Case Study

VoIP Migration

Texas A&M University Deploys Clearspan® Unified Communications to Support Growth of 7th Largest US University

Customer Profile

- 5,000-acre campus
- 50,000+ students
- 22,000 voice lines
- 35,000 stations

Needs

- The solution must be built on a VoIP platform
- Solution components must be standards based (SIP) whenever possible
- The solution must be immediately deployable, but capable of co-existing with legacy systems for a gradual migration plan

Solution

- Aastra Clearspan®
- Deployed on blade servers in redundant campus data centers
- Initial deployment of voice + unified messaging to 3000 users
- Migrate off disparate Centrex systems over time
- System will eventually support 45,000 users

Key Benefits

» Carrier-grade, five-9s reliability and unrivaled scalability

» Built from the ground-up as a standards-based (pure SIP) solution

» Centralized architecture provides capital and operational savings over hardware-centric solutions

» Complete UC solutions with unified messaging, conference and collaboration, fixed mobile convergence and contact center functionality built-in, not bolted on

» Self-Paced Migration allows strategically-planned migration based on resources and budget

Opened in 1876 as Texas' first public institution of higher learning, Texas A&M University (TAMU) today boasts over 50,000 students. The 5000-acre campus in College Station, Texas had multiple distributed voice systems. The bulk of the lines were Centrex with high operating expenses and limited features. As the University began undertaking $650M in new construction, and with many of the key systems nearing end-of-life, it became obvious that a replacement plan for existing systems was needed.

Based on the expertise garnered from numerous Internet2 and VoIP research programs at the University, Dr. Walt Magnussen, Ph.D., Director of Telecommunications developed key criteria for the next- generation voice communications solution - the system must be built on a VoIP platform and the solution components must be standards based (SIP) whenever possible. Magnussen chose Clearspan because the open architecture allows integration of other applications and SIP-based devices. "Additionally, the carrier-grade reliability and scalability gives us the confidence that this solution will support the aggressive growth plans of the University," said Magnussen.

Clearspan provides a total replacement all of existing voice systems. The infrastructure can support 100,000 users with minimal hardware upgrades. The initial deployment of 3000 lines was in the Telecommunications/ IT offices with three additional buildings migrated to VoIP over the following months. All new construction will be deployed completely on Clearspan and other facilities will be migrated over time as existing systems become end-of-life. "A campus this size necessitates a careful migration strategy," said Magnussen. "Self-Paced Migration™ from Aastra allows us to move at our own pace when the time is right for each area."

"Our experiences in the ITEC lab taught us the importance of standards-based solutions; Clearspan provides the openness for integration of other applications and SIP-based devices. "

Dr. Walt Magnussen, Ph.D.
Director of Telecommunications