

## Helping Leaders Reach the 'Troops'

Contacting employees during emergencies can be difficult for a large company, especially if it has employees on multiple floors or in different buildings. However, the multi-faceted audio/visual design and integrator McCann Systems, Edison, offers a solution with its Campus-Wide Public Address system.

"After 9/11," says President and CEO Frank McCann, "companies came to us and said: 'We haven't got a very good way to communicate with our staff, campus-wide.'"

For instance, one company, which utilizes more than one million square feet of Manhattan real estate, had a basement fire at one of its locations.

"They had evacuated that building," McCann explains, "but two other buildings were evacuated because of the rumor mill. They didn't know what building [the fire] was in and people were on the phone talking to each other and one thing lead to another. It just stopped productivity."



Frank McCann, president and CEO,  
McCann Systems.

With the Campus-Wide Public Address system, existing wiring is used to place loudspeakers where needed. Executives can then access the system via microphone, cell phone, or an Internet connection. Unlike traditional

paging systems, Campus-Wide Public Address uses phone switches and networks to simultaneously reach locations across the street or across thousands of miles.

Beyond emergencies, McCann says executives also use the system for beginning-of-the-year addresses. They can also "test" it each week for 10 seconds, to reassure employees.

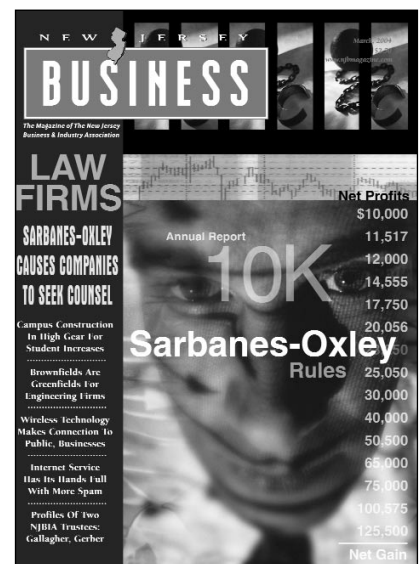
"The staff feels that something is constantly being watched and monitored," McCann says, "and they know that if there is something they need to hear, and it is very important, their system works because they hear it every week in tests."

He adds that the system has been installed for approximately two million square feet of office space over the past two years.

Founded in 1998, the 30-employee company also provides high-tech video elements for television studios and, in

addition, is involved with distance learning and training facilities for large companies. At press-time, it has just begun focusing on what McCann calls "eye candy and technology" for retail environments.

He says, "We are growing every year . . . and even through the last two years, which were tough years, we found different ways to utilize our talents. When corporate infrastructures were slow, we were kind of focusing on the broadcast [segment] and trying to make the campus-wide paging system work. . . . As infrastructures fire-up again, we go back to that. We have all different ways to go." ❧



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	14,555
	17,750
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