

# The Hilton Americas-Houston

Scores Energy-Savings Win with Unique Guest Room Climate Control



## PROJECT AT A GLANCE

**Project Type:**

HVAC, Lighting

**Location:**

Houston, Texas, USA

**Number of Buildings:**

1

**Total Square Feet:**

1.3M

**Andover Continuum Equipment Installed:**

21 – Network Controllers

2 – CyberStation Workstations

19 – SCX 920

19 – i2200 Infilinks

1,355 – i2866

103 – i2867

1,235 – Andover Smart Sensors

**Network:**

Fiber Optic LAN

**Applications:**

Temperature and Humidity Control

Lighting Control

**Third-party equipment and/or drivers:**

Trane Chillers (BACnet)

Danfoss Variable Frequency Drives  
(Modbus)

Hilton Room Reservations Database  
(Plain English)

General Electric Power Meters (Modbus)

**TAC Representative:**

Enco Systems, Inc.



The Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel is Houston's largest convention hotel, and one of the most energy-efficient in the world. This contemporary \$285 million, 24-story facility offers 1,200 guest rooms and over 91,000 square feet (8,450 m<sup>2</sup>) of meeting space. The hotel is owned by the City of Houston, developed by Hines, and engineered by HMA Consulting, Inc. Hilton Hotels Corporation operates the property.

Together, TAC® and local TAC partner, Enco Systems, Inc. teamed up to provide a comprehensive Andover Continuum™ building management system that features a unique, energy-saving guest room control sequence.

### System Interoperability and Smart Room Control Proposed

"Enco won the bid to provide the hotel's Building Management and Control System based on their impressive technical proposal," according to HMA's president, John Hatcher, P.E., C.P.P., who wrote the Division 17 BMCS specification for the project. "The client, the City of Houston, was quite impressed by Enco's demo of their 'Smart Room Control' solution."

Enco proposed an Andover Continuum Building Management System for the entire hotel that would utilize a special three-mode sequence of operation for guest room Fan Coil Units (FCUs) and a customized Andover Smart Sensor user interface in each room. Together they would provide the Hilton with a truly unique approach to hotel room control. The Andover Continuum system would also interface to several other sub-systems in the hotel.

“Andover Continuum’s ability to seamlessly communicate to third-party manufacturers and the full programmability of all levels of its controllers allowed us to meet the Hilton’s interoperability requirements,” comments Dan Travis, Enco’s Account Manager for the Hilton Americas. “These features, along with our energy-efficient sequence of operation for the guest room FCUs, were key factors in Enco being awarded this project.”

### Energy-Efficient Rooms Provide Guests with Quality Air

An Andover Continuum i2866 terminal controller controls FCU operation and is the power behind Hilton’s guest room control. The i2866 modulates an Outside Air (OA) damper for each room to 50 CFM of pre-treated OA.

Typically, hotels use individual window units, each of which take in untreated OA or hallway air, cools or heats it, and then circulates it around the room. The Hilton, on the other hand, uses four outside air handling units (OAHUs) to pre-treat the outside air required for its 1200 guest rooms. The OAHUs take the major load off of the individual FCUs, which are concealed behind the wall in each guest room. The OA is pre-cooled to 55° F. during warmer, more humid days, and pre-heated to 75°F. on cold days using an OA reset schedule. Besides reducing the hotel’s overall OA usage, the use of centralized outside air units insures the correct amount of fresh air for each room.

The Andover Continuum i2866 also controls the variable speed fan on the FCU, reducing energy consumption by matching the fan speed to the room’s needs. (The ECM motor on the fan is whisper quiet; ironically, something frequent hotel users can’t help but notice.) The bathroom exhaust fan is interlocked to open when the guest room’s FCU is running (each bathroom in the hotel has its own ducted exhaust). A small Andover Smart Sensor is mounted on the wall near the door. This intuitive, four-button LCD display allows guests to change the temperature in their room’s  $\pm 3^\circ$  from set point.

The entire hotel is centrally controlled and monitored by an Andover CyberStation™ front-end workstation located in the hotel Operations offices. At anytime, the workstation operator can override the fan coil operation in an individual guest room, an entire floor, or the entire building with a single command. For example, after carpets are treated, the operator may choose to maximize outside air circulation within those rooms.

