



## Biamp Parlé VBC 2800

Ideal for big meeting rooms, the VBC 2800 combines top video and audio quality with innovative speaker tracking

SCORE ★★★★★

PRICE £2,918 exc VAT (MSRP)  
from midwich.com

When Biamp launched its Parlé VBC 2500 (see issue 347, p102), it set new standards for videoconferencing. This mighty all-in-one room bar delivered a stunning range of features. It continues to target small to medium-sized meeting rooms, but Biamp wanted to go further and has introduced the VBC 2800, which is aimed at larger conference rooms up to 8.5 metres in length.

The VBC 2800 gets the benefit of two 4K cameras. For distance vision, it has a 50MP wide-angle lens that supports a 16x digital zoom, while an 8MP ultrawide-angle lens with a 3x zoom handles close-up work.

This lens combo is designed to support longer meeting room tables

and make Biamp's speaker tracking even more efficient. It uses the high-resolution lens to focus on active speakers at the far end of the table and seamlessly switches to the ultrawide-angle one for participants seated at the side and closer to the room bar.

The VBC 2800 uses the same highly accurate beam-tracking array as the VBC 2500, and comprises 27 microphone elements. These create three zones in front of the room bar: two 65° zones for each side of the table and a 40° zone down the centre line.

The array uses vertical and horizontal tracking so it can compensate for different

mounting locations and track people regardless of whether they're sitting or standing. The VBC 2800 also employs Biamp's audio intelligence, which uses machine learning algorithms to identify and isolate human voices and remove distracting background noises.

There's no need to worry about audio configuration as you position the bar in the desired location and press the Launch button on its underside. Brace yourself on first contact, as it introduces itself with a very loud drum roll and then measures the room's acoustics by emitting a series of electronic sounds that Jean-Michel Jarre would be proud of.

ABOVE The VBC 2800 is perfect for large meeting rooms



LEFT Two 4K cameras produce outstanding video quality

**“Video quality is great, with a sharply focused image, good contrast and efficient backlight compensation”**

The VBC 2800 comes with a solid integral desk stand as well as a wall bracket, and Biamp offers an optional PMA 2000-DM display mount. Behind the removable rear panel is an external power socket plus a USB-C host connection port; the extra Ethernet port is ready for Biamp's upcoming Workplace cloud management platform.

Installation is swift. We connected the room bar to a Windows 11 host PC and waited a few seconds while it loaded the drivers. The VBC 2800 is fully compliant with UVC (USB video class) so it will work with just about any VC app, and we had no problems with Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Skype.

The cameras have fast reaction times and easily tracked speakers as they moved around our 24m<sup>2</sup> meeting room with delays of no more than two seconds. Video quality is great with a sharply focused image, good contrast and efficient backlight compensation.

The VBC 2800 uses the same pair of sealed 20W speakers as Biamp didn't feel the need to improve on these. It isn't wrong, as these deliver incredibly good sound quality that's maintained right up to (a

very loud) maximum volume.

Biamp's Camera Controller app is included for manually controlling PTZ functions, flipping or mirroring the image and disabling auto-framing and backlight compensation. Three quick access presets can be created, and it offers UC profiles to optimise the system for Microsoft Teams, Google Meet and Zoom.

We thought the VBC 2500 was a great VC room bar, and the new VBC 2800 delivers Biamp's undeniable expertise to larger meeting rooms. Video and audio quality are outstanding, speaker framing is super-fast and the smart combination of dual camera lenses makes sure everyone is in the big picture.

### SPECIFICATIONS

50MP wide-angle lens • 8MP ultrawide-angle lens • 2160p at 30fps • max 150° FoV • digital PTZ • 16x/3x zoom • 2 x 20W speakers • 27-element beam-tracking array • USB-C 3.2 Gen 1 • 10/100 Ethernet (future use) • external PSU • 940 x 64 x 100mm (WDH) • 4.4kg • Camera Controller app for Windows and macOS • 3yr limited warranty

