

## HILLSONG CHURCH, Convention Centre

Considered to be the largest church in Australia, Hillsong Church has been designed in distinct contrast to the architecture of traditional cathedrals, combining contemporary style with functional facilities.

Complete Technology Integrations, in conjunction with electrical consultant, Grantham Spencer Associates and electrical contractor, Wilken Service, designed a comprehensive automation system for the project, ensuring the production of a dynamic electrical solution.



### The Building

Located in Sydney's north-west suburb of Baulkham Hills, Hillsong Church has been purpose-designed to meet modern convention centre standards.

The 3,500-seat auditorium boasts superb interior fixings and a unique layout that enables it to be divided into nine separate lecture theatres, each with its own drop down screen and projector. It also features full production facilities for audiovisual, to cater for the recording of the Sunday church services, which are broadcast weekly on Channel 10 and are also screened in over 120 countries around the world.

Housing a large youth meeting hall, college lecture theatres, Sunday school rooms, a Christian bookshop, dance studio and a children's day care centre, the complex operates as a multi-functional convention centre during the week, and the venue for church services on weekends.

The state-of-the-art sound, lighting and media equipment installed, make Hillsong Church one of the most technologically advanced buildings of its kind in Australia.



### The Requirements

Given the multipurpose nature of the facility, the project called for the installation of a control system that would enable easily accessible, versatile and reliable control of all lighting areas.

In addition, there was the necessity to provide a flexible interface with DMX 512. The industry leader in theatrical lighting control, DMX 512 provides console control of all lighting and special effects.

Prior to the introduction of the High Power Professional Series Dimmers, Clipsal Integrated Systems was incapable of interfacing with DMX and consequently unable to competitively challenge rivals in the theatrical lighting market. With the introduction of these new dimmers, Clipsal resolves this issue, opening the way for the installation of C-Bus and its accompanying accessories in large-scale convention centre applications.

Hillsong Church was the first auditorium-like project in Australia, to utilise Clipsal High Power Professional Series Dimmer technology.

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# CASE STUDY

## The Result

To accommodate the multi-functional nature of the project, CTI designed a practical C-Bus network layout based on the innovative design concept of Grantham Spencer Associates. Wilken Service performed an exceptional job in the installation of the C-Bus wiring and equipment, enabling CTI to effortlessly commission the system and provide Hillsong Church with a functional automation solution. Interfacing with the stage lighting equipment was coordinated by Theatrical Lighting Consultant, Ian Anderson.

C-Bus controls all general lighting including corridors and main foyer areas, stairwells, car park and walkways, with general lighting relays located across eight distribution boards throughout the complex. The relays also control the main auditorium stair LED lighting, high level work lights and motorized blinds, as well as catwalk lighting in the main auditorium, providing low level LED lighting to guide production crew members during events when required.

To enable the DMX system, a touch screen has been located in the security office, providing the Site Manager with complete control over all C-Bus lighting networks as well as the ability to activate DMX. DMX control of the main auditorium is then achieved via the master controller located at the lighting control desk in the centre of the auditorium.

One of the most unique features of the project, is the ability to divide the 3,500 seat auditorium into nine separate lecture theatres. When in lecture theatre mode, each room has been allocated two wall mounted, four gang key input units, to provide convenient, localized lighting control. Each key input unit has been linked to Clipsal's Minder Automation System, which has been programmed to activate specific scenes that suit the lecture theatre environment. This enables them to turn lighting on, off and dim lighting up or down.

## The Benefits

Completed in October 2002, Hillsong Church Convention Centre was officially opened by the Honourable John Howard, MP, Prime Minister of Australia.

With a current congregation of over 14,000 people, the installation of C-Bus and the new High Power Dimmers provides Hillsong Church with a functional and flexible lighting solution that will cater for the centre's ever-changing schedule.

Providing localized, as well as total control over the entire complex, the automation system has created a high impact theatrical solution for the church and succeeded in shaping the centre as a multi-use facility.

As the first project in Australia to utilise Clipsal's new range of High Power Architectural Dimmers, Hillsong Church serves as a groundbreaking project for this technology providing a valuable reference site for future use of C-Bus in the auditorium, convention centre construction sector.

For CTI, this unique project provided them with a valuable opportunity to apply their automation expertise to devise an interesting and flexible solution to meet the client's needs.



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