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Art attack

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Exterior LED lighting effects are managed by Crestron dimmers to keep energy consumption low

All together now

The control system at this spectacular arena handles not only the lighting, but also other building services to ensure precise control of energy use. **Pennie Varvarides** reports

The Helsingborg Arena opened its doors late last year for the first of many sporting events to be hosted at the site, which cost more than US\$45.9 million (€35.5 million).

The substantial control system – which encompasses both the lighting and the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) – was installed by Fremlab AV, and independent programmer.

The installation cost US\$1.5 million (€1.2 million) and covers 21,000m² of floor space, including three gymnasiums, seating areas for up to 5,500 spectators and a number of foyers, bars and restaurants. Fremlab's installation was a winner in the Crestron Integration Awards for its design and control of the 19 lighting racks comprising Crestron dimmer modules and Dali controls.

Six control processors are star networked to the central MP3 processor. The six subsidiary processors each monitor between two and four of the lighting racks with the MP3 taking overall control of the onboard astronomical clock. It hosts the user interface for the control of the lighting and audiovisual sources.


The arena won't just be used for sporting events, so the controls must be suitable for concerts, conferences and conventions. With this in mind, the system can be controlled over the web

with X-Panels, through Microsoft Windows and from Crestron V-Panels. A further three mobile panels are available to tap in to the administrative or AV network.

People move around inside the arena, and that presents challenges when trying to set lighting scenes that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional. The entire system can be controlled from the installation interface, so staff can make changes using their mobile controls.

The user interface is the same for the AV system, which is linked to its own 'brain', a 32 x 32 matrix from Crestron's DigitalMedia range. The matrix handles the live video system, PTZ cameras, the server that looks after the digital signage and a series of patch panels in the main halls and conference areas.

Programming was made easier by the 50 Mitsubishi displays throughout the arena. Each of the LDT-462V LCD panels comes pre-loaded with Crestron Connected technology and are connected to the system.

With the Crestron processor also interfacing with the HVAC, alarm systems and digital signage, energy consumption can be minimised. Automatic shutdown and power-up settings have been configured to encompass each element of the systems and run seamlessly every night and morning when staff leave and arrive. 

The lighting and audiovisual systems share a common interface

