

# Conseil Général de la Loire Atlantique



Nantes, FRANCE

## Introduction

The CG of the Loire-Atlantique region of France manages some 134 colleges; 78 public schools and 58 private schools.

More than 69,000 students and 7,000 teachers work within these institutions.

## The Project

In the fall of 2006, the CG launched a new initiative to re-equip each of the 134 colleges with at least one Multimedia Classroom. The CG prepared a list of requirements and issued a Request for Proposal to all of the major language lab system providers in this market.

## The Implementation

A new product design, (IntraLAB), the result of the collaboration of a French firm (Logosapience) and a Canadian firm (Robotel) was selected. The installation, start-up, and training are being managed by the CG and two corporate partners, Satel and Computacenter.

The plan is to re-install 145 classrooms over 4 years, with an install goal of 40 systems per year.

As of June 2009, IntraLAB systems comprising 1 Teacher station and 15 student stations have been installed and commissioned in 120 classrooms.

Within these classrooms, the media activities as well as the video and control switching between stations are managed over the schools' network infrastructure. The audio communication activities, (such as pairing, grouping, and intercom), are done through a hardware-based audio matrix subsystem using CAT-5 cabling for interconnection.



## Commissioning

The commissioning phase of the project requires strict adherence to the guidelines defined by the CG.

The solution selected had to meet the following standards:

- Have at least the same functionality of the previous technology used in these classrooms
- Have better reliability than the previous technology
- Offer outstanding sound quality for the language teaching activities

To ensure success in commissioning that large a number of classrooms, the CG has:

- Standardized the installation process to be able to install the new technology without interrupting the operation of the rooms
- Created a strong support structure with a centralized maintenance and support desk that includes a phone-in help desk, on site technicians, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> level support desk.
- Organized a strong cooperation with the Academic partners of the CG

The standardization of the equipment and processes has greatly facilitated the implementation of the technology in all rooms.

Finally, a customized training session has been held for each of the rooms installed to ensure that teachers are comfortable and confident in using the new systems.



## Client Satisfaction

*« As project manager, I wanted to use a reliable solution having an easy user interface and excellent audio quality – primarily for the language teachers, who are frequent users of the multimedia classrooms.*

*Through the tests, IntraLAB showed that it was clearly superior to other software-based solutions, notably with the intercom functions.*

*Finally, 2 years after starting this project, we see a very high room usage and teachers are enthusiastic – which will lead to extra classrooms in some of the colleges. »*

### Mr. Roland Charlou

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