

Sector
Events and marketing

Contractor
Swift Refurbishments

Acoustic Consultant
Sandy Brown

Case study



UBM

240 Blackfriars Rd, London



Primary objectives

- Speech privacy
- Reduce interruptions

Product used

- LogiSon sound masking

Scope of work

- Open plan
- Meeting areas

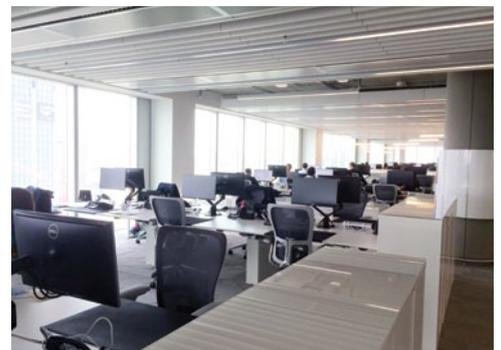
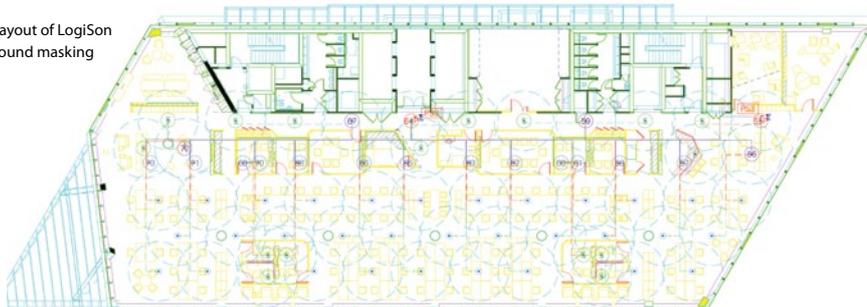
Eliminating the effects of mechanical noise in an open plan environment and increasing privacy in meeting areas.

Global events-led marketing and communications services business UBM occupied the new 240 Blackfriars Road building in January 2015. The Gensler-designed interior included an exposed concrete ceiling with baffling and chilled beam system.

Acoustic consultants Sandy Brown recommended the introduction of sound masking because of the low level mechanical noise noticeable throughout the open plan areas and, after a hard-fought procurement process, Acoustic Comfort were appointed by Swift as the preferred supplier. A key element to the selection criteria was the ability to tune the system with acute accuracy across the floors. Without this capability, the associated risk would have been high.

This is a landmark project for Acoustic Comfort, for a prestigious client in an iconic new building.

Layout of LogiSon sound masking



Sound level tests

Illustrative tests: open plan areas

These example test results measure sound travelling across an open plan space.

- For both tests, a person was positioned at the same desk.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken at a distance of 12 metres from the desk.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person at the desk spoke with a 'telephone speaking' voice.

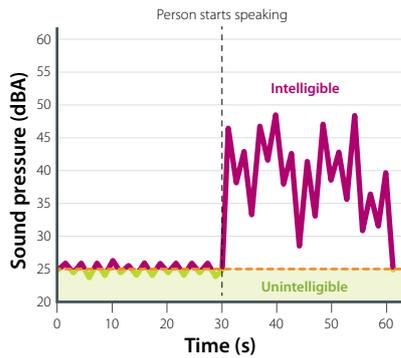
Illustrative tests: cellular offices

These example test results measure sound leaking from a closed meeting room into an open plan area.

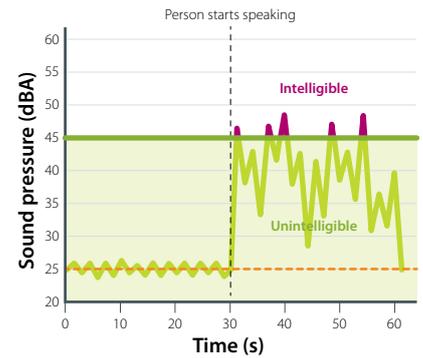
- For both tests, a person was positioned in the conference room with the door closed.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken in the open plan area.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person in the conference room spoke with a 'presentation' voice.

Open plan areas

Before treatment

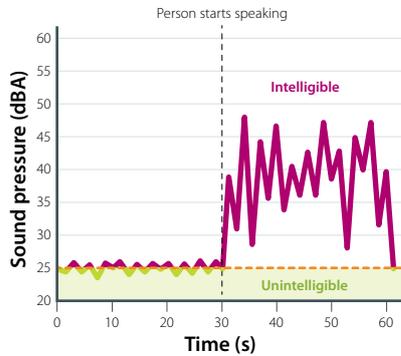


After treatment

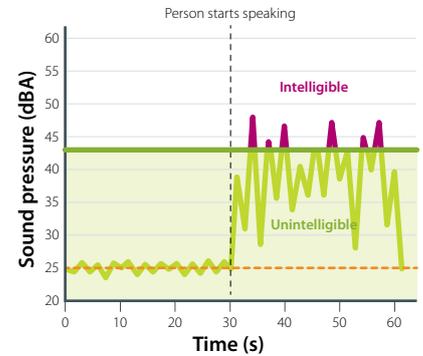


Cellular offices

Before treatment



After treatment



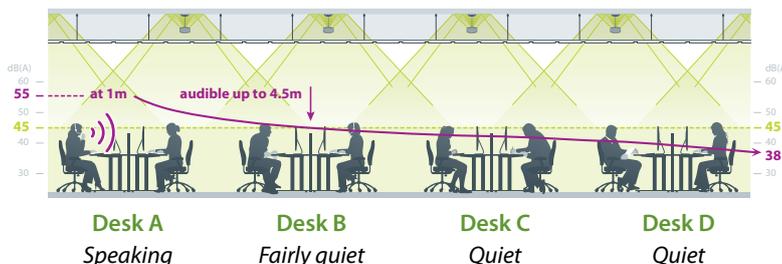
Key:
 Intelligible sound
 Unintelligible sound
 Noise floor
 Masking level

How sound masking works in open plan spaces

The solution: raise the background noise level

To prevent conversations from travelling across open space the background noise level at desks B, C and D must be higher than the disruptive noise coming from desk A. In this example, background noise is measured at 39dB(A), but sound levels from desk A are recorded at 55dB(A) at 1m distance and heard 12 metres away until beyond desk D where they fall to 38dB(A).

Adding sound masking raises the background noise level to 45dB(A), making conversations from desk A inaudible beyond desk B. In this example the distance at which conversations can be heard is cut from 12 to 4.5 metres.



From the client

"As we understand it, LogiSon was selected as the preferred supplier of the sound masking for our offices because of its reputation worldwide as the market leader in this specialism. Our new offices are designed to the highest specification and we wanted this to extend to the masking technology. The best compliment I can pay is that we have several busy floors of open plan and as you walk throughout, you can't notice the sound masking, but the atmosphere appears calm."

Stephen Vause
 Head of Facilities Management

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