

15 INNOVATIVE FURNITURE SOLUTIONS

Workplace ergonomics are often overlooked in the grand scheme of system design, but creating an environment that is conducive to productivity can foster greater efficiency for your customers. **By Robert Archer**

IT'S EASY to get caught up in the nomenclature of technology. Ultra HD, 18Gbps HDMI, high-resolution audio, fiber, high-speed connectivity, AV over IP, are all buzzwords and terms that drive interest in products, system sales and the overall state of the market. Despite the buzz these terms create, they do not tell the complete story of modern electronics systems.

There is more to proper system design and installation than just technology. How humans interact with their work environment is just as important today as the method that AV signals are transmitted or the level of picture quality a display produces. Workplace ergonomics and aesthetics contribute an important, but often overlooked role in how effectively employees can contribute to the productivity of their employers.

Furniture and furniture accessories can solve the ergonomic and aesthetic dilemma of dysfunctional or simply outdated desks, tables, chairs and other components that prohibit workplace efficiency for your customers' organizations.

Here is a sampling of the latest AV-related furniture solutions available to integrators to help sell a more comfortable and efficient workplace to customers.



American Technical Furniture CT Series

American Technical Furniture's (ATF) CT Series comes standard in a Kensington maple finish with custom finishes also available, and its universal design is said to accommodate nearly any type of hardware, table boxes and switchers. The CT Series also includes a universal monitor mount that holds displays up to 55 inches, as well as other features such as a cabinet area to house computers and other devices. It supports 19-inch rack-mounted gear via optional rack rails, and it is offered in a 28-inch ADA-compliant height. ATF says the line of products includes removable rear panels that enable easy access to cabling, plus standard tabletop cutouts. americantechfurniture.com



Audio Visual Furniture International PDX20 High Tech Podium

The PDX20 High Tech Podium complements applications such as distance learning, electronic classrooms and corporate training. Audio Visual Furniture says the PDX20 features a thermowrap surf(x) surface, along with customizable pods, rear doors with hidden locks, and a locking keyboard door. Other features include a tower PC compartment, interior space with 12 rack units, a cooling fan, and four heavy-duty casters with two locking casters. Audio Visual Furniture notes the PDX20 provides options such as monitor mounts, a Shure gooseneck microphone, a light, a six-outlet power supply, and a pop-up connection panel. video-furn.com



Chief Manufacturing YF1 F1 Series Furniture Racks

Chief Manufacturing is an established go-to resource for dealers, and with the company's F1 Series of furniture racks, which includes the YF1, integrators can install electronics into rooms that require system mobility. The YF1 can be used in spaces that include boardrooms and huddle rooms, and the rack features 4-inch casters to facilitate its mobility. The YF1 incorporates aesthetic elements such as a front smoked-acrylic door and a rear solid-wood door. The doors include reversible hinges to adapt to any installation scenario, and the UL-Listed rack accepts any 3U panel or fan to aid the ventilation of installed electronic components. chiefmfg.com



Crimson AV CQUAD65

This ceiling-mounted quad display system accommodates displays ranging from 37 to 60 inches, and it comes with all the necessary mounting hardware. The CQUAD65's 10-foot drop pipe features a heavy-duty ceiling adapter for structural or Unistrut mounting. The product also features a cable management system, and Crimson points out the mount offers lockable rotation of an entire system or integrators can lock individual monitors. Crimson AV says the mount ships in standard boxes to save dealers money, and it also complies with VESA mounting standards. crimsonav.com



Exact Furniture DS-800 Height Adjustable Workstation

The DS-800 is built with high-pressure and thermo laminates, and is available in the company's standard finishes. The DS-800's quiet running electric motor adjusts the unit's height from 30 to 42 inches, and its 10RU and CPU compartments feature locking doors to safely secure components. Exact Furniture points out the DS-800 provides wheel-chair access to comply with ADA requirements, and its casters allow for users to move the workstation as needed. Some of the DS-800 options include a keyboard slide, a cable well with connection cables, a display mount and an AC outlet. exactfurniture.com



Herman Miller Ubi

Herman Miller describes its Ubi series as a collection of tools that supports users' ability to personalize and organize their workspaces. The company explains the Ubi line is designed to complement the way people work and move within office spaces. Ubi offers solutions that cover everything from maximizing the way workaholics work, to spaces that are only used on a "drop-in" basis by those who may split their time between home and work or multiple office locations. To ensure comfort and efficiency, Herman Miller says it worked with design firm Observatory to meet its end-user goals for the products. hermanmiller.com



