

# Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

Productivity surges after electrical company updates control room technology



▲ MTEMCC's control room video wall.

## From static to dynamic

"The wall was pretty static," says Chip Pinion, system control supervisor, Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation (MTEMCC). "There wasn't a whole lot we could do with it as far as changing the layouts and changing different things we'd like to put up on the screens." And with the wall pushing seven years old, acquiring parts was becoming an issue.

The wall in question? The video wall in MTEMCC's control center, a critical space that not only runs 24/7 but is a primary command and control decision-making center.

MTEMCC provides electricity to 205,000 residents within four major counties, and covers a demanding 2,100 square miles of service territory. As a cooperative, MTEMCC refers to their customers as members, and with significant growth and 80-year history, has proudly become the state of Tennessee's largest electric corporation.

"Ultimately we wanted a wall that would be more dynamic for us, to use day-in, day-out depending on the needs of the operator."

**Chip Pinion,**  
Systems control supervisor, MTEMCC

All of this makes MTEMCC's control room an extremely important space. Used primarily to monitor their Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and their outage management system, the control room also oversees security monitoring, a constant weather map and feeds from several cable sources. Much of the company's success has come to rest on their control room capabilities and the space needed a technology refresh.

## Cue RP Visual Solutions

Specializing in 24/7 displays and priding themselves on personalized service for over a decade, RP Visual Solutions

**Customer:**  
Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation (MTEMCC)

**Location:**  
Murfreesboro, TN

**Industry/Market:**  
Control Rooms  
Power and Utilities

**Partners:**  
RP Visual Solutions (RPV)

**Requirements:**

- 24/7 video wall solution
- High brightness
- Network-based processing solution

**Summary:**  
Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation knew they needed to update their 24/7 control room monitoring system, in order to more efficiently serve their members and increase productivity for a reasonable cost.

**Products:**

- Christie® Entero™ HB SXGA+ light engines and lenses
- Christie Phoenix®

**Results:**  
Turning to RP Visual Solutions, MTEMCC installed Christie light engines, lenses and processor, increasing communication and productivity at any time of day.

(RPV) worked closely with MTEMC to assess their monitoring system, taking into account their wants and needs. RPV suggested a video wall application made up of Christie® Entero™ HB SXGA+ light engines and lenses and Christie Phoenix® network-based processing solution.

A major benefit of the new display wall solution is that it can dynamically change to meet the needs of a group no matter what time of day they're working, especially critical in a 24/7 environment. "Even when we have different levels of brightness in the room, it does not change the clarity of what we see on the wall itself," says Pinion.

One of the biggest advantages for this monitoring system is that Christie LED light engines provide 100,000 hours of illumination, making the new system more reliable and maintenance-free than the old one. With a system that is constantly used and depended on, there is no room for downtime or error.

While the previous wall had been limited in regards to handling ambient light, it was also limited in what it could deliver processing-wise. With seamless access and control of audiovisual data, Christie Phoenix® allows users to make faster and more accurate decisions. These features in a control room like MTEMC's present greater capabilities when it comes to serving their members.

"The previous system was limited in inputs and outputs," says John Brereton, director of operations, RPV. "What we looked forward to with the Christie processor was adding additional outputs,

as well as a network-based solution that allows us to input and export data."

This increased functionality also opens the door for more expansive communication with users from other locations, including field elements. And the additional outputs allow data to be brought rapidly and clearly to the display board.

### MTEMC: Plans to expand

With plans for expansion, Pinion shares that the potential for another, larger operations center is on the horizon. "We just purchased 150 acres outside of Murfreesboro, and we're looking to build a brand new campus in the next 5 years, with a new operations center and a new display wall twice as big as this new one."

Pinion explains that Christie has met not only their technology needs, but cost needs as well, resulting in a high-quality system that they're very happy with.

For now, the control room has become somewhat of an attraction, according to Pinion. "Our president [Chris Jones] takes major pride in this control room. We have community events and utility events that come in. Every time we have a group in, our president always makes sure they come into the control room," he says laughing, and adds, "But as great as this room is, the next might be even better!"

### Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from Christie solutions.



▲ A view of the control room, with the focal point of the room being the updated, dynamic video wall.



▲ Christie Phoenix network-based processing solution offers MTEMC increased functionality.

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