

INSIGHT

# Low Voltage Consulting

Your partner in budgeting and planning for IT



**GADELLNET**  
TECHNOLOGY THAT POWERS MISSIONS

# Low Voltage Consulting Explained

## What is it?

Low Voltage (LV) systems are comprised of equipment that uses 50 volts of electricity or less.

Residential examples of low voltage systems include doorbells, garage door openers, and home security. Commercial low voltage systems cover a wide array of categories.

## What is LV used for?

Low Voltage systems provide commercial properties with networking and wireless capabilities, building access control, CCTV (security systems) and audio/visual systems; assist with bulk service agreements for TV and internet, establishing a primary and secondary ISP for the property and IT operations to meet end users' needs creating a productive environment for your staff.

## Why a Consultant?

A Low Voltage Consultant will bring experience and knowledge to ensure you are able to stay on schedule and on budget with verification you are getting what you requested for your low voltage systems design and installation.

# Low Voltage Consulting Process

---



This five-step process guides you from inception and concept to occupancy of your space. An experienced Low Voltage consultant provides guidance so to help you achieve cost savings while not worrying about the details.

# Inception and Concept (Pre-Design)



Partnering with a consultant from the start will ensure budget planning adherence and seamless design.

Low Voltage Consultants (LVC) take part in creating and reviewing concepts and plans with all parties (owners, architects) from day one.

Consultants advise on the operations from a low voltage technical standpoint when establishing the goals and objectives for the property/organization.

It is beneficial to partner with a consultant from the beginning of schematic design conversations and address low voltage components from inception to ensure all facets are considered from the start.

Planning for technical budget is essential in modern construction.

According to HFM Magazine, your technology budget for a new build can be as much as [10-15% of the entire budget](#). Engaging Low Voltage Consultants early cuts costs through proper planning and implementation.

# Design and Development



Low Voltage Consultants are your advocates, assisting in design and ensuring key elements are not overlooked.

Low Voltage Consultants provide guidance as you move from schematic design to the more formal design and development phase and focus on Low Voltage design operations for maximized functionality to fit your space and your needs.

They will partner with you to review architectural drawings to ensure all desired Low Voltage components are accounted for in the Permit/Construction set drawings.

The bidding process can be difficult when you're unfamiliar with the technology.

Low Voltage Consultants help ensure low voltage is factored into the bidding process. When you have your bids, a LVC will evaluate the proposals for you and give a recommendation.

Moving forward, they continue working with the various contractors and vendors as construction begins.

# Construction Coordination



Low Voltage Consultants remain involved in reviews, submittals, and ongoing RFIs throughout the Construction process.

Once your project is at the ground-breaking stage, a Low Voltage Consultant will remain involved to ensure all low voltage subcontractors execute and meet the design specifications.

If something comes up, such as an RFI (request for information), your LVC will review and assist.

Low Voltage Consultants will coordinate site visits, ensuring all aspects of your project are being completed according to specifications.

Low Voltage Consultants act as liaisons to keep everyone informed.

To ensure project needs and expectations are being met, a Low Voltage Consultant will be an active member in regular, cross-functional meetings with various contracted vendors, construction team, and management.

CCD and change order oversight are managed by your LVC to ensure as few disruptions as possible.

# Network Infrastructure & IT Operations



Proper network infrastructure ensures operations are optimized at the time of occupancy.

Network infrastructure is comprised of many components, such as the firewall, switches, and wireless access points. A Low Voltage Consultant takes care of scheduling installation and maintenance of these parts. This is key component of supporting future occupants, organizations, and communities of the building.

Before installation, LVCs will work with contractors to ensure wiring and network design is set up to support all components required in your build.

Your organization's IT needs can be hard to pin down, but your Low Voltage Consultant can guide you.

The Low Voltage Consultant will also help determine IT needs (phones, computers, printers, etc.) to support the organization and assist in procuring the equipment and supporting ongoing needs, if desired.

# Occupancy and Beyond



A full Low Voltage System Checklist will be coordinated by your Low Voltage Consultant.

In the process of receiving the occupancy permit from the local authorizing body, we will work with you to gather the as-built drawings and documentation, to ensure you have everything you need as you move forward.

From here, you are ready to plan your move-in and the Low Voltage Consultant will coordinate and assist with system utilization and work with you to define ongoing support needs.

Low Voltage and Technology Strategic Services are available for ongoing IT guidance and support.

If you're in need of IT and Strategic Services beyond the completion of your project, a Managed Service Provider can offer Strategic Services. This relationship will ensure an ongoing partnership for all of your technology needs.

Established strategic advisors provide strategic services ranging from IT leadership, strategy development, security consulting, and beyond. They will work to provide long-term strategic partnerships that grow with your business.



# When working on a new build or extensive renovation for your organization, it's important to plan for the technology you'll need.

Starting at the inception stage, our team will take you through your build to occupancy. This ensures your new facility is ready for operations on day one with the highest efficiency possible.



Jamie Wottowa  
Low Voltage Consultant Leader  
GadellNet

# The average construction budget savings for our partners who engages in Low Voltage Consulting is \$100,000.

Optimizing cost savings and streamlining wiring and infrastructure requirements are the biggest contributors to cost savings. Low Voltage Consultants work with you through all stages of construction to operations for seamless implementation, ensuring your team is ready to go on move-in day.



\*Estimated savings for a GadellNet client

# Industry Expertise

GadellNet has worked with multiple **K-12 schools** - building new or updating existing facilities. We understand schools have unique needs and must adhere to strict timelines for low voltage projects in order to accommodate the school calendar.

We seek to set your school up for success by facilitating a smooth transition.

GadellNet has partnered with multiple ownership groups specializing in **senior living**. Our service supports all aspects of building in this space, including:

- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Memory Care
- Assisted Living
- Independent Living

We understand the unique needs during planning and construction or acquisition of a building. We also offer strategic services after your new facility is opened. We care about the staff and residents you serve.

GadellNet has worked with organizations that are **moving to a new building** and those expanding their organization by adding new buildings.

We understand the importance of business continuity while the project phase is underway. We focus on facilitating a smooth transition.

# Our Expertise

## Technical

- Access Control
- Audio-Visual
- Network Infrastructure
- ISP bulk and business services
- Security & CCTV
- Telephony
- Point of Sale
- Wander Management
- Nurse Call
- Areas of Rescue
- Data Drop Locations (Conference Rooms, etc.)

## Leadership



### **Jamie Wottowa**

Low Voltage Consulting Leader

Jamie has been a leader in technology industry for two decades. Jamie serves as an invaluable resource during the budget, planning, and execution of Low Voltage Projects. Jamie is in the process of obtaining her Certified Network Infrastructure Design Professional (CNIDP®).

# Interested in learning more?



Connect with an expert at GadellNet  
[sales@gadellnet.com](mailto:sales@gadellnet.com)