

CASE STUDY:

Sound Masking in a Large Open Concept Office



Denbury Resources, Inc.

Denbury

Challenge

Reducing Distractions and Protecting Speech Privacy in a Truly Open-Concept Space

When rapidly expanding independent oil and gas company Denbury Resources started construction on a new office building in Plano Texas, they wanted their new office space to be a physical representation of their collaborative and team-first company culture. Denbury desired a space that literally exemplified their company's open-door policy – they wanted an interior space with no doors to private offices. Additionally, there were no cubicles and abundant amounts of open-space. Only conference rooms would have doors.

With such a bold vision comes privacy and noise concerns. A completely open office space with no cubicle partitions or office doors to block sound would mean that speech privacy would be compromised and noise distractions would be elevated. How could they retain their open concept vision but also create an acoustically comfortable environment?

To help solve the problem, Denbury consulted with a telecommunications integrator about introducing sound masking – the process of adding a low level, unobtrusive background sound to an environment to reduce the intelligibility of human speech and reduce noise distractions. By making nearby conversations unintelligible, sound masking protects speech privacy and allows individuals to work more productively.

“ Utilizing sound masking from Cambridge Sound Management keeps the cross talk between the offices and corridors down so you don't hear inter-office conversations. I highly recommend sound masking as a solution for open-concept office spaces. ”

Steve Shanks
Manager of Audio, Video,
Surveillance and Security

“ When the sound masking is turned off there is a huge difference in the building. It's one of those things that you don't know it's there until it's gone. ”

Michael Roberts
Audio Visual Engineer

Solution

QtPro™ Sound Masking System

Denbury Resources installed Cambridge Sound Management's cost effective QtPro Sound Masking system to accommodate the acoustical requirements of their 750,000 square foot, three floor, seven building office complex. Small, barely visible emitters (speakers) were installed in the ceiling tiles throughout the entire space including open office staff work stations, conference rooms, corridors and common areas, and private offices. Emitters were also installed in the bathrooms to provide music and paging resources in these areas.

Result

A more pleasant work environment

Not only has Denbury Resources been able to create greater privacy in their private offices and corridors, they have a more pleasant work environment with fewer distractions in open office areas as well.

About Denbury Resources, inc.

Denbury Resources, Inc. is a growing independent oil and gas company. The company is the largest oil and natural gas producer in both Mississippi and Montana, owns the largest reserves of carbon dioxide (CO₂) used for tertiary oil recovery east of the Mississippi River, and holds significant operating acreage in the Rocky Mountain and Gulf Coast regions. The company's goal is to increase the value of acquired properties through a combination of exploitation, drilling and proven engineering extraction practices, with its most significant emphasis on our CO₂ tertiary recovery operations.

About Cambridge Sound Management

Cambridge Sound Management, LLC manufactures QtPro sound masking systems to help organizations across multiple industries protect speech privacy, reduce noise distractions, and fuel workplace productivity. Powered by direct-field Quiet Technology, QtPro works by emitting a uniform, barely perceptible background sound at the frequencies of human speech. Cost effective and easy to install, QtPro is deployed in hundreds of millions of square feet of space throughout the world including commercial organizations, healthcare facilities, financial services, government agencies, and educational institutions.



Case Study Overview

SPACE

750,000 square feet in of open office area, private offices, conference rooms, and common areas located throughout three floors and seven buildings

CHALLENGE

No doors to private offices and no cubicle partitions create a truly collaborative space, but caused noise and speech privacy concerns

SOLUTION

QtPro Sound Masking System



RESULT

An efficient and collaborative work space that stayed true to Denbury's "open-door" vision