### Custom Three-Mode Sequence of FCU Operation

Enco showcased the power and flexibility of TAC’s programming language, Andover Plain English™, by designing a custom interface to Hilton’s Room Management System and providing a unique three-mode sequence of FCU operation for guest room control:

#### “Unrented” mode:

The guest room is not rented:

- Heating set point is lowered to 65° F. and cooling set point is raised to 80° F.
- Room OA intake and bathroom exhaust air dampers are closed, substantially reducing energy consumption

#### “Rented, Unoccupied” mode:

- As the reservations clerk checks a guest in at the front desk, the Hilton’s Room Management System signals the Andover Continuum system, which automatically prepares a room for occupancy:
- Set point is changed to 68° F. (heating) and 75° F. (cooling)

#### “Rented, Occupied” mode:

As the guest enters the room, a door contact tied into the Andover Continuum system is activated. This is followed by the activation of a PIR motion sensor, located in the sleeping area. The Andover Continuum system puts the room in “Occupied” mode:

- Set points are adjusted to the maximum comfort levels: 71° F. for heating and 73° F. for cooling
- A damper modulates to maintain a constant 50CFM intake
- Bathroom exhaust damper opens fully

If the room’s motion sensor does not detect movement within 30 minutes, the room will go back to a “Rented, Unoccupied” mode. This would occur if the occupant left his room temporarily. This control sequence is overridden between 12 midnight and 5am, when the system assumes that a lack of motion coincides with the occupant sleeping and maintains the room in a “Rented, Occupied” mode.



Andover Smart Sensor

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Facilities Manager

When a guest exits the room on his departure day, the door contact signals the Andover Continuum system, which waits for movement via the motion sensor. When none occurs within 30 minutes, the room reverts back to “Rented, Unoccupied” mode until the guest checks out with the front desk. At this point, the Hilton’s Room Management System signals the Andover Continuum system that the room is then “Unrented,” and the set points and dampers adjust accordingly.

### Hotel Sub-Systems Interface with Andover Continuum

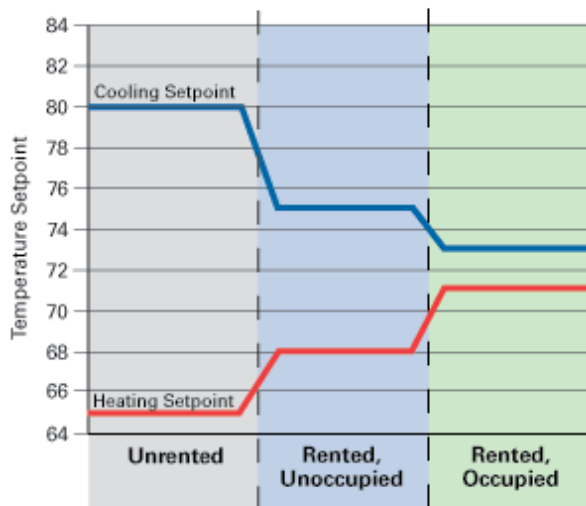
The Andover Continuum Building Management system also interfaces to several other sub-systems in the hotel, including switchgear, chillers, variable fan drives (air handling units, cooling towers, and pumps), UPS, fire alarm system, and back-up generators.

In addition, the Operations staff uses the system to control and monitor the HVAC and lighting in the hotel’s public areas and meeting rooms. Tamas Sebestyen, Director of Property Operations for the Hilton Americas, appreciates the ease of use that CyberStation’s graphical screens provide him for scheduling these areas.

“Enco created a user-friendly graphical screen for us to schedule temperature and lighting for the hotel’s meeting rooms each morning. CyberStation also provides my staff with real-time information on each space in the hotel and the equipment that services it. Alarms are routed both to the workstation and our Nextel phones, so we can take the appropriate action quickly. We are still fine-tuning the system, but already I feel like we have unlimited capabilities!”



CyberStation workstation home screen



Three Modes of Guest Room FCU Operation

On October 1st, 2009, TAC became the Buildings Business of its parent company Schneider Electric. This document reflects the visual identity of Schneider Electric, however there remains references to TAC as a corporate brand in the body copy. As each document is updated, the body copy will be changed to reflect appropriate corporate brand changes. All brand names, trademarks and registered marks are the property of their respective owners.