevertheless, Williams and his team scrutinized the market and examined the offer of different suppliers: "We wanted a large

wall, which would allow us to collaborate with and train different people at once. So the images had to be bright, in high resolution. Another key requirement was a powerful controller that allows the simultaneous display of digital as well as analog video and data sources." Barco proposed a rear-projection video wall with full HD LED-lit OL projection modules - a first for Australia. "Their demo was strong. The performance of the LED-lit system is just awesome, as is its ease-of-use, wear life and maintainability. Even the price impressed us. So we chose Barco," said Williams.

Exceptional viewing experience

In close cooperation with the architects of CASIA's hyper-modern new building, local Barco technicians set up a seamless wall with eight OL-521 modules, in a 4x2 set-up. Williams: "The installation wall and the adjoining software proved so user-friendly that a few hours of training were enough for everyone to master it. In just a few seconds, our people can now put content from their workstations on the wall, dynamically switch between different sources and display, for example, a PowerPoint as well as a video. Most importantly, however, the OL-modules offer a great viewing experience, from all working positions, with the sharpest and most saturated colors in full HD resolution (1920x1080)."

Maintenance-free. For years to come

In addition, CASIA praises the long lifetime (80,000 hours LED life span in eco-mode), easy maintainability and fairly low power consumption of the OL video wall. The modules have been designed for zero-maintenance operation over several years, without any need for consumables. They come with Sense⁶ sensor technology, which continuously measure brightness and color to ensure color consistency on all eight modules, over time.

Blown away!

"This solution is just what we needed. There's no place where our commitment to innovation comes more alive than at the new CASIA facility. Barco's groundbreaking OL-wall helps our R&D team and everyone else in the innovation lab, like peer companies and students, easily visualize their ideas, make simulations and collaborate. Furthermore, it boosts our image as a pioneer," Williams concluded. "In fact, anyone who comes in is really blown away by the image quality and leaves the building thinking how they might use this Barco solution in their own company."

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