

# Royal National Lifeboat Institution, UK

Barco helps the RNLI save lives at sea



*“With a total consumption no higher than 2000 Watts, the 8-cubed video wall consumes no more than nine desktops.”*

*Paul Fisher,  
RNLI Operations Room Manager*

Back in 1824, when the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was founded, rescuing people at sea required a good measure of courage and perseverance. Today, nearly two centuries later, it still does. But a bit of technological support is welcome too. That is why the RNLI recently chose to overhaul the control room at its operational headquarters in Poole, Dorset (UK). Barco proposed a top-notch visualization solution at a competitive price.

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At the RNLI's headquarters in Poole, RNLI staff are on the go, day in day out, to coordinate the charity's activities. To make their lives easier and, in the process, help them to better support the RNLI's mission of saving lives at sea, Operations Room Manager Paul Fisher and his team decided to bring the operations room fully up to 21st century standards. "Our existing visualization system was really outdated," he says. "We had a magnetic board that gave the locations of the lifeboat stations and boats. Each change had to be made manually."



### Best possible solutions on market

The RNLI made plans for a refurbished, multifunctional operations room, including an electronic visualization solution that would help them display the existing information more efficiently and make more information available to the operators. Barco's proposal came out top in the tendering process. "The demo, which included great 3D renderings and drawings, and a visit to Barco's headquarters in Kortrijk, made it clear that Barco had the most suitable solution on the market. Important as well was the competitive price they offered, out of respect for our work as a charity," Paul Fisher recalls.

### View a whole host of information

Since July 2008, the RNLI's operations room has been boasting a 4x2 50" (OV-508) display wall, a TransForm A controller and Apollo software, which ensure all the images are efficiently displayed on screen. The RNLI's 235 lifeboat stations are now visualized electronically on a map of the UK. Thanks to the integration with SAP software, the overview is kept rigorously up to date. But more than that, there is a lot of other valuable information on display. "We can view the weather forecast online or keep track of UK flood levels," Paul Fisher says. "There is a repeater of our unique 'MOB Guardian man overboard and vessel locator alert system' and live TV feed to keep up-to-date with UK and world news."

### Call the helpdesk 24/7

"The solution is just what we needed to optimize our operations," Fisher continues. "And maintenance and support have also exceeded our expectations. Whenever I have a question, I can phone the Barco helpdesk, any time. If they can't help me by phone, an engineer is at our door within the set agreement." What about cost, which is a key aspect, especially for charities? "We got a top-notch system at a competitive price, together with a cost-effective maintenance contract. Even the price for running the 8-cubed system is surprisingly low. With a total consumption no higher than 2000 Watts the wall consumes no more power than nine desktops."

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