

University of Washington Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE)

Spokane, WA

THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The UW RIDE team needed a clean, fast, and coordinated ceiling solution to serve a dense academic environment. Traditional construction methods often result in long coordination timelines, overlapping trade work, and risk of rework. The 4th-floor installation posed added complexity with a congested ceiling plenum and limited access—requiring deliveries via a small service elevator.

The goal was clear: deliver a smarter, faster, and more streamlined solution that consolidated key devices into a single integrated platform—without compromising on design intent or building performance.

THE OVERCAST SOLUTION

Overcast deployed 127 Modular Grid Platforms (MGPs) across the 4th floor to integrate lighting, mechanical diffusers, and life safety systems into a single, preassembled solution. The platform not only *simplified installation*, but also *improved layout precision*, *reduced on-site labor*, and *minimized site disruption*.

THE RESULTS

UW RIDE achieved meaningful results with Overcast:



211 Devices



2 Installers



5 Days

AT A GLANCE

PROJECT DETAILS

- Project Dates: **06/2024 — 05/2025**
- # of Floors & Rooms: **1 Floor, 4th Floor**
- # of SF: **11,000 sq ft**
- # of MGPs: **127**

DEVICE INTEGRATION

- **4** can lights
- **136** linear lights
- **56** diffusers
- **12** fire alarms
- **3** smoke detectors

Total Devices Consolidated: 211*

**Additional occupancy sensors magnetically placed post-install.*

PROJECT TEAM

- Owner: **Emerald Initiative**
- Architect: **Collins Woerman**
- General Contractor: **Bouten**
- Mechanical Contractor: **McKinstry Mechanical**
- Electrical Contractor: **McKinstry Electrical**



UW RIDE MGP INSTALL

AVERAGE RECORDED TIMES:

- Placement into Grid: **53 sec**
- Safety Wire Application: **1 min. 31 sec**
- Material Transport: **1 min. 47 sec**
- Packaging Removal: **1 min. 6 sec**
- Average Install Time per MGP: **2 min. 51 sec**
- Average MGP Install Time with Overhead Ductwork: **3 min. 12 sec**
- Time to Install 3 Consecutive MGPs: **8 min. 32 sec**
- Total Time to Install 127 MGPs/211 Devices: **5 days (2 installers)**

*By leveraging modular prefabricated panels, the project **streamlined installation, reduced complexity, and set a new benchmark** for system coordination in commercial and institutional environments.*

INSTALLATION EFFICIENCY

One of the notable aspects of the project was the speed and ease of installation (see above for detail). Compared to traditional construction—which typically involves multiple trades working sequentially—this modular approach eliminated rework and simplified sequencing. As the site supervisor noted, “It’s done right the first time.”

DELIVERY & COORDINATION

Close collaboration was critical to success. Early in the process, representatives from Bouten, PCI, and McKinstry visited Overcast’s shop to review the product. According to the foreman, “It was very informative—it helped us understand what we were really working with.”

Installation logistics were also optimized. Materials shipped in coordinated, labeled batches to accommodate a limited-service elevator and reduce on-site congestion. “Breaking the loads up really helped here,” one team member shared. “As far as delivery and getting everything up here—it was fantastic, awesome.”

LOOKING AHEAD

The UW RIDE project marked a pivotal step in transforming ceiling infrastructure from fragmented to integrated. It demonstrates that modular, prefabricated panels can streamline construction and raise the bar for system coordination in commercial and institutional spaces.