Panduit’s Darrin Norbut, Senior Manager of Global Workplace Services, enlisted the services of an acoustical consultant who supported the use of sound masking and recommended an in-plenum design. Lencore was brought in to prepare a mock-up within the space that enabled Panduit to compare their in-plenum system against the under-floor system.

Since acoustical ceiling material is porous it creates a better medium for sound to filter through it and this makes plenum spaces extremely useful in creating a uniform field of sound in occupied space. The plenum distribution method coupled with Lencore’s Sound Masking, made all the difference in Panduit’s space and ultimate satisfaction. “The sound quality and uniformity of the Lencore system was superior. It also seemed to be easier to hear it and to make adjustments to it as necessary,” said Norbut.

Both Panduit and their acoustical consultant agreed that the Lencore in-plenum system masked the noise more effectively. Norbut added, “Surprisingly, maintenance prefers the system in the ceiling because it is easier to access. The issue with the under floor solution is that the speaker locations are often under furniture which makes it more difficult to reach whenever system access is needed.”

Panduit has installed the Lencore Spectra i.Net® System in their new 280,000 square foot world headquarters building. The Lencore system provided what Panduit needed: speech privacy and a superior sound. Given the design, the in-plenum system allowed for easier access while the system’s network capabilities allowed for better zoning controls and monitoring. Furthermore, as Panduit’s Information Technology department becomes more familiar with the Lencore system’s extensive capabilities and they are exploring ways to further utilize the system’s networking, paging and music options.

INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY: SOUNDED OFF ON ACOUSTICS

“Given the potential expense involved in a large commercial high-rise development, it is worthwhile to study thoroughly the effects of various design solutions before implementing them. Commercial tenants are increasingly looking beyond the surface when evaluating Class A space; today, good acoustics are an integral part of that evaluation. An investment up front in effective acoustic planning, design and technology offers an excellent return over the life cycle of the building.”