



Photo Courtesy of University of Winchester, February 2013

University of Winchester lights the way with Crestron

An exciting new installation at the University of Winchester has provided innovative use of integrated Crestron lighting and AV control, to create an impressive study space for students. The University of Winchester is incredibly advanced in terms of its technology, with Crestron installed on campus in nearly 100 rooms. The university plans to upgrade additional rooms later this year.

During the project, the University's facilities team worked closely with Crestron to take campus level control to new heights. The brief was for ten high-quality teaching spaces, including an atrium, to accommodate the increased demand for student satisfaction and achieve the greenest possible solution for the building, by using automation in a creative way.

The heart of the AV system is the Crestron CP2E processor, coupled with the feature-rich TPMC-4SMD touch screen. These are integrated with DIN-AP2 and DIN-DALI2 lighting

control solutions. Crestron occupancy sensors and light level sensors are connected from a GLS-SIM, and monitor room occupancy, automatically adjusting room level lighting based on incoming sunlight levels, to ensure an energy efficient system.

A key factor in the project was the energy efficiency. The lighting control was instrumental in allowing the system to accomplish energy efficiencies. Crestron Green Light® lighting and automated controls are integrated into the entire building. All of the lighting and AV systems automatically shut down if the occupancy sensors do not sense activity in the room, conserving projector lamp life and power consumption in the unoccupied space. The University has estimated that the complete system should pay for itself in three to five years.

Daylight harvesting in each of the teaching spaces takes the incoming level of light from the windows and makes adjustments to the lighting level in the room, based upon the users selected level. As an example; if a user selected full lights on the control panel (100%), the system then uses the

GLS-LOL (Level of Light) sensor and measures the incoming sunlight and makes adjustments to the selection, yet still provides the required lux levels in the room. Although the user selected 100% of lighting, they may in fact only get 75% if the incoming light is at such a level to make it unnecessary for the lighting level to be that high. The system constantly monitors the incoming light and makes subtle changes as necessary.

The occupancy sensors in each room monitor the room usage. If the room is vacated, the sensors send trigger commands to the system to shut down the lighting and AV after a certain amount of time has lapsed. In the Atrium area, which links all of the rooms together, fifteen GLS-ODT-C-500 sensors and an additional DIN-DALI2 control all of the lighting across the three floors. There are no traditional light switches at all. The lighting turns on and off, depending on when faculty and staff enter and leave the building. An automated timer for the stairwell and the high-level ceiling luminaires trigger on and off commands, depending on the day and time.

The project was installed by an internal team at the University of Winchester, who worked closely with Crestron to achieve the final result. “We have received a great deal of support from Crestron with the design and specification of the system and with the programming when needed,” says Stephen Proudley, Learning Technology Services Team Leader at University of Winchester. “Our Crestron representative made himself

available to us whenever we required his input and was with us throughout the entire project from inception to completion. He was even on site during the final commissioning of the systems. I do not think we would have even undertaken this project without knowing Crestron’s full support would be available to us.”

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Stephen concludes, “We have been rolling out Crestron control systems around the campus for about two years now and find the units and level of support to be second to none. The equipment that was used on this project did exactly what was required of it out-of-the-box!”

The University has simplified its control systems and made them more robust for users, with greatly increased remote support for when problems do occur, they can now quickly resolve a number of issues, without even leaving their office. The system is also used to report information about display devices lamp life, filter time and operational status, meaning they are able to maintain the systems much more proactively than before.

The installation at the University of Winchester is a perfect example of an innovative system design, which is easily adaptable to include advanced control, and will continue to make the learning experience more high-tech in years to come.

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