

Oslo Traffic Management Center, Norway

A helicopter view of Oslo and eastern Norway traffic



“With the Barco video wall, the Oslo Traffic Management Center can provide for a better, safer and more environment-friendly traffic coordination.”

Kai Gundersen, Oslo Traffic Center.



Traffic congestion and cities, it seems, go hand in hand. Like any capital, the city of Oslo, Norway, is a bustling center where several national highways meet or pass. An elaborate system of ring roads, tunnels and bridges has been installed to alleviate congestion and improve road safety. At Oslo's Traffic Management Center, operators carefully monitor the traffic in their city and the broader area of eastern Norway. A recently installed Barco video wall helps them gain a perfect insight into the traffic situation.

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Operators at the Oslo Traffic Management Center monitor the traffic on the main roads and 36 tunnels in Oslo and the rest of eastern Norway, 24/7. They sound the alarm and coordinate the emergency services in case of incidents, feed the electronic notice boards on motor ways with traffic information, share that information with local radio stations, etc. With the number of roads, tunnels and bridges growing constantly, their role is increasingly gaining in importance. To better support them in their mission, it was therefore decided to replace the outdated MIMIC ports and monitors by a top-notch visualization solution.

Impressive references in control rooms

"The quality requirements were very high, including crystal-clear displays, a seamless physical gap between the cubes and 200% reliability," Morten Hansen, Sales Manager at Barco distributor VideoSystem AS recalled. "Besides that, the Center wanted a turnkey supplier that could pledge 24/7 availability, 365 days a year and a four-hour repair time in case of problems."

Following a European call-for-tender process, the tandem VideoSystem AS and Barco proved to be up to that challenge. "Barco is a tech-benchmark company in control rooms and they really scored the best on all criteria," admitted Kai Gundersen, head of the Oslo Traffic Management Center. VideoSystem AS convinced the client with its great value for money, its vast experience (50+ successful Barco installations) and its promise to fulfill the Center's tough requirements for system support.

Set-up, including training

In August 2008, the Center got its video wall consisting of 70" rear projector display cubes in a set-up of eight by four, spanning 11.5 meters wide and four meters high. VideoSystem AS installed Barco software and a controller with redundancy features, to prevent downtime. In addition, two Barco 70" displays were set up in the training room.

To ensure optimal use of all the features, VideoSystem AS laid on an extensive on-site operator training course. System administrators get introduced to the solution during a three-day course at the Barco headquarters.

Help solve road congestion and safety

The feedback on the new installation is unanimously positive. Operators praise its user-friendliness and the exceptional brightness and contrast of the displays, which is a must in a room with large windows and lighting at night. For the management, the tool is a great help in fulfilling its mission. As operators now get a general overview of traffic flows and other relevant information on the large screen, collaboration has improved. In an emergency, for example, they can quickly share details and see the bigger picture, which results in better decisions and faster response time. "With this Barco video wall, the Oslo Traffic Management Center can provide for a better, safer and more environment-friendly traffic coordination. Not only today but also tomorrow, as the system can be easily expanded when we need extra capacity," concluded Kai Gundersen.



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