

New IDAS System Ends Casino's Audio Problems

from March 2009



Ho-Chunk Casino, a full-service casino located in the Wisconsin Dells region, isn't taking any chances on the quality of its radio communications.

To correct ongoing problems with collisions and intermodulation distortion, the casino is installing a new Icom 10-channel IDAS trunking system this month for use throughout its gaming, hotel, conference, and entertainment facility.

The new Icom system replaces another manufacturer's 10-channel LTR[®] system installed in late 1999.

Ho-Chunk Casino is one of several gambling casinos in Wisconsin owned by the Ho-Chunk Nation. The casino offers 315 hotel rooms, five restaurants, and on-site recreation for guests.

Brad Pointon, owner of Pointon Communications in Baraboo, Wis., who guided the casino through the process of budget planning, system design, and FCC licensing, says the new system



has corrected many of the audio problems the casino was experiencing with its previous system. "The new system should perform much better," he says.

By splitting the channels into 6.25 kHz frequencies, the system eliminates both intermod distortion and collision problems, which can create significant levels of interference for radio users.

Early system tests and initial user feedback are very positive, Pointon says.

Icom's IDAS digital land mobile radio systems double the capacity of current 12.5 kHz channel allocations and provide crystal clear audio over a greater coverage area than analog FM.

Ho-Chunk Casino had three primary requirements when selecting a new system. First, the casino wanted a 6.25 kHz digital system. It was also looking for a good value – great features and high quality at a reasonable price. But the clincher came down to the nitty-gritty of Icom's trunking technology. With these objectives in mind, "Icom's system was clearly the way to go," Pointon says.

The system includes ten FR6000 Series repeaters and approximately 800 radios. The majority of these are F4161DS portables; the casino also purchased a handful of F6061D mobiles. Users include security, maintenance, housekeeping, and the IT department.

IA Systems built the system, and then shipped it to Pointon Communications for installation. "We like Icom's straightforward approach," Pointon says. "IAS built the system, and we are putting it back together here. We like how simple it is to build."

Pointon Communications is also installing an Avtec two-position radio console for the casino. This computer software-based system will eventually integrate directly with the IDAS trunking system.

IDAS
ICOM DIGITAL ADVANCED SYSTEM