Arizona State University: Supporting Cutting-Edge Scientific and Technological Research

Arizona State University (ASU) was established in 1885 and has grown to become a comprehensive public metropolitan University with extensive state-of-the-art scientific and technological research facilities. Comprised of four campuses including Tempe, West, Polytechnic and the new Downtown Phoenix campus, ASU supports over 61,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students.

Challenge:
ASU has worked hard to establish itself as a leading center for cutting-edge interdisciplinary research. In order to successfully maintain and grow these research capabilities, ASU’s University Technology Office (UTO) is faced with the challenge of planning and executing infrastructure and active voice and data component systems for campus, satellite, leased and commercial locations. Not only has this involved updating and maintaining four campuses IT infrastructure, but also equipping new and renovated buildings with the applications required to be successful. This has become a huge task for the UTO, especially with constant campus development and the first phase of ASU’s new Downtown Phoenix campus which opened fall 2006.

By 2020, ASU is projected to have over 90,000 students enrolled throughout its four campuses. Based on this anticipated growth, the Universities network will continue to expand, requiring regular upgrades and changes to sustain increasing demand and advancing technologies.

Solution:
Constant development and renovations have kept Craig Trimble, Director of Design within Operations for the UTO, very busy. Trimble is responsible for the design and implementation of ASU’s voice and data cabling. “The UTO is continually moving forward with projects. We are in charge of making sure all construction and major renovation projects have the appropriate infrastructure,” stated Trimble. Fortunately, ASU can count on CPI to help them support this growing infrastructure.

In efforts to expand the Universities research facilities and capabilities along with the projected influx of students, ASU is adding over one million square feet of research space. The first phase of this expansion included the Biodesign Institute which was completed in October 2004. This structure along with additional phases will help ASU take a leading role in biom edicine and biotechnology research aimed at discovering new drugs and vaccines, developing new diagnostic devices, protecting the environment and strengthening national security. To ensure that the equipment containing this vital research information is protected and stored properly, ASU installed CPI’s MegaFrame Cabinet Systems throughout its main telecommunications room.

Other new buildings that contain CPI Products include the Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Buildings (ISTB) I and II and ASU’s Hassayampa Academic Village. ISTB I and II provide
laboratories for a broad range of pursuits aimed at moving into the forefront of engineering, physical sciences and life sciences. The Hassayampa Academic Village is a new residence hall that offers student’s wireless zones and individual Ethernet ports. Throughout existing buildings, ASU uses CPI’s PatchRack in small legacy closets so that both patch panels and active hardware can be mounted on the same system. In addition, ASU utilizes CPI’s Domed Wireless Enclosure to replace 2’ x 2’ ceiling tiles so that adds, moves and changes can be made easily to wireless access points.

In efforts to build a modern, vibrant university campus in downtown Phoenix, ASU has partnered with the city of Phoenix. The Downtown Phoenix campus is part of a larger plan to revitalize and redevelop the city’s urban core. When complete, ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus will serve 10-15,000 students with academic buildings, housing, retail development, cultural programs and entertainment.

“The first phase of this major project includes extensive renovations to existing buildings,” said Trimble. The University Center, a 10 story renovation will include CPI Rack Systems, Vertical and Horizontal Cable Managers, Ladder Racks, Grounding Busbar Products and 208 V and 120 V Horizontal Power Strips. The Healthcare Innovation and Nursing Building, a four floor renovation will include similar CPI structural solutions. In addition, leased space from the post office, a two floor renovation, will become two new telecom rooms for the University also containing CPI Products.

“Due to the fact that project timeframes are very short at ASU, whether it is a major renovation, expansion or new build, we cannot afford to either receive incorrect or defective products,” explained Trimble. CPI provides ASU with superior quality products that arrive on time to meet their project scheduling needs.

With constant upgrades and changes to sustain advancing technologies, ASU counts on CPI to provide flexible, scalable and reliable solutions to support their growing IT infrastructure needs.