



# Aura™

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY

## FLEXIBLE, SCALABLE E-LEARNING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

In order to expand their capacity for a remote study offering, including both learning and assessment, Cardiff University invested in cutting-edge technology for their new £1.9m e-Learning and e-Assessment Facility (e-LEAF).



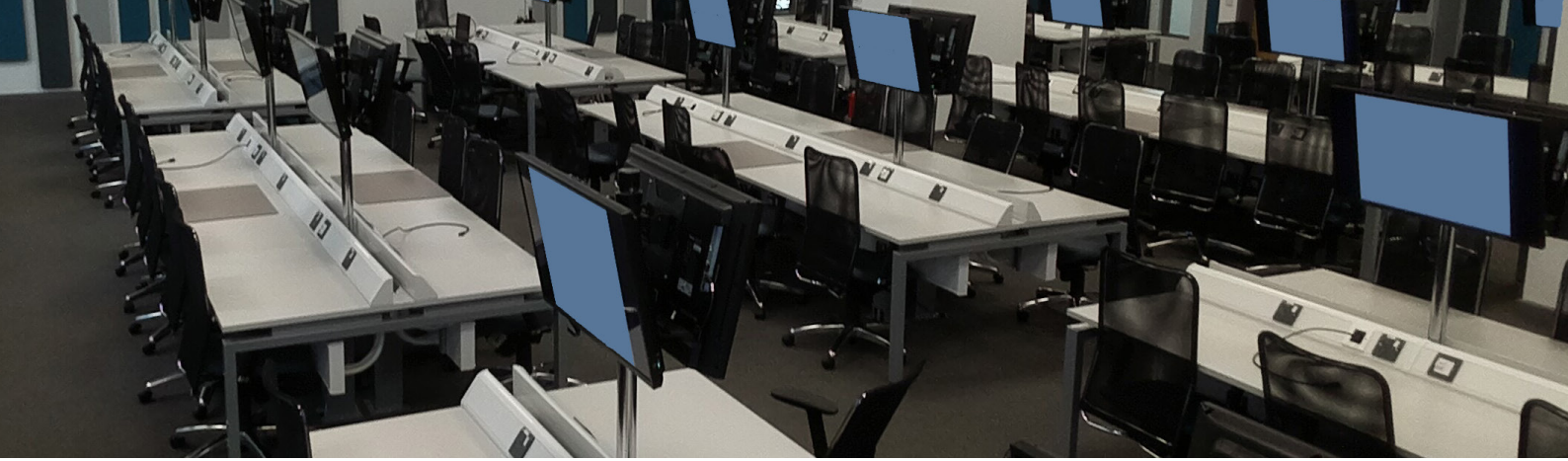
Crestron NXV system for flexibility, scalability and security



Device-agnostic wired and wireless connectivity



Lecturer-orientated display controls



## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Founded in 1883, Cardiff University in Wales has become established as one of Britain's leading research universities, offering an educationally outstanding experience for its 33,985 students from more than 138 countries. The 26 academic schools of the University are divided into three colleges: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Biomedical and Life Sciences; and Physical Sciences and Engineering.

As part of the University's strategy to cement its standing as one of the top 20 universities in the UK, the institution opened their brand-new [£1.9m e-Learning and e-Assessment Facility \(eLEAF\)](#) in order to increase capacity for independent learning, progressive teaching and cutting-edge research.

The space includes 165 new workstations, and thanks to its multifunctional zoning and sliding partition walls, it can accommodate a range of activities, from training and private study to small and large group teaching and practical classes.

The AV brief for this new centre included a specific requirement for flexibility, to best serve the spaces – however they might be configured – and also the ability to build on the initial design to allow for future expansion. Screens needed to be intuitive to use and easily accessible to both the students and lecturer, though with the latter in full control of the display at all times, while the sound system needed to enable the lecturer to move freely around the room. Finally, there needed to be consideration of sustainability issues; the University is committed to the environment and the solution needed to measure up in this regard.

## SOLUTION

Crestron's NXV system was a natural choice, because not only was the University familiar with it, but it is flexible and scalable, thanks to being AV over IP technology. It also offers enhanced security features while being device agnostic – students can connect their own devices, whether through wired or wireless connections.

Crestron DM-NVX encoder/decoders formed the basis of the AV distribution with Netgear switching. HD-DA series distribution amplifiers and HD-MX switchers were also used as part of the solution alongside TSW-760 7-inch touch panels and CP3 control processing to provide convenient control for the lecturer. An occupancy sensor is used to power down the system when no one is in the room.

The lecturer's display was designated the main control, although they were also able to choose to show students' work from any display within the room, using a bespoke graphic user interface created by the Aura team. To enable the lecturer to move around the space, clip-on radio microphones were specified.

Also maintaining familiarity for the University, Panasonic screens were specified for the student workstations, while a large teaching screen was wall-mounted at the front of the room.

Students and lecturers now have access to an interactive AV system, huddle working pods, multimedia communications and imaging facilities, which enhance the overall student learning experience, and increase opportunities for interactive teaching activities for undergraduate and postgraduate students in bio-informatics, computer modelling based approaches, and data-driven biology.



***The feedback we receive from our users, both staff and students, is that they are very happy with how intuitive and user-friendly everything is. As a school and a university, we have a reputation for scientific excellence, research-led teaching, and teaching innovation. Thanks to the collaboration with Aura and Crestron, the eLEAF facility allows us to build on our successes by supporting the delivery of a UK-leading curriculum for life sciences students, and more widely will provide real added value to the students of Cardiff University.***



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