

case study

Preparing for growth with a state-of-the-art office upgrade

The background

Rathbones is one of the UK's largest investment management firms, managing billions of pounds of client funds and with a trusted heritage dating back to 1742.

Following a period of rapid expansion, the company quickly outgrew its premises in Mayfair and chose to relocate its head office to 8 Finsbury Circus, London. A striking new development comprising of 160,000 square feet of premium office space, Rathbones occupies half of the eight-storey building, nearly doubling its original floor space.

The new premises was deemed to represent the best single site solution that would not only provide a welcoming environment for clients and employees, but also create the capacity needed to achieve its long-term growth ambitions. Following a lengthy and highly competitive tender process, Rathbones appointed Kinly to deliver a cutting-edge, integrated AV solution that would embrace every aspect of the building.



RATHBONES



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The solution

On winning the tender, Kinly worked closely with the client and commissioning consultant, PTS Consulting, to refine and enhance the design and technical specifications of the brief. This involved equipping four floors with best-in-class audio-visual technologies including digital signage, IPTV distribution, dynamic display systems and projection equipment, conferencing systems, control and automation technologies, professional audio and sound masking systems.

The areas covered by Kinly's integrated AV scheme included multiple meeting, project and video conferencing rooms, flexible client presentation and event spaces, executive suites, common rooms and dining areas. In addition, we deployed a complex seven-way divisible meeting space with a VC codec and DSP processor for each of the seven rooms and over 200 room configuration modes.

At the heart of the new office is an impressive client presentation suite; a three-way divisible room that opens to create a stunning event space overlooking the London skyline with its own private roof terrace for entertaining.

The visual centrepiece is a 98-inch NEC UHD display. With its ultra-HD resolution, the screen fits seamlessly into the prestigious surroundings which are designed to impress.

All meeting rooms are equipped with a range of large format LED displays and feature the latest video conferencing systems from Poly, allowing employees to interact and collaborate with remote participants in other locations.

The rooms are also fitted with motorised ceiling microphones that can be lowered or retracted depending on the need for the room. This helps to create a tidy and clutter-free ambience.

Everything is controlled via a central control panel which features a butler-service system, allowing participants to call for assistance and order refreshments.

The seven-way divisible room is a large, multi-functional space that can be sectioned off with folding walls to accommodate different functions and event sizes. The AV can be operated from a centralised touch panel and is programmed to automatically reconfigure itself based on the room setup. When in separate mode, each room can be operated independently via a wall-mounted touch panel.

An important aspect of the project was the need for effective internal communication. There is a strong belief at Rathbones that keeping employees well informed and engaged is crucial to the firm's continued success. In fact, the event spaces are often used to hold town hall meetings in which employees are encouraged to provide feedback.

Each morning, the research team deliver an investment update to the entire business which is distributed via a SIP-based PA system and to remote locations via a Kinly configured Pexip bridge.

In addition, there was a requirement for a sound masking system made up of small white noise emitters located every 3m throughout the office floors. To achieve this, Kinly had to install over 400 emitters and over 2.5km of patch cabling, all of which is neatly stored in the ceilings void, labelled and colour coded for ease of service.

Rathbones also opted for a digital signage with integrated IPTV platform by Tripleplay which features a built-in content management system (CMS). This makes it easy to update and control content from any of the 15 endpoints in the building. These are placed in kitchens and communal areas where they are clearly visible and create common talking points for staff.



SECTOR
CORPORATE



LOCATION(S)
LONDON, UK



SOLUTION
COMPLEX
AUDIO VISUAL

The result

The Rathbones project represents a sophisticated integrated AV solution that embraces every area of the Finsbury Circus building; from office, meeting and boardrooms to client presentation and event spaces featuring divisible walls, common areas and staff cafeterias, IPTV and video streaming services.

Kinly worked solely with the architect, building contractor and other contracted organisations to ensure the project was completed on time, within budget and to the client's exacting specifications.

The result is a stunning corporate environment that utilises the latest in AV technology and integrates them seamlessly into the stylish new surroundings.



Why Kinly?

Bringing people & technology together for better productivity wherever the work happens — because great things happen when people work together.