



Human Genetics studied through AV Hansa Pictures, Tannoy take honours

When the Bengaluru-based Centre for Human Genetics (CHG) – a Government of Karnataka supported R & D initiative – wanted to create a state-of-the-art facility that could address the institution's growing needs in academics, one of the first things it did was consult the administration of the fellow, larger State-owned institution located on the same premises- the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB). The latter, having already done a similar exploit through a locally-based AVSI and entertainment firm referred the same firm to take the honours once again.

Thus came in Hansa Pictures Ltd., a multi-faceted SME with trusted domain expertise in AVSI. The SME had previously solved a lot of audio issues like echo, feedback, noise in the audio chain etc. in the IBAB's lecture halls which earned them confidence and credibility from the institution. "We also had an opportunity to install an audio system in their training room," reveals **Gautam Shah, Director of Hansa Pictures**. "There we introduced the DVS series speakers from Tannoy. Impressed with the sound quality, the customer had been in constant contact with us," Gautam explains, "when the CHG felt the need of a new auditorium, they

called us in good faith through reference from IBAB."

The Brief:

According to the Hansa Director, the brief from the client was truly brief. That the intended facility would host seminars and debates involving top scientists from across the globe, it had to be a world-class space with the best-in-line audio-visual environment. However, the AV set-up also had to be simple but effective, besides being cost-effective and eco-friendly.

"We examined the drawings of the built-up space, and we were clear that the audio had to be Tannoy," affirms Gautam. Tannoy has always been his choice for such projects as the product, technology and quality has been superior, especially the dual concentric VX series speakers, he says, they are ergonomic, portable and install friendly designs.

"We have a very good rapport with **(Krishna of) Tannoy India** and his suggestions have always worked in our favour, so we were very confident of the newly designed product as well," said Gautam with confidence. The best part about the VX8.2 speaker, according to him, is their sound dispersion, he

explains. "The speakers have a lovely, sweet and clean sound." Hansa thus proposed a pair of the new **Tannoy VX Series 8.2-1 speakers** claimed to throw immaculate sound coverage and found most suitable for the space.

The System:

However, before the VX Series speakers get into action, the audio system chain is characterized by a **Sennheiser gooseneck mic** for the podium, an **AKG lapel mic** and a **Samson headworn mic** for the speaker. The audio produced is mixed by a **Peavey 4-channel mixer** before sending the same to the Tannoy VX speakers.

The video / display part comprised a dual projection system with a pair of **NEC M300W WXGA projectors** ceiling mounted in the hall that is wider than longer in a crescent format. Both the projectors focus onto two **120" x 75" pixel-less Grandview Wide Format projection screens** that flank a big magnetic whiteboard- all installed to the back wall of the stage.

The audio-video signals are powered by a **Dynatech amplifier** and a **Biamp Nexia VC** while the signals are switched by means of a **PTN AV Switcher**. A



Furman Power Conditioner does the power monitoring act for the whole process.

The Challenge & Solution:

Like every single project of such scale comes with its own share of challenges, this one proved to be one too. One of the challenges was the time limitation of a mere two weeks due to which certain vital aspects had to be compromised on. Acoustic wall paneling was put on the back burner due to which the echo/reverb was not adequately addressed and thus sounded less impressive despite world-class equipment.

That there was no specific architect-acoustician working towards equipping the auditorium with the necessary infrastructure and networking was a potent hassle and apparently pushed Hansa into the saddle to oversee the complete requirement fulfillment. "We had to co-ordinate a lot of people and material movement as we were involved in the complete audio set-up," recalls the Hansa top exec. "Getting acoustic grid work with gypsum ceiling in place was one; and getting the AV system on time was the other; and coordinating with the AC vendor was another. All exerted high level pressure on us."

While **Poornima** – an architect from National Centre for Biological Sciences, a Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) initiative – reportedly helped the integrator with architectural requirements, a technical team placed thereof contributed with their suggestions for HVAC, safety, fire alarms etc. The **Director of CHG Prof. H Sharat Chandra** was largely helpful in executing things faster, hails the Hansa chief.

"He is a man of vision, and action," compliments Gautam. "He not only

provided insightful suggestions to improvise the conditions, but also helped us with faster decisions, thereby enabling the accomplishment of the task."

Taking a cue from there, the ceiling of the auditorium was treated with an acoustic grid of .9NRC with gypsum tiles taking the stage ceiling to ward off any sound echo produced thereof. The AC trap door space was also treated with gypsum ceiling tiles. The entire auditorium and the stage floor were carpeted to nullify reverb from the floor. Further, huge windows measuring 11 x 11 feet were blacked out with motorized blinds to block direct sunlight as well as to also perform acoustic function. Some commercial lighting was also roped in to improve the lighting factor.

The integrator also got the specification for the projection system changed from the original XGA to WXGA to suit the conditions better. The only area the integrator felt compromised was the walls that were bereft of acoustic treatment and thereby stand to abet echo. Timeline being the biggest challenge the move to incorporate videoconferencing solution was also deferred.

"We wish we had some dimmers and lighting controls to further qualify the brightness," Gautam says, adding, "we, however, left no stone unturned to make the space sound and look better."

Overall, the CHG auditorium has a reasonably good AV that works fine for most occasions, the integrator sums up.

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