



VACC Recent Key Projects: Meeting and Conference Center Acoustical Design Consulting IBM Silicon Valley Executive Briefing Center San Jose, California

Owner
IBM Silicon Valley Labs

Vibro-Acoustic Consultants was asked to perform the acoustical design of a meeting and conference center for IBM in San Jose.

Architect/Engineer
HOK
Fluor Corporation

IBM's network of Executive Briefing Centers (EBCs) give the company a platform for providing comprehensive, in-depth product demonstrations and workshops to customers and business partners. The Silicon Valley EBC hosts events for key decision makers from customers of IBM's suite of "Middleware" products. A variety of audio and visual technologies and presentation environments are used in making presentations to these decision makers.

Project Size
11,700sqft
\$3.4M high-end renovation

VACC Project Scope
Noise control design
Acoustical design
Noise testing

The existing EBC was last renovated in 1989. IBM requested that the facilities be expanded and modernized in terms of both technologies and image.

Acoustical Design Goals
NC-35 in Briefing Rooms
STC-50+ between rooms
"BBC" reverberation spectrum
Consistency between rooms
Harmony with visual design

The facility includes four generic meeting areas: three briefing rooms, and one cafeteria room. Noise control concerns revolved around delivering appropriately quiet, isolated environments. Because customers are often themselves competitors, isolation between adjacent briefing rooms was critical for privacy as well as comfort. Since existing mechanical equipment was reused, appropriate noise control design of the HVAC air distribution system was essential.

In addition to noise control, the acoustical image of the space was important. As the look-and-feel of the EBC was "brightened-up", it was desirable to reflect this in the acoustical environment, as well. To this end, we worked with the architects to utilize surface treatments to control the reverberation time profile of the different spaces. Our design goal was to create acoustically balanced spaces for which the "acoustical openness" reinforced the "visual openness".