

CASE STUDY:

Wellington Institute of Technology

With four campuses across New Zealand, two in Wellington and one in both Auckland and Christchurch, Wellington Institute of Technology (WelTec) has around 11,000 full and part time students studying a range of subjects from automotive to information technologies; health and wellbeing to veterinary nursing.

WelTec's main focus is providing students with qualifications containing the right combination of practical and professional skills required for long-term career success. WelTec aims to develop New Professionals – these are the next generation of professionals employers require. They have practical and theoretical skills along with the ability to apply new technology, solve problems, develop new ideas and learn from experience.

The Need

The Wellington Institute of Technology is a place where students go for world-class education and the need to upgrade classroom technology to support the institute's image had become paramount.

Education is a competitive industry – a fact often overlooked so it is imperative for an education institute to remain at the forefront of potential students' and teachers' minds.

With the changing nature of students' learning habits and the uptake of technology becoming a rapid trend, WelTec recognised the advantages of providing an interactive audio visual learning environment. The time had certainly come to make old overhead projectors redundant.

The Solution

A fully integrated solution was tailored for WelTec to review. A deployment of technology on this scale would require a large range of Canon equipment and the team's expertise in design and project managing.

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Canon presented a state-of-the-art audio visual solution including projectors, interactive smart board technology and fully customised lecture theatre systems. As a means of testing the market WelTec requested each vendor to fit out a lecture room with their proposed equipment and software so they could truly evaluate the systems, at the end of which Canon was awarded the contract.



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The entire solution was designed specifically for the needs of the institute, the implementation and project management handled by a Canon team as classrooms were fitted with projectors, smart whiteboards and audio systems. The large lecture theatres were kitted with custom built symposium systems comprising of screens, projectors, wireless technology and full audio systems.

Anthony Carppe, Visual Communications, Canon New Zealand said this project was monumental and showcased the way in which Canon can combine their equipment, software and knowledge to build a total solution.

The Result

The result is exactly as the catch phrase for the institute says: High Tech WelTec. The campuses now reflect one of its core values of being up-to-date and providing the latest in technology.

Classes have moved from the “traditional” to exceptional with teachers moving away from PowerPoint presentations or projector slides to drawing the outside world into each lecture with video, internet and interactive sessions. Michael Hesp, GM Corporate & Finance at WelTec says that the classrooms have become revolutionised.

“It is amazing to see the changes, this new technology is not only engaging students on a whole new level but is changing the way teachers teach!” says Hesp.

“It’s a big change for the teachers to learn these new skills but they are embracing the technology as they can see the positive results in their classes. Canon has been here to deliver training and assist us with driving uptake of the new system.”

For the students this is more than new technology in classrooms, the new audio visual systems have allowed more creativity and interaction as they watch video clips and listen to sound bytes. The teachers are able to talk to the content as they move between internet and materials making the lesson a full multi media experience.

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Hesp says that the relationship between WelTec and Canon has gone from strength to strength since the project started and now there is more of a two-way partnership between them.

“The installation or “sale” of this solution was really only the beginning, we now share trend and market information, Canon offers various workshops onsite and we are even in discussion over a possible cadetship with Canon for our students. The team at Canon really see the full potential of their technology and proactively support us to get the best out of it,” says Hesp.

