

Piemonte University, Establishes Telemedicine and Distance Learning Program with RADVISION Video Conferencing Solutions

About



Customer: Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, School of Medicine and Surgery

Country: Italy

Industry: Medical /Education

Product:

- RADVISION Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU)
- RADVISION ECS H.323 Gatekeeper

About Piemonte University

Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale, or Piemonte University, is a prominent institute of higher learning headquartered in Novara, Italy. The University has campuses and associated hospitals around the country and wanted to offer professional training courses integrated with University degree programs for nurses and physiotherapists to its constituents through video conferencing.

The Mission

The University needed an interactive system that was of such high quality that the technology barrier would dissolve and teachers and students would conduct themselves as if they were in the same classroom. The video conferencing system would also have to be able to accommodate standard classroom teaching aides such as slides, video, or live feeds from diagnostics or operating theaters.

Piemonte University selected RADVISION's products for the teledidactic program video conferencing network. They chose RADVISION's powerful and economical Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU) for bridging the participants into a single conference. RADVISION's ECS H.323 Gatekeeper was chosen to manage the network traffic and access for quality controls and system monitoring.

The Challenge

Piemonte University's plan has many critical success factors:

- **High availability of the system** - The system needed to sustain 8 hours a day of video conferencing every day of the academic year with continuous setting and transmission format changes to accommodate a variety of lesson plans.
- **Quality of transmissions** - The quality had to be 'true to life' to make the technology element 'disappear' and allow students and teachers to conduct themselves as they do in a traditional classroom environment.
- **Synchronization of audio and video** - Many lessons were supported by PowerPoint presentations, slides or films on medical subject matter. It was critical that the instructions

and explanations were perfectly coordinated with the images displayed for a seamless learning environment with comprehensible and accurate information.

- **Intuitive and simple to operate** - Students and teachers needed to feel completely at ease with the system and operating video conferencing endpoints to provide the maximum degree of participation for everyone involved.
- **Easy diagnostics and administration** - The technical staff of the University needed to be able to support and maintain the system without having in-depth experience in video conferencing. It needed to be manageable and scalable to accommodate growth and expansion of the distance learning program.

The Solution

The stringent requirements of the University program demanded a feature-rich solution that would still be cost-effective. Although the initial program called for only four sites to participate; they wanted a solution that would be flexible and scalable to accommodate new endpoints and expansion of the network.

After conducting a series of market, service and product comparisons coupled with the system requirements, the team at Piemonte University chose RADVISION's MCU and H.323 Gatekeeper to provide the network infrastructure of the video conferencing system.

The RADVISION MCU is tailored to the customer's needs. The solution can incorporate voice, video and data bridging, along with Gateway functionality for connectivity between IP and ISDN networks.

The immediate network architecture only called for an IP (H.323) MCU, but the visionaries at Piemonte University understood the importance of having the option to

open their network to other teledidactic or research programs that may have an existing ISDN network, and therefore installed a RADVISION Gateway as part of the system. It was also important to know that they could add additional features or MCU ports as their own program developed.

Managing and monitoring the network was also a serious consideration in the University's choice of the RADVISION ECS H.323 Gatekeeper. The importance of being able to control access, traffic flow, optimize bandwidth usage, and monitor the entire system from a single administrative point was very efficient and attractive.

The RADVISION products were also compatible with a broad spectrum of video conferencing endpoints that were essential teaching aides for the courses. The University deployed Polycom endpoints at the four locations and housed the RADVISION solution at the main campus.

The Benefits

Today, the aggressive teledidactic program offers four concurrent courses at three locations. Through the teledidactic program, the University is able to accommodate over 200 participants in each of its courses. These courses would normally be inaccessible to students due to economic reasons and physical circumstances.

One of the obvious advantages of this arrangement is the ability to enable students who would not normally have access to the classroom environment because of handicaps, incarceration, remote geographic locations or areas with poor transportation. Additional advantages include optimization of costs and time, optimization of teaching personnel, uniformity of the lesson content, and

reduction in space and service requirements for students. "Selecting a system (not just a product) based on a design, which takes into consideration the possibility of its expansion and integration with the most innovative technologies, has proved to be a wise decision," said Dr. Emanuele Albano, Director of the Department of Medical Sciences. "We intend to continue to expand the teledidactic program to encompass a wide variety of courses for a broad base of disciplines."

About RADVISION

RADVISION (NASDAQ: RVSN) is the industry's leading provider of market-proven products and technologies for unified visual communications over IP and 3G networks. With its complete set of standards based video networking infrastructure and developer toolkits for voice, video, data and wireless communications, RADVISION is driving the unified communications evolution by combining the power of video, voice, data and wireless – for high definition video conferencing systems, innovative converged mobile services, and highly scalable video-enabled desktop platforms on IP, 3G and emerging next generation networks. For more information about RADVISION, visit www.radvision.com

USA/Americas
T +1 201 689 6300
F +1 201 689 6301
infoUSA@radvision.com

EMEA
T +44 20 3178 8685
F +44 20 3178 5717
infoUK@radvision.com

APAC
T +852 3472 4388
F +852 2801 4071
infoAPAC@radvision.com