

AhnLab Makes Employees a Top Priority



AHNLAB outfitted their headquarters with Freedom Headrest and Task chairs, Liberty Task chairs and M2 monitor arms.

“CREATING BUSINESS WITH A SOUL”

AhnLab, a pioneering innovator in the information security arena since 1995, develops award-winning, industry-leading computer security solutions for both consumers and enterprises. But their commitment to making life better for people doesn't stop with their customers—it extends to their employees, as well. In fact, the global organization has become known as a company that is “creating business with a soul” due to their determination to make a better work environment for their employees. And when they decided to move to their

new headquarters in Seoul, South Korea in November 2011, AhnLab continued to make their employees' comfort a top priority.

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Jonathan Kim, Managing Director, Steven Leach & Associates Seoul

Understanding that their highly trained employees work at computers all day to maintain business operations, management at AhnLab wanted to encourage their employees to produce the best work as effectively and comfortably

as possible. Having received complaints about the uncomfortable working conditions, they knew that the current state of their employees' workstations limited their comfort and productivity, which spurred AhnLab to seek replacement chairs that would accommodate employees' ergonomic needs throughout the long hours they spend at work.

THE WORKERS' CHOICE

Truly interested in their workers' contentment, AhnLab left the decision-making process for the new office furniture up to its employees. Steven Leach

& Associates Seoul, AhnLab's architecture and design firm, worked with JK International, Humanscale's distribution partner in South Korea, to present a diverse array of products, spanning from those manufactured by internationally known brands to local companies. Each employee tested the task chairs and provided an opinion. "When employees were making their decision about which chairs should be chosen, the comfort of the product was more important than the design," said Kyu-Chul Han, Deputy General Manager, HR & Administration Team, AhnLab.



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Seung-Jung Lee, Assistant Manager, HR & Administration Team, AhnLab

With comfort taking precedence, Humanscale's offerings prevailed. As employees cast their votes, it was Freedom's weight-sensitive recline, ease of use and high-functioning synchronous armrests that captured their attention and made the chair their top seating choice. "Freedom was chosen because it was the most trusted chair due to its natural functionality, its comfort and its simple, sturdy design," said Kyu-Chul Han. Researchers and managers who use their computers for long hours received Freedom Headrest chairs and employees in sales and management roles were

provided with Freedom Task chairs. In addition, vibrantly colored Liberty Task chairs were selected for their conference rooms, enhancing the appearance of these spaces while also providing the superior level of comfort AhnLab desired. Planning ahead, AhnLab also ordered 3% more Humanscale chairs than they needed at the time—for a total of more than 1,000 chairs—to accommodate incoming employees joining the company in the future.

EXPANDING THE ERGONOMIC SOLUTION

After the chairs process had settled, Humanscale representatives shared insight on the value of a complete ergonomic workstation with AhnLab. Already impressed by the tremendous ergonomic benefit of the chairs and inspired by Humanscale's case for a more complete solution, AhnLab soon became increasingly interested

in other Humanscale products, zeroing in on Humanscale's high-performance monitor arms and their potential to improve workers' comfort. Allowing AhnLab to see the ergonomic improvement for themselves, Humanscale supplied the company with 10 M2 monitor arms and two M8 monitor arms for a month. When using two monitors, the employees preferred the implementation of two M2 monitor arms. As a result of the favorable trial, AhnLab purchased 1,000 M2 monitor arms.

TANGIBLE RESULTS, HAPPIER EMPLOYEES

In the end, AhnLab succeeded in providing a more comfortable workplace for its employees. To prime their employees for the switch to new chairs and monitor arms, AhnLab explained in full detail the advantages of Humanscale's ergonomic solutions to their team.



Employees have adapted to the new environment with Humanscale products—and the results are tangible. Due to the implementation of both the chairs and the monitor arms, employees have shown a decrease in exhaustion of their necks, backs and lower backs, resulting in increased efficiency on the job and greater overall contentment.

“Currently, we feel as though our employees are all satisfied not just with the chairs, but also with the monitor arms that were installed in each space,” said Seung-Jung Lee, Assistant Manager, HR & Administration Team, AhnLab. And it isn’t just the comfort that has impressed employees, but also their convenient, ergonomic application.

“The monitor arms are practical, creating more space for working, and, due to the more comfortable seating posture, employees work more efficiently and productively,” said Seung-Jung Lee.

For AhnLab, this success reflects an overarching trend that is happening in Korea—one that speaks to the growing importance and relevance of companies like Humanscale in the region. “In Korea, employers are increasingly more considerate toward providing a comfortable environment for their employees,” said Jonathan Kim, Managing Director, Steven Leach & Associates Seoul. “Even though Humanscale is currently lesser known in Korea than some other companies, Humanscale products have intrinsic

characteristics that clearly show that they are different from other products.”

With Humanscale’s design principles so closely aligned with the goals of AhnLab and with the ever-increasing trend toward prioritizing ergonomics in Korea, Humanscale’s solutions are projected to become even more valued by Korean companies like AhnLab. As Sangwon Han, Marketing Senior Manager, JK International, said, “As a salesperson for Humanscale through JK International, I am looking forward to selling Humanscale products in Korea in 2012 and the following years.”