

NEC Communications System Chosen for World-Class Connecticut Stadium

Recently dedicated Rentschler Field Stadium is the new home for University of Connecticut Division I-A college football. The 40,000-seat stadium, located in East Hartford near Greater Hartford's major interstate highways, can also host additional world-class sports and entertainment events. Rentschler Field features stadium seating, outdoor club seats, fully enclosed club seats and 40 luxury suites.

The \$92 million facility spans 8.5 acres of a 75-acre site and is named for Frederick Rentschler, a visionary inventor who founded Pratt and Whitney in 1925.

Challenge

Because Rentschler Field is a new stadium, Connecticut's Department of Information and Technology (DOIT) had the opportunity to select and install a telecommunications system from the ground up. DOIT's staff looked for a system that would meet strict budget demands while satisfying the needs of college coaches, security personnel, concert productions, media and suite owners. Additionally, they required a call accounting and voice mail system.

Based on a proven track record, Connecticut's IT department chose NEC dealer Sonitrol Communications. "NEC products are used throughout the state



because they are reliable and feature-rich," according to Paul Nicholas, telecommunications specialist with Connecticut's DOIT. "We have been working with Sonitrol for 15 years, and they have provided outstanding and professional service. We knew we could count on them to provide ongoing service and support at the stadium on game days or whenever it was needed."

Solution

DOIT recommended the NEC 704i, a communications system, two expansion cabinets, two T1 Primary Rate Interface (PRI) trunks, 12 local lines and 48 analog station ports. Over 220 digital telephones with more than 70 28-button digital terminals with analog adapters were installed in locations as diverse as concession stands, locker rooms, sky boxes and ticket offices.

The Rentschler stadium communications network is fully integrated with NEC's NVM voice mail system and NEC's Ultra Call Analyst (call accounting) system. Additional features include Automatic Route Selection (ARS), Automatic Call Distribution (ACS), Computer Telephony Integration (CTI), conference calling, Direct Inward Dialing (DID) and E911.

The NEC 704i platform meets the demanding requirements of the media. There are 50 telephones in the media room used by sports writers, along with a combination of 40 analog station ports and local lines for computer

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Connecticut Department of
Information Technology

connections. Five radio booths support digital and analog telephones.

"Sonitrol provides onsite support for all events including the media broadcast trucks that park next to pre-wired pedestals," according to Sonitrol's Rick Moody. "We maintain the communication needs of the state police substation located within the building. We're also on hand to ensure glitch-free communication between sideline referees and score board and clock officials. Our technicians are also on hand to ensure football coaches on the field can discuss plays with other members of the coaching staff situated in sky boxes overlooking the field."



Rentschler Field hosts football for the University of Connecticut Huskies.



Connecticut Governor John G. Rowland leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open Rentschler Field stadium.

Results

Rentschler Field is a world-class sports and entertainment venue for all of Connecticut, and it opened with a brilliant debut performance. Among numerous events during the opening season, the stadium hosted six UConn Huskies home football games, two Bruce Springsteen concerts and the State Games of America. "Based on the performance of Sonitrol's good customer service and continuing performance of NEC products," said Nicholas, "the state of Connecticut has been very satisfied with their telecommunications system installations."