



## Manchester Visitors Information Centre.

The new MVIC, which is located in the Piccadilly Plaza complex on the corner of Portland Street and Parker Street, represents an investment of over £800,000 by Manchester City Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).

It is expected to significantly increase the number of visitors using the service, which currently stands at 300,000 a year.

Andrew Stokes, chief executive of Marketing Manchester, said: "Tourism in the city-region is a £5.5 billion industry. We welcome over one million international visitors a year to Manchester and support some 77,000 full time equivalent jobs.

"To maintain these figures it was important that we invest in the hands on, customer service element of the visitors' experience of the city - so that we were supplying information to them in an efficient, appropriate and stimulating manner.

"We believe the new MVIC is an industry-leading, best practice example of how visitor information should be provided and we are delighted with the finished result."

Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, said: "The new visitors' centre is in a great location and it looks fantastic. This investment reflects the importance we place on ensuring that visitors to our city get the best possible information for a great experience.

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Sir Richard Leese  
Manchester City Council

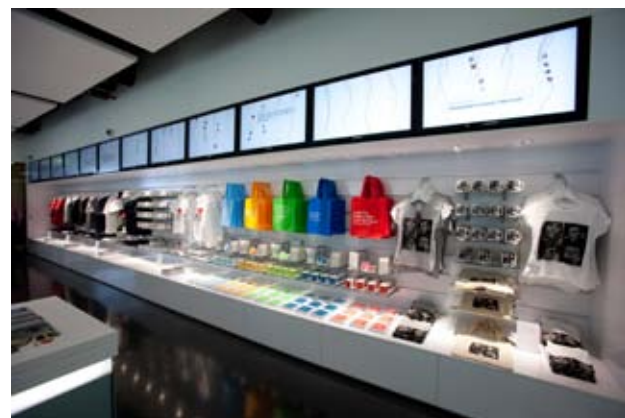
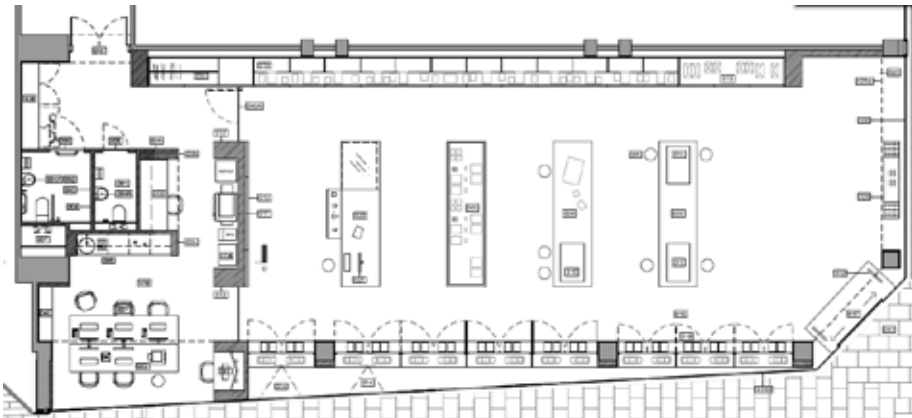
"As you would expect in Manchester, the centre features cutting edge technology but technophobes needn't worry - there will still be people on hand to answer all their questions."

The MVIC development is the latest in a series of major investments by the NWDA to improve the provision of visitor information across Manchester and the Northwest.

Nick Brooks-Sykes, director of tourism at the NWDA commented: "Our aim to have a modern network of well located visitor information centres across the whole of the Northwest.

This investment in MVIC brings the centre right up to date; it provides an innovative and engaging visitor experience as well as a well-resourced signposting service for the Manchester city-region and the wider Northwest."

Manchester Solutions Project manager James Bolton appointed Lee Bevan of Leapfrog Group GB Ltd to develop and plan the MVIC. Lee recalls being given the plans to the project at the back end of 2009. The plan was to make this building in Manchester light up like "Times Square". I had a blank canvas and after many discussions about what the overall project should feel and look like, we originally proposed installing touch glass on all the external glass panels (the only problem was we had 16 panels of glass to fill) our idea was to make the glass touch and incorporate a news ticker when the glass was not being touched.





## Two Video walls

We decided in the end we would supply and install 12 X Samsung 460 UXN2 screens making a video wall 4 x 3. And a separate run of 12 x 400 CXN2 screens.

These were installed using the Chief bracket FUSION Pull-Out Wall Mount (37-63" Displays). These allowed the support team to operate / maintain any of the screens should any fail, simply by pulling the screen the bracket allowed us the space to adjust / replace / install.

Control Zone Levelling provided post-installation fine tuning of height and levelling for a seamless installation Center less Shift provides post-installation lateral shift to easily slide screens apart or together for easy maintenance and perfect alignment.



## 4 screen video wall for window

We supplied and install 4 x 460 UTn2 screens using Floor to ceiling chrome poles/ brackets.

All the screens supplied by Samsung have embedded technology, therefore we installed Power and network points for every screen. The SAMSUNG UT series 46" LCD displays feature bezels of just 2.4 mm on the bottom and right, and 4.3 mm on the top and left, for a total of 6.7 mm screen to screen. Video walls are virtually seamless.

The SAMSUNG MID46-2 ID kit provides simple installation and video walls can be bent up to 40°. Air ventilation is improved and the backs can be removed for servicing without having to disassemble your video wall. The built-in computer and MagicInfo™ software on UTn displays make it easy to control content over LAN / WAN.

## Amplifiers and speakers

The original requirements were to have parabolic speakers, but as the project took shape we changed this to a zonal speaker solution combining 12 x JBL Speakers with 3 x Crown CDI 1000 amplifiers and a Zone controller module.

This allowed us to control any set of four speakers. The real problem occurred when we attended the contractors planning meeting. The ceiling was being fitted with 6 x Direct 3 light rails and either side of each rail would house an acoustic panel. This caused us real concerns as to where to mount our twelve speakers.

The client made it pretty clear that they did not want any speaker's surface mounting on the side panels and after some thought I managed to obtain a sample of the Direct 3 lighting rail. I noticed that power only ran on two of the three tracks. After some health and safety questions I decided the best way to mount the speakers was to develop a special plate / bracket that would slide into the Direct 3 lighting rail, we could rest the bracket into the desired position, apply the speaker and tighten everything together.

The end result is breathtaking. The speakers two per lighting rail hover in the ceiling space and cosmetically look fantastic. The Amplifiers and zonal system supplied are all rack mount systems; we also supplied and installed a rack mount wireless microphone system. This microphone system integrates with the amplified speaker system and auto controls the volume output of video wall sounds whenever the Microphone is being used.

The MVIC have also had 3 x Microsoft touch tables supplied and installed which run a specific application to allow visitors to use interactive technology to find exactly what they are looking for.

