Resort expands Emergency Communications System to Outdoor areas with WAVES

Customer Success Story: Schlitterbahn South Padre Island Beach Resort

Location: South Padre Island, Texas
Segment: Commercial
Challenge: Communicate to people throughout the park and meet building codes
Solution: WAVES High Power Speaker Array (HPSA-7100-R) by Eaton for wide-area mass notification
Results: Resort operators can now distribute emergency announcements through one Voice Evacuation Panel for both indoor and outdoor areas. They can also broadcast paging and general announcements such as park closing times.

“I am pleasantly surprised how versatile and easy the system is to use. In my Hospitality career I have seen comparable systems that either didn’t work as stated or didn’t function at all; this system is ideal for almost every function needed in the day to day operation of a hotel such as ours and many others with specific concerns for their guests safety.”

Rene Valdez
Resort General Manager, Schlitterbahn Beach Resort

Need
The Schlitterbahn Water Park & Resorts, the New Braunfels-based company which operates a 26-acre outdoor water park on South Padre Island, TX, recently built an 80,000 square-foot indoor water park and beach area with retractable walls and roof that reaches up to 60’ in height.

“There are two reasons why we needed an outdoor Mass Notification System for this new addition,” said Mark Stuart, Architect for Schlitterbahn Development Group. “First, we wanted to be able to broadcast messages to all of the people in the park. There are a lot of people walking around in a very large area. If a child gets lost, for example, you need to be able to communicate this information. Second, we needed to meet building codes and requirements for public assembly/amusement parks. For this type of occupancy, a voice evacuation system is required for assembly of greater than 1000 people.”

Solution
Schlitterbahn South Padre Island Beach Resort chose Eaton’s High Power Speaker Array (HPSA-7100-R series to provide crisp, clear intelligible voice messages to its visitors. Designed to meet stringent Life Safety requirements, the HPSA-7100-R series provides a simple upgrade path to expand the park’s emergency communications coverage to outdoor areas.

For the indoor water park, an HPSA-7104-R was selected and integrated with the resort’s Voice Evacuation Panel, which is connected to the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP).

Originally, Schlitterbahn’s blueprints showed the speakers and pole mounted just west of the four-story resort. Since the HPSA was close to the resort and not an ideal location for communicating to guests, site design plans were revised to position the HPSA away from the hotel area to the top of a commercial building, facing the enclosed beach and water park area.
Solution continued
A tripod sled mount was used to install the speakers and pole on a cement roof top. The HPSA electronics cabinet was also placed on the rooftop – 85 feet away from the speaker array and tripod. The installation team used 100% conduit that runs from the tripod along the soffit to the HPSA cabinet so no wires were exposed. The resort’s Voice Evacuation System is also located in the same commercial building.

The results
With the addition of the HPSA-7104-R, Schlitterbahn South Padre Island Beach Resort’s indoor water park meets assembly/amusement park building codes and requirements. Operators can now not only make emergency announcements through one Voice Evacuation Panel for both indoor and outdoor areas, but they can also use the HPSA for paging and general announcements such as park closing times.

“I am pleasantly surprised on how versatile and easy the system (HPSA-7104-R) is to use,” said Rene Valdez, Resort General Manager, Schlitterbahn Beach Resort. “In my Hospitality career I have seen comparable systems that either didn’t work as stated or didn’t function at all; this system is ideal for almost every function needed in the day to day operation of a hotel such as ours and many others with specific concerns for their guests safety.”

Eaton’s HPSA-7100-R
In addition to Voice Evacuation Panels, the HPSA-7100-R Series can also be integrated directly to an organization’s existing audio source, including voice-capable FACP’s, paging systems and Eaton’s SAFEPATH Mass Notification Systems.

WAVES High Power Speaker Arrays broadcast intelligible voice messages and tones, covering large geographic areas. Designed to meet Life Safety requirements, CE mark approval and TÜV certification, this Wide-area Mass Notification System (MNS) features industry-leading intelligibility using an advanced amplification system design.

Deployed on a static pole, affixed to a building or mounted on a rooftop, the HPSAs have a variety of installation options. These Giant Voice speaker arrays ensure that you get the right message to the right person at the right time.

For additional information, please your local sales representative or visit our website at Eaton.com/massnotification

Wide-Area MNS
Using an advanced amplification system design, WAVES High Power Speaker Arrays from Eaton feature industry-leading intelligibility. Whether it’s a water park or a college campus, the Giant Voice speakers provide clear, concise and intrusive voice messages that communicate critical information in an emergency.

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