



Case study

LifeTec

Location
Philips Lighting

Brisbane, Australia
Philips Dynalite Control System

Background

While home automation is most often associated with high-end luxury living, the inherent capabilities of some of these systems also make them ideal for disability care.

Brisbane-based LifeTec – an organization devoted to helping people with disabilities – realized that the latest advances in home automation could also be used to help solve individual's problems of control and accessibility obstacles, in everyday life. With this goal in mind, LifeTec has created a 'Smart Home Demonstrator' in its Newmarket display center in Brisbane, Australia, to demonstrate what can be achieved through today's technology.

LifeTec's vision is to help as many people as possible to improve their quality of life to enable them to live independently and safely through the use of assistive technology.

The Challenge

In order to develop the Smart Home Demonstrator, LifeTec needed the support of a home automation integration specialist. Look and Listen became involved in the project when LifeTec asked us if they would like to be involved in a project to build the Smart Home Demonstrator in the LifeTec Centre.

Smartscape Automation and Philips Dynalite jointly sponsored the project, supplying a selection of the latest Dynalite products, including the renowned Antumbra user interface panel. Avation, the

Australian and New Zealand distributor of RTI, also sponsored the display by donating the control system.

One of the main challenges was to utilize the Dynalite and RTI products to develop a solution that has the flexibility to be used by people with all kinds of disability.

The Solution

Integration specialist, Look and Listen, has developed a Dynalite-based smart home system to enhance disabled people's independence by enabling them to take greater control over their surroundings.

As Antumbra user interface panels are designed for ease of use and automation, disability care arguably represents the best example where these features can be used to enhance the quality of life for the end-user.

The Antumbra user interface boasts an unprecedented number of features, including the innovative use of 'field effects technology', which allows the panel to automatically detect a person's presence. Every panel also contains integral light and temperature sensors, enabling a range of systems to take instruction from the panel to achieve some extremely sophisticated and streamlined integrated effects.

In addition to the Antumbra panel, the solution also includes a multipurpose controller, complete with trailing-edge cards to allow dimming of the lighting circuits. RTI was used together with a



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Fast facts

Customer

LifeTec

Location

Brisbane, Australia

Integration Specialist

Look and Listen

Products

DDMC802GL Multipurpose Controller, AntumbraButton UI panel, DUS804C Multifunction Sensors

voice-activation product and an iPad to control the AV and lighting systems as the primary system interface. Multifunction sensors further allow automated effects based on presence sensing, as well as providing an IR receiver function to enable IR wheelchair controls to be able to directly control the Dynalite system.

The finished result is a sophisticated solution equally suitable for inclusion in purpose-built care facilities or for retrofitting into private residences. The ability of the system to be installed into any residential setting can potentially make the difference in allowing people with certain disabilities to remain at home.

Benefits

Look and Listen has developed a cutting-edge solution that will increase a user's independence, sense of control and safety, while reducing the carer burden. One of the key benefits of the system is its ability to be customized to meet an individual's specific requirements. Look and Listen has ensured that the iPad interface features large target areas on the screen to simplify interaction for people with coordination or dexterity challenges.

Equally, the Antumbra User Interface panel also has large buttons for ease-of-use and visibility of labeled icons. Buttons can be labeled with a choice of words or graphics, which is a useful feature for a market where users cannot necessarily read.

Looking to the future, it is likely that the combination of Antumbra with Philips latest Guest Room Management System – originally developed for hotel rooms – will deliver a truly groundbreaking system, suitable for a wide range of residential care applications at a very reasonable price-point.

The LifeTec Smart Home Demonstrator project was commissioned – using Philips Dynalite's EnvisionProject – in July 2013. It is hoped that the great success of the Smart Home Demonstrator will continue to inspire, increase awareness and promote funding to enable more disabled people to enjoy a fuller and richer life with a greater sense of control and independence.



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