

Tunnel du Mont Blanc, France & Italy

Barco: When safety is an absolute must

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Cédric Petitcolin,
Manager of the Technical
Equipment division



Barco solutions:

- 5 x 2 OLF-710 (x2)
- 3 x 3 NSL-4621 (x2)
- 3 x ECU-110 controller (x2)

Key benefits:

- Good past experiences
- Great value for money
- Future-proof solution

The operators of the Mont Blanc tunnel, which links the Chamonix Valley in France to the Aosta Valley in Italy, know the importance of safety better than anyone. After a serious tunnel fire in 1999, huge investments were made to modify the tunnel and make it a world reference in terms of safety.

Today, all warning and immediate response functions are automated and supervised at two Command and Control Posts, on each side of the tunnel. They operate in tandem: one for control, the other for traffic information. Brand-new Barco video walls in the control and crisis rooms help keep an up-to-date overview.

BARCO

Visibly yours



The history of the Mont Blanc tunnel dates back to 1946, when the first meters were drilled on the Italian site. Construction took nearly twenty years. Since its reopening after the 1999 fire, the tunnel has been managed by the Groupement Européen d'Intérêt Economique du Tunnel du Mont Blanc (GEIE-TMB). Investments in the latest technology help ensure ultimate safety and service 24/7. One example is the Centralized Technical Management (CTM): a computer system that keeps the tunnel under constant surveillance.

The existing walls were replaced by new ones in barely a week, which allowed us to curb downtime



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Automated incident management

The CTM system processes and automatically analyzes data coming from over 35,000 control points, including 120 video cameras. Thanks to the analysis, any incident in the tunnel (an object on the road, tailback, a stopped vehicle, etc.) is detected within seconds. The advice to the Operators at the Command and Control Posts (CCP) is automated too: in case of an incident, they immediately get relevant commands on what emergency scenario to follow.

Not 6 but 12 years

Since the set-up of the CCPs in 2001, the control rooms have featured a large Barco video wall. "It has served us well for the past twelve years while, initially, we had only assumed a six-year life span," said Cédric Petitcolin, Manager of the Technical Equipment division. "Yet newer solutions offer more possibilities, of course." A public tender for a new visualization solution led back to the trusted Barco brand.

A very small footprint

"Barco's bid met all our technical requirements, at a good price," Petitcolin continued. "We wanted a high-quality solution with a small depth, to reduce footprint in the control room. It had to be future-proof too in that it would allow integration with both our current analog and future digital video and data sources."

The OLF series that the GEIE-TMB chose has a thin design and offers front accessibility, which drastically limits the space needed. In the crisis room, the NSL-4621 LCD displays were mounted onto the wall. The Transform ECU-110 video wall control unit, which comes with Barco's CMS software, allows the safe distribution of all data sources.

In one week

Petitcolin: "The existing walls were replaced in barely a week, which allowed us to curb downtime. As we got a great training and the systems are intuitive to use, we can make the most of the solution. We now have an immense, ultra-bright view of the SCADA system and any other data sources, like CCTV camera feeds or videoconferencing, which significantly improves collaboration and insight." The GEIE-TMB just got another step closer to ensuring the ultimate safety level.