
Moving BBC Cymru Wales to the BBC's most connected, accessible and sustainable building.

At its new home in Cardiff's city center, BBC Cymru Wales has transformed its workplace and equipped staff with modern digital tools for new ways of working and broadcasting.

“Strong customer focus and engagement from Atos at all levels undoubtedly contributed to the project’s success. Collaboration and communication were key to ensuring that expectations were met.”

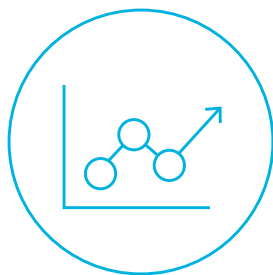
Gareth Powell

Chief Operating Officer, BBC Cymru Wales

The context

In the heart of Cardiff, BBC Central Square is the new headquarters and Broadcast Centre for BBC Cymru Wales. Spanning over 14,000m² across five floors, it is Europe’s most connected and environmentally sustainable broadcasting center.

The move to Central Square from the BBC’s former site in Llandaff is set to generate £1 billion for the local economy by 2030. It is also critical to the technological advance of BBC Cymru Wales. BBC Central Square is the first broadcasting center in the UK to be based around the use of internet protocol (IP) technology, enabling unprecedented interoperability for innovative new ways of working and broadcasting, from controlling cameras to TV editing and content.



The outcome

The challenge

At the start of 2019, BBC Cymru Wales faced logistical and technological challenges to become fully operational at its new site by the end of 2020.

As well as the latest broadcast and media systems, staff were transferring to an open-plan environment, with hot-desking, more mobile working, and access to data and resources from anywhere at any time.

Within tight timescales, the challenge was to deliver an ambitious technology design, installation, management and support program to realize this vision. Specialist expertise and collaboration were needed to help orchestrate the move.

As a long-term partner of the BBC, Atos was engaged to lead the delivery of a new network as the Center’s IT backbone and integration of audio visual (AV) systems and tools.

The solution

Atos collaborated closely with BBC Cymru Wales, BBC Major Projects Infrastructure and specialist partners to define user requirements then design, deliver and support the technologies to meet them.

Robust program management was critical to coordinate delivery of such a logistically and technologically complex project and a host of new systems within one space, including:

- **Local Area Network (LAN):** the Reith network is core to day-to-day operations, providing connectivity for all systems, telephony and services
- **Wi-Fi:** utilizes the LAN via on-premises wireless controllers and nearly 100 wireless access points providing comprehensive coverage for any mobile device
- **AV Systems:** including state-of-the-art videoconferencing and collaboration screens, internal and public-facing digital signage, an 18m video wall and lighting in the public atrium, and the largest IPTV installation in the BBC.

BBC Cymru Wales has the modern technology infrastructure it needs to continue to educate, inform and entertain people in Wales and more widely.

All systems were delivered on target and in time for staff migration - critical in preventing any delays to the move. As a result, BBC Cymru Wales has created a new digital workplace at its new home and made a significant step forward to the BBC’s goal to cut carbon emissions by 24% by 2022.

This leading-edge media environment helps to streamline workflows and supports mobile and connected ways of working, for instance, with high levels of IPTV control available for individual users. This gives BBC Cymru Wales the bandwidth, capacity and flexibility required to produce new forms of content and support ultra-high definition production as technologies and techniques evolve.

About BBC

The BBC is the world’s leading public service broadcaster, delivering:

- A portfolio of television services, including the UK’s most-watched channel BBC One, the pioneering BBC Three, award-winning channels for children, and national and regional television programs and services
- Ten UK-wide radio networks and two national radio services each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and 39 local radio stations
- Digital services including BBC News, Sport, Weather CBBC and CBeebies, iPlayer and BBC Sounds, BBC Red Button and a vast archive
- BBC World Service television, radio and online in over 40 languages.

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