

Acoustic Answers™

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Collaborate at the speed of thought

Telepresence capability will define the workplace of the future

Social collaboration

People work best in a collaborative social environment. This is fundamental to human nature.

Whether in team sports like cricket or football, a dance drama or a film production it is the social collaboration amongst people that is at the heart of value creation. Performance is best when everyone contributes in a face-to-face, true-eye-contact situation. Knowledge, innovation and value get created in such social networks that connect people horizontally and vertically across the organisation and the world.

The 21st century workplace

The twenty-first century workplace will be defined by its ability to conduct live business at different locations at the speed of thought. It will be very technical but very human



A conference table arrangement that can be used both as an independent physical space for normal meetings or linked virtually via telepresence with large screens in the cabinetry to conduct business with several remote locations simultaneously in real time

too. Architectural spaces includes all kinds of performing spaces and workplaces - operation theatres, classrooms, movie postproduction etc.

What is telepresence?

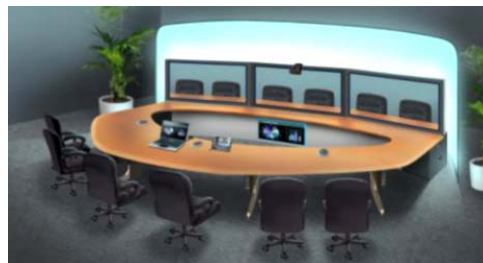
Telepresence is an enhanced conferencing and collaboration technology where participants feel as if they are in the same physical space

though they are thousands of kilometres apart. It takes connectivity and interactivity to the next level.

Telepresence is a new and very effective audio-visual collaborative experience with greater user acceptance and usage than traditional videoconferencing. It is the next technology that enables businesses that have deployed telepresence solutions to reduce travel, accelerate productivity, and improve distance learning.



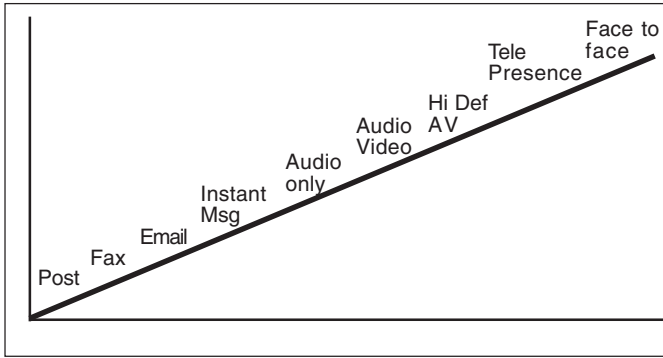
Surgeons perform an operation interactively watched by medical students in several remote locations via telepresence solutions



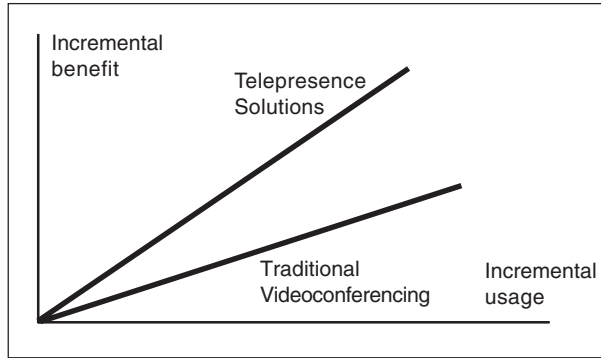
A typical conferencing furniture in a telepresence environment. 6 chairs physically placed around the table on one side with another 6 chairs 'virtually' placed on the other side to make it a 12-seater.



A collaborative classroom in progress with participants seated in theatre style both physically and virtually in a mirrored environment



The intensity levels of social collaboration



The incremental usage and benefit of telepresence

Telepresence versus traditional

Current AV conferencing suffer from limitations of not being able to hold smooth multiple conversations, hazy images, echoing audio, latencies of delayed transmission, out-of-sync issues etc. It falls short of fostering effective social collaboration.

Telepresence environments feature following improvements over traditional videoconferencing: life-size remote participants, fluid motion, accurate flesh tones, studio quality acoustics and lighting, true eye-contact and immersive or mirror environments that establish a consistency of quality between different locations.

Telepresence features digital audio-video systems and realistic collaborative experiences - virtual but natural for the people processes of presentation, perception, performance. Telepresence rooms feature sharper images and crisper voices through instant connections.

Flat panel displays with cameras that can zoom to objects on the table for true life-like images. Microphones and loudspeakers with flawless audio - that pick up and transmit high fidelity real voices. Switching different rooms across country, continent or the world and projecting documents from the laptop seamlessly and all simultaneously in real time. Virtual meets real!



Modern multiplexes are designed to impart an 'immersive' experience to the audience by providing very high quality picture and sound apart from comfort. Telepresence does something similar to other environments - in the office, classroom, operation theatre etc.

