

FAA Case Study

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for the safety and control of all air traffic within United States air space. With an estimated total of approximately 643 million flights and rising, the systems and infrastructure required to maintain the country's 27 **Terminal Radar Approach Control Facilities** (TRACON) run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Therefore, removing a piece of equipment from service for maintenance or any other reason is a detailed exercise in planning and execution.

Client

Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA)

Industry

Air Traffic IT Support

Environment

Terminal Radar Approach
Control Facilities

The Challenge

The FAA maintains 27 TRACON facilities across the country. The fleet of operational consoles used by the Information Technology groups at each control center was aging and no longer suited to house the myriad of equipment and technology required to maintain the facilities.

In addition to being overloaded, existing operator consoles were not compliant with current ergonomic or accessibility legislation. Some of the challenges for the project included a requirement to treat each facility as a live center conversion, site access restricted to very specific weekend hours only, and strict limitations on the number of consoles that could be removed from service at any given time.

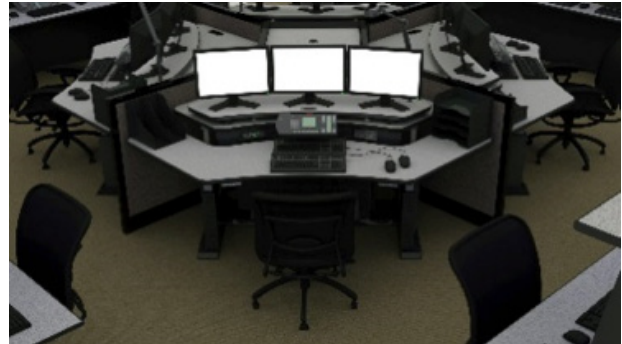
Maintaining the integrity and function of the network and systems at all times was paramount.

The Solution

Bramic was the successful bidder on the contract which spanned two years. The Bramic project team worked hand in hand with FAA representatives to develop a detailed understanding of the local environment, equipment, and requirements necessary to plan a successful conversion.

The project team first led the client through a series of online workshops to define equipment function and configuration. The results of the workshops included room layouts and detailed console configurations illustrating equipment housing, position on the console, and wiring configurations.

Customer team members were intimately involved in the design process including power requirements, floor access, and console cabling, ensuring no detail was overlooked. Online conference and design tools allowed the client team to visualize the room and consoles in real time as they were developed, providing ample time to identify and correct any obstacles along the way.



The Result

The new consoles were delivered and staged prior to installation based on logistical information determined during the build process. Detailed conversations regarding site logistics revealed the ability to deliver and install the consoles fully assembled significantly reducing disruption in the center, installation time, and cost for the client.