

Case Study:

The Financial Times

A challenging project comprising of a studio, control room and adjoining plant room, in the heart of Central London



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The Financial Times is one of the world's most respected newspaper publishers, famous for providing leading business news and analysis. Although more famous for the printed newspaper, the Financial Times has been a pioneer online and is heavily engaged in video, publishing hundreds of videos a month on its own website as well as syndicating interviews and reports to the world's conventional television networks. IAC Acoustics was commissioned to design and construct a new television suite within their London headquarters, located at Southwark Bridge, including a studio and control room.



The Financial Times design team inspected a 'typical' IAC installation and concluded that IAC had the capability to meet the demanding acoustic criteria and project timeframe requirements. In the early stages of the project, Richard Edgar, Editor and Global Head of



Video for the Financial Times said "A high acoustic performance was going to be essential. The project timeframe was exceptionally short for the degree of complexity and scope of the exercise."

The installed scheme comprises a 68m² studio, control room and plant / server room. Due to the relatively small area dedicated to the studio within the offices, a 6m x 1.5m acoustic window with anti reflective glazing was installed between the studio and the adjoining open plan news office. Another problem which had to be overcome by IAC in designing the space was the server / plant room which is situated between the studio and control room.

The acoustic requirements for the project were:

Studio

- Offer an airborne sound isolation between the studio and adjacent areas of at least 58dB

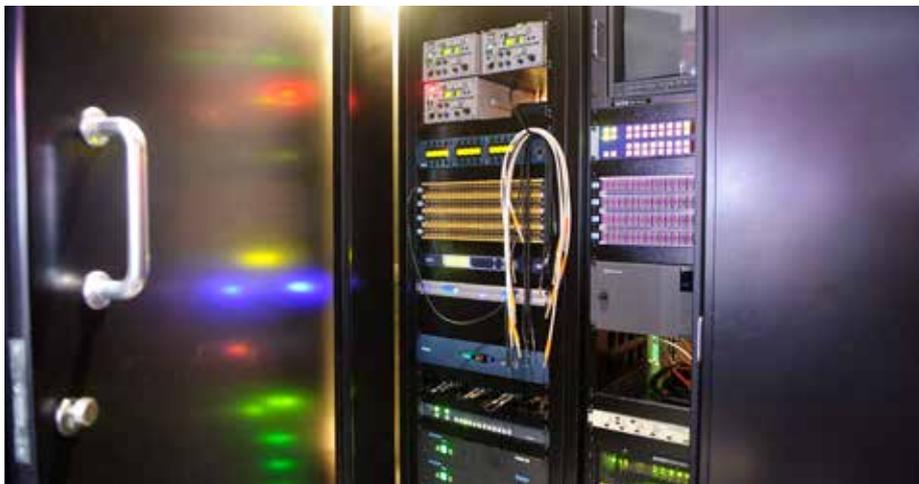
- A reverberation time of 0.5s to 0.6s background noise level from the air conditioning of NR20

Control Room

- Offer an airborne sound isolation to adjacent areas of at least 50 dB
- A reverberation time of 0.3s to 0.4s

A background noise level from the air conditioning of NR20





The design solution was based around Moduline™, IAC's high performance acoustic modular building system with integrated doors and windows. A particular challenge faced by the design team was that the technical racks needed to be accessed at the front from the control room and the rear from the particularly noisy plant room. The introduction of IAC double STC-51 acoustic doors to the front and rear of the racks solved the issue. IAC also assisted with the design of the air distribution system, providing attenuators to ensure the ventilation of the plant room did not exceed acoustic criteria.



The fully commissioned studio suite is now in use by the Financial Times and has already been used to interview the likes of Sir Terry Leahy and Geoff Cooper. Ian Rich,

Product Manager for IAC Studios said "Despite the challenge to deliver a very tight acoustic performance brief, IAC Acoustics has shown that with the right balance of quality products and engineering expertise, serious reductions in both ambient and mechanical noise can be achieved, even within a conventional office building."



Once the installation was completed, Richard concluded that "We are very impressed with the overall facility. The spaces not only perform very well acoustically, but are also a pleasant environment to work in with fabric-lined walls. I was impressed at the level of sound reduction possible for a studio surrounded by busy offices. IAC Acoustics are a very professional outfit and a pleasure to work with, finding solutions to every problem we could throw at them!"

