

More flexible meetings with room to grow

How Gemeente Putten simplified council meetings and replaced fixed AV infrastructure with a scalable network built on NETGEAR AV

Council meetings depend on technology that works without distracting from the business taking place in the room. For years, Gemeente Putten in the Netherlands relied on a traditional SDI, HDMI, and analog audio system. Its fixed hardware matrix limited expansion and made future changes more difficult.

When the municipality refreshed the council chamber, it wanted a simpler way to run, record, and livestream meetings, along with the flexibility to add new rooms and capabilities without replacing the core infrastructure.

Out with the matrix, in with IP

Dutch integrator Wuestman b.v. Audiovisueel moved every audio and video signal onto an IP network built around two NETGEAR AV Line M4250-40G8F-PoE++ switches. Today, the same reliable foundation connects the council chamber, wedding hall, and representative hall, giving the municipality easier operation today and room to grow tomorrow.

Tim Van De Steeg, who led the project for Wuestman from tender through delivery, was there for both the old setup and the new one.

"We have very good experiences with NETGEAR's managed switches when it comes to AV over IP. They run stable, the price-to-performance is very good, and they arrive pre-configured. For our technicians, that means they are not spending an hour or two working through settings."

Tim Van De Steeg, project lead
Wuestman b.v. Audiovisueel

gemeente putten

Two NETGEAR AV Line M4250-40G8F-PoE++ switches sit at the center of the installation, alongside AV equipment from Avonic, Fohhn, Extron, Samsung and Televic Conference.

The switches run on a standalone network with a dedicated VLAN, the same approach Wuestman uses across its other council chamber projects. This keeps AV traffic contained while providing a clean connection to the municipality's IT infrastructure.

Getting everything to talk

The most demanding part of the installation was getting cameras, audio, control, and conferencing equipment from multiple manufacturers to communicate across one IP network, with an Extron controller managing the complete environment.

The system also had to match the council's exact procedural workflow: Dutch municipalities run on a shared council information system, and the AV installation needed to integrate with it precisely.

Once the network was live, it held. Plain TCP/IP traffic is straightforward for most switches. The AV-over-IP and Dante traffic riding on top of it is the harder test. Wuestman has run NETGEAR switches in these installations for several years now, without a single support issue.

Room to grow

The municipality requested the move to AV-over-IP on the advice of a Dutch AV consultancy, reflecting a wider shift in the industry.

A traditional HDMI matrix has a fixed number of inputs and outputs, and once it is full, it is full. An IP network scales with the size of the switch instead.

Wuestman saw the benefit at Gemeente Deventer, where it installed a complete AV-over-IP system and added a committee room in another corner of the building a year later. Because the new room could join the existing network, it became part of one installation rather than a separate system.



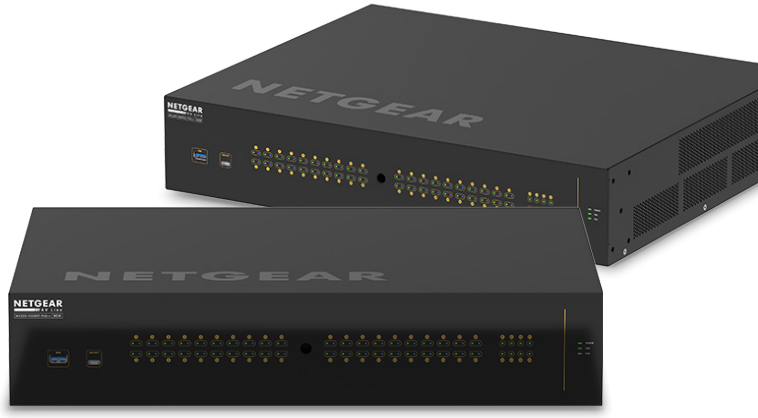


"Right now I'm specifying NETGEAR switches into two more municipal projects. At this point, it's just our default choice."

Tim Van De Steeg, project lead
Wuestman b.v. Audiovisueel

Putten's council chamber, wedding hall and representative hall now run on the same two NETGEAR switches carrying every camera, microphone and screen in the building, delivered on budget and on schedule.

Wuestman now uses NETGEAR switches in approximately 25 municipalities across the Netherlands. For Putten, the result is a simpler, more reliable meeting environment and an AV network that can grow without starting over.



"We haven't had a single hiccup since we started using the NETGEAR switches years ago. They are very reliable."

Tim Van De Steeg, project lead, Wuestman b.v. Audiovisueel

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