Lowell Manufacturing LPR Portable Rack

Lowell Manufacturing says its LPR complements educational facilities, hotels, offices and similar environments. The product utilizes a 16-gauge steel construction that is highlighted by 14-gauge steel on the bottom and reinforcements at all load-bearing points. Supporting its versatility, the LPR Portable Rack features adjustable mounting rails, tapped 10-32 that can be repositioned anywhere along the side rail supports. Lowell offers solid steel, smoked Plexiglas or fully vented front doors. Four-inch swivel casters are field installable. The cabinet is EIA/TIA and RoHS compliant. lowellmfg.com



Marshall Furniture MST-72 Table

Marshall Furniture has a big presence in the commercial electronics market and its MST-72 table is designed to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Marshall offers several versions of the MST-72 table, including a 30 x 48-inch and 30 x 70-inch versions. The company supports the offering with options that include a choice of legs, modesty panels, cable channel solutions, cabinet base doors, and center sections. There's veneer or laminate edges and other trim options. marshallfurniture.com



Middle Atlantic RSH 1RU Custom Rackshelf

Adding to its RSH Series, Middle Atlantic introduced a new 1RU solution last fall. Middle Atlantic says its latest custom rackshelves are designed to accommodate smaller electronic devices, and it developed the product to save rack space. The 1RU product incorporates the company's UMS mounting pattern, and it offers 8- or 11.5-inch depths. Middle Atlantic says the rackshelf product complies with UL/ETL weight ratings to hold up to 35 pounds. middleatlantic.com



Peerless-AV SmartMount Cart for Microsoft Hub

Engineered to safely mount, move and store the 55- and 84-inch Microsoft Surface Hub products, Peerless-AV's SmartMount Cart is UL-rated up to 300 pounds. The cart sits at Microsoft's recommended viewing height, and it provides vertical adjustment for placement up to 60 inches from the floor. The product also offers a large wall plate and locking casters for touch applications, as well as a cable management channel to hide cabling runs to the back of the interactive displays. Peerless-AV states the combination of a Microsoft Hub and its SmartMount Flat Panel Cart complements a variety of applications, including corporate, education and hospitality installations. peerless-av.com



Premier Mounts MVWS-3X3-46

The MVWS-3X3-46 is a modular 3-x-3 video wall stand specifically designed for 46-inch thin-bezel displays. The video wall stand is engineered to break down to allow for easy handling in the event the wall needs to be moved. Premier Mounts adds that the product incorporates fine-tune alignment for each display through its top mounting brackets. Premier Mounts says the MVWS-3X3-46 works with display products from Samsung and NEC, and it provides a weight capacity of 100 pounds per display. premiermounts.com



Red Thread (Steelcase) Buoy Seating

It's easy to stereotype workplaces as breeding grounds for cubicles or cubicle farms, but the times are a changing, to paraphrase Nobel Prize winner Bob Dylan. Red Thread's Buoy line of seating products is helping to foster that change. The Buoy features a contoured base that lets users tilt and swivel, and it provides 5.5-inches of height adjustment that is activated by an easy-to-use lever. Bolstering the Buoy's visual appeal, Red Thread offers six base colors that help the seats to blend into any number of interior designs. red-thread.com



Salamander Designs FPS Series Display Stand

Salamander says its FPS Series for interactive touchscreen products, including Microsoft's Surface Hub, can be used in a variety of office environments. Compliant with ADA standards, the product accommodates displays from 42 to 90 inches, and weights up to 300 pounds. The FPS Series Display Stand is offered in a low profile wall-mounted model and mobile version. salamanderdesigns.com



Winsted M-View

Winsted's M-View console's applications include security monitoring, control rooms, and training rooms. Its versatility is bolstered by its Versa-Trak monitoring mounting system, integrated data and power, and cable management provisions. The M-View also provides four monitor post height choices; anti-tip extensions to stabilize in-line console configurations; and corner fillers that help the console fit into rooms. winsted.com



Ashton Bentley Media | Connect55

It's more of an environment than a piece of furniture. The solution is preconfigured out-of-the-box minimizing installation time — a full room presentation system that is "video conferencing ready," according to the company. Just add the codec/camera. ashtonbentley.com