

Case Study

Higher Learning at a Higher Level



End Customer: Abertay University, Dundee, Scotland
Vertical: Education



About the End Customer

Located in Dundee, Scotland, Abertay University was founded in 1888 as the Dundee Technical Institute, and evolved over the years to gain the formal university title in 1994. With more than 5,000 students, the University ranks as the top modern university for environmental sciences, law, and psychology.

The Challenge

As an IT-intensive university, Abertay decided to replace its aging AV system across the campus with a state-of-the-art, fully monitored integrated AV solution, to deliver ease-of-use for lecturers. The project involved upgrading 85 classrooms, theaters, and other spaces across campus. It was imperative that the system be simple to operate as not to necessitate AV technicians available in every classroom. At the same time, because the classroom can be quite large, source and display equipment was often placed far from each other, demanding an elegant solution for this problem. Also, all rooms must be connected to a central AV VLAN, so technicians can monitor the systems' proper functioning, and assist when necessary.

The Solution

After careful evaluation, Abertay University chose Kramer Electronics' K-Touch solution for ease of operation, incorporating HDBaseT in the installation for better and more elegant transmission.

For a typical classroom, the University used built-in



connection wall plates and control panels, simple enough that they can be operated by the lecturers. These control panels are similar and standard in all the rooms, shortening the learning process for the lecturers. Under the control panels, the University deployed Kramer's VP-770 new presentation scaler/switchers, which manages all video and audio sources in the rooms. To accommodate the distance between the switcher and the source equipment and projector, the University also deployed the TP-580T Cat6 transmitter and extender. The Cat6 cable was connected directly into the Panasonic projector's HDBaseT port.

At the University's main lecture theater, the University opted for a more sophisticated control system, as there are more devices connected. In this case, Kramer's HDBaseT-enabled VP-773 ProScale presentation switcher/scaler was deployed both at the front and at the rear of the room. The switcher is connected to the back of the auditorium through a regular Cat6 cable, where all the rest of the equipment is located, including receivers, amplifiers, blu-ray players, patch panels, an additional scaler/switcher and controllers.

A similar setup was implemented at the University's library, where group learning often takes place. In the cinema room, the University also installed the HDBaseT-enabled VP-773 to connect all source equipment to the projector, through a simple Cat6 cable.

Results

Abertay University was able to upgrade the school's entire AV system in a timely and cost-effective way. HDBaseT was an elegant solution to address the distances between projector and lecturers and their source equipment.

About HDBaseT

The HDBaseT standard, powered by the Valens chipset, enables all-in-one connectivity between ultra-HD video sources and remote displays through a single cable, delivering uncompressed ultra-high definition 4K video, audio, USB, Ethernet, control signals and up to 100 watts of power.