

ASHRAE uses their new headquarters to create a blueprint for the intelligent building

Client profile

Founded in 1894, ASHRAE is a global professional society committed to serving humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration (HVAC&R) and their allied fields.

As an industry leader in research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE and its members are dedicated to promoting a healthy and sustainably built environment for all, through strategic partnerships with organizations in the HVAC&R community and across related industries.

Which technologies?

- Cisco Webex
- PlaceOS
- Cisco Meraki

Which services?

- Consulting Services

Which partners?

- Cisco
- PlaceOS



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Working with NTT and Cisco we were able to take our vision of what an intelligent workplace is to the next level, integrating seamlessly with other building management systems.

Jeff Littleton, Executive Vice President, ASHRAE

Summary

When ASHRAE decided to move their headquarters to a new building, they needed to showcase their vision of the future, intelligent building.

Working with NTT and Cisco, they created an integrated management system that provides them with full visibility of their workplace environment and the building management systems.

With an intelligent workplace solution, they're able to provide the optimal environment for employees and visitors, ensuring that they have access to the facilities they need while complying with all health and safety regulations.

Business need

Setting the standard for the office of the future

When ASHRAE needed to move to new headquarters in Atlanta, they wanted to ensure that their new offices reflected the vision of the organization.

As a global body responsible for setting industry standards around heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields, the new building offered them the opportunity to showcase the latest developments in building technology. This would allow visitors to see ASHRAE's best practices in action and help them to achieve their vision of a healthy and sustainable environment for all.

Instead of moving to a new building they chose to refurbish an existing structure with a focus on making it carbon neutral, providing an enhanced experience for employees and visitors and reducing the overall operating costs of the facility.

To deliver this ASHRAE worked with its partners, including NTT and Cisco, to implement building management systems with the intelligence necessary to optimize all the core functions.

To create the optimal environment for their employees and visitors, they needed to create a next-generation workplace that took into consideration all requirements of the modern employee and was flexible enough to adapt to future needs; a strategy that proved critical over the course of the project.

Solution

A platform for a truly intelligent building

To create a workplace that delivered against their objectives, ASHRAE worked with NTT and Cisco to create the intelligent office environment.

Through a series of meetings and workshops, the team identified that it was possible to create an environment that went beyond ASHRAE's expectations, creating an integrated building management solution that linked the employee and visitor experience with the building management systems.

Integral to the process was identifying the different types of users and mapping out their journeys, enabling them to optimize the interactions of various users throughout their time at the facility.

This included identifying how people would access the building, be guided to where they needed to be – including desks and meeting rooms — as well as creating intuitive meeting room systems that adapted to the needs of the users with minimal intervention.

Requirements for employees and guests are different and the solution needed to offer optimized experiences for both groups.

During the course of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic required that a greater emphasis was placed on health and safety. The system had already been designed to adapt to the needs of users, including monitoring the number of people in a meeting room and modifying the airflow to ensure that it complied with the relevant health and safety regulations.

Leveraging the PlaceOS platform that underlies the intelligent workplace solution, ASHRAE have minimized the need for human interaction when visitors arrive and enabled them to fill in health declarations online. By monitoring the movement of people around the office, it can also allow for more efficient contact tracing should that be necessary.

The Cisco Meraki network connects all the elements of the system together, allowing employees and visitors to stay connected. The Cisco Webex enabled meeting rooms allow employees to collaborate with partners and employees across the country and the world.

Outcomes

A blueprint for the future

By creating an intelligent workplace, ASHRAE has ensured that their new headquarters can respond to the changing needs of the organization now and in the future. With a fully integrated building management system, they have visibility of their workplace environment as well as the physical performance of the building.

Optimized employee and visitor experience

With an integrated employee and visitor management system, visitors and employees can connect securely wherever they are in the building. ASHRAE can ensure that all health and safety regulations are adhered to and the risks minimized.

Next-generation meeting spaces

The integrated meeting rooms system allows for employees to book the most appropriate space for their needs. The integrated building management system ensures that airflow is adjusted for the number of people in the room, according to the relevant health and safety regulations.

Connected workplace

With the integration between the building management systems and PlaceOS, ASHRAE has a unified view of their environment. This provides them with the insight required to continue to create a workplace that evolves as their requirements change.

Sustainability

The renovation creates a home for ASHRAE that doesn't just deliver an intelligent and green building but sets the standard for the future. This extends to every facet of the building, from energy consumption to the employee and visitor experience.