Immersive experience

The concept is similar to what modern multiplexes intend like Adlabs, Cinemax, Fame, Inox, Pvr, or auditoria with thrust stages as in Prithvi Mumbai, Rangashankara & Jagriti Bengaluru - placing you right in the centre of action. Making you feel as a part of the performance.

Telepresence enables conducting global business or performances including a surgical operation with the task ecosystem without the stress of modern travelling and helps to transcend time and space, fundamentally changing how you work, transforming how you interact and considerably cutting cost and time.

Telepresence solutions can be deployed for small-medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as the Fortune500 (MNCs) for

- project design and implementation - project teams
- contract negotiations - vendors
- sales process - customers
- internal collaborations - employees

The challenge for architects

Understanding, appreciating and designing for room functionality and aesthetics will become the biggest challenge for architects and interior decorators. Rooms will have to be designed to micro detail taking into consideration the technical and the social aspects.



Telepresence can work very well in one-to-one meetings too apart from team collaborations. It is as good as the remote person being almost physically present in the same room across the table. Note the life-size like image.



Traditional meeting environments that lay emphasis on physical presence will be passe. As the cost of travel, security concerns and other impediments dampen the mobility of people, telepresence will be the panacea. Convenient collaboration for social interaction will be the key.



Just like multifunctional document equipment like print-scan-copy-fax-phone is quite the rage, multi-functional mutli-utility rooms will be the future and the feature of the 21st century workplace. Every entity serious about growth will invest in technology that enables near-physical interaction and the feeling of being in the same room though thousands of kilometres away. It will become addictive as we are to cellphones today.

a decade's time one will not think twice about having a virtual business meeting (or virtual dinner with friends) with participants from Shanghai, Tokyo, or Milan (or all three cities simultaneously).

Telepresence will propel the business of outsourcing and distance learning to exponential growth. This will enable China and India to achieve dominant economy status faster.

The multiple advantages to companies

Current Industry

Advertising a company's collaborative capabilities will become a business imperative just like today we announce our phone and email ids on business cards and letterheads. Already companies from China have begun placing their chat names (skype, google chat, yahoo talk) on their business cards and email signatures.

Currently telepresence solutions are being offered by Cisco, Destiny, HP, Polycom, Medpresence, Teliris etc. Telepresence solutions have been deployed at AIG, AMD, AOL, BHP, BP, Deloitte, Dreamworks, Euronext, GE, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, PepsiCo, PWC, Vodafone etc.

Telepresence helps to reduce costs, increase response flexibility, improve delivery quality. Hence the need for social networking in collaborative mode will grow exponentially. It will dramatically expand the geographies where knowledge workers can live and work while simultaneously shrinking the world around them.

Anutone offers SoundSuite™ for Telepresence

A revolution

Anutone's TEAMS portals have painstakingly research engineered and successfully developed a complete room solution for hosting telepresence facilities. In fact, TEAMS's complete understanding of the process enables enhancing the intrinsic capabilities of the installed facilities.

Telepresence will revolutionize the world in ways that we can only begin to speculate about at the dawn of its inception. It will accelerate commerce, globalization, outsourcing, and the creation of wealth. It will revolutionize, among other things, global corporate governance, education, entertainment, judicial, medicine, diplomacy, politics, warfare etc.

When soundproof rooms need to be designed and built at campuses it becomes a project manager's nightmare to source and install hundreds of different components that sometimes turn out to be incompatible! But now Anutone's TEAMS makes it all so simple with SoundSuite™ Rooms.

Telepresence capabilities will be available at the desktop, for small groups, medium-sized groups, and in large distance education classrooms. Executives and the affluent will have telepresence capabilities in their homes but everyone else will be able to easily rent a telepresence system in a hotel, mall, restaurant, and/or pub and within

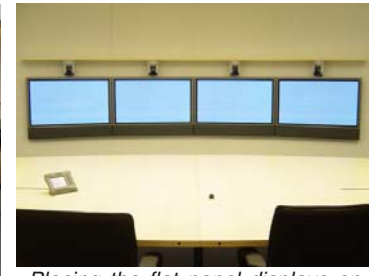
SoundSuite™ rooms are completely-built-units (CBU) in a ready-to-use (RTU) format. All components from the boarding to the fasteners are supplied by TEAMS. The components are easy to assemble in a logical 10-step process like a modern automobile plant. SoundSuite™ is high technology but consciously kept simple and people-oriented.



Participants in the physical space converse with participants in four remote locations simultaneously in real time. Straight tables are not conducive to comfort sightlines



Curved tables and screens in a matching curved configuration make for comfortable sightlines. Note the pop-up touchscreens for meeting controls and/or multitasking



Placing the flat panel displays on the longer side of the room results in a mirrored environment that is better proportioned. Note the cameras above each panel.



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