

Monterey's Portola Hotel & Spa Boosts Internet Capabilities, Recertifies as Green

Jul 7, 2015 **Betsy Bair**



Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay in Monterey, Calif., has activated a 1 gigabit-per-second Internet connection to support events and guests, increasing the hotel's Internet capacity by tenfold. The enterprise-grade connection supports Wi-Fi, fiber, and Ethernet connections and is said to rival speeds often found only in large convention centers.

Along with Portola Hotel & Spa's Event Technology Group, which has more than 40 years of combined technical expertise, this Internet capability gives the property the distinction of having one of the fastest guest networks in the area. The connection type, with speeds up to 1Gbps, allows public static IP addresses to be customized for individual clients' needs. This is beneficial

for supporting the needs of meetings, many of which now rely on Cloud-based services. All equipment is on site and owned by the hotel.

In other news, the Portola, which currently holds the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification for Existing Buildings Operations and Maintenance, has completed the recertification process. This recertification represents a continuation of the eco-friendly initiatives set out in 2009 when the initial certification began. As the first LEED hotel in central California, Portola participated in the USGBC's Recertification Beta Pilot Program, which has a team focused specifically on the hospitality industry.

"We are honored to have been chosen as the first participant in the LEED recertification process," said Janine Chicourrat, general manager of the Portola Hotel & Spa. "The process allowed us to continue to pursue our goal of remaining a leader of environmentally friendly hospitality."

Portola Hotel has invested in a new set of initiatives to guarantee its existing green hospitality, including:

- Almost 20 percent of the hotel's employees commute using alternative forms of transportation including biking, walking, and public transit.
- Native and adaptive plants that are drought-tolerant and provide habitat are placed throughout the property.
- In order to eliminate the hotel's contribution to ozone depletion, all refrigerants containing CFCs have been phased out.
- Portola Hotel has purchased Renewable Energy Credits equivalent to 100 percent of its yearly energy usage, which supports renewable energy generation off site.
- Portola Hotel has a green cleaning policy and program and purchases over 60 percent sustainable cleaning products and materials leading to better air quality for staff and guests.

Portola is a AAA Four Diamond rated property featuring 379 guestrooms and suites and 50,000 square feet of meeting space. Visit www.portolahotel.com.