# Auckland University of Technology
## Case Study – Education

## Challenge

Solidify Auckland University of Technology's position as the university for the changing world through an education environment that's seamlessly integrated with best-in-class automation and control technology.
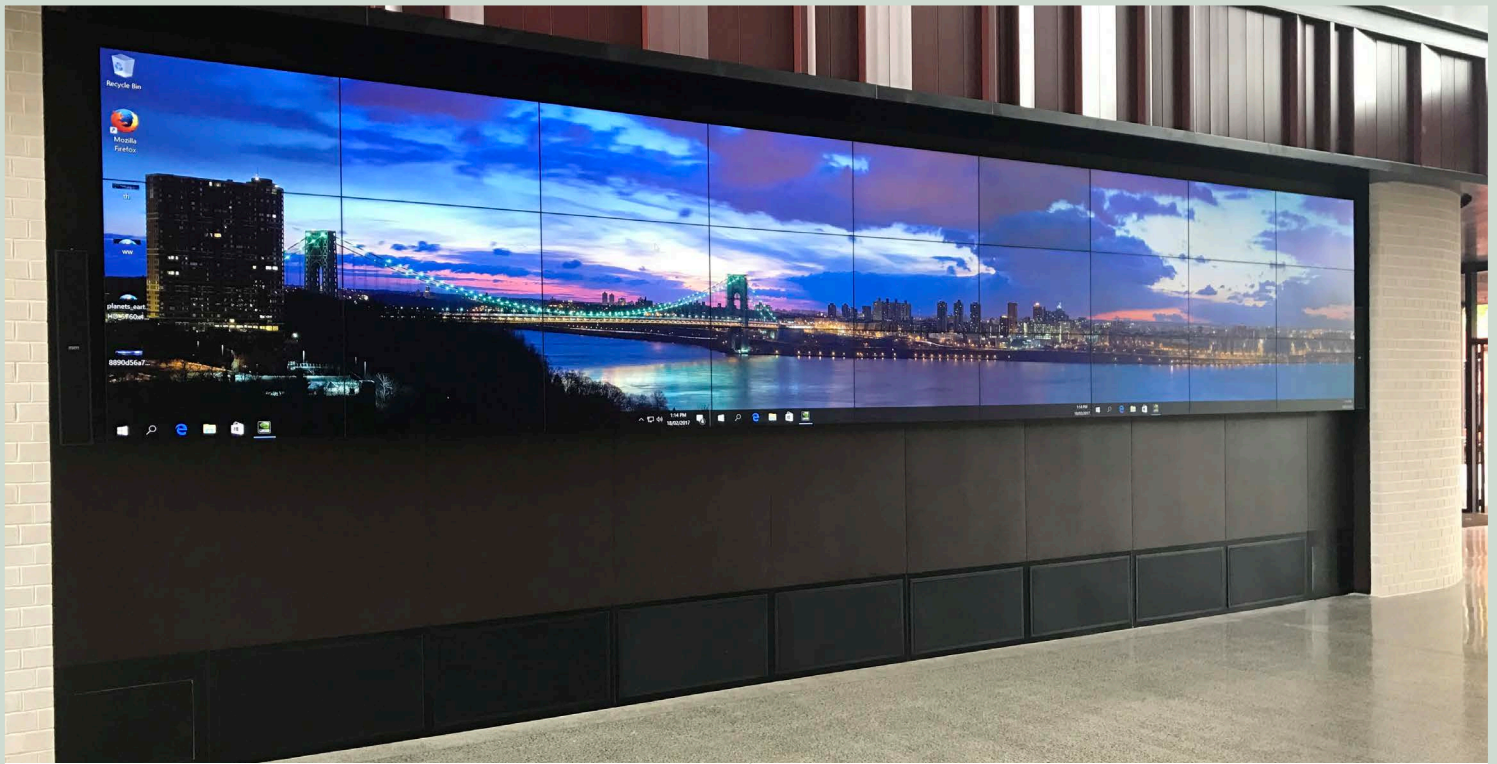
## Solution

Deliver a scalable, flexible and reliable solution that manages a comprehensive network of technology with ease, and empowers students to learn in the most innovative of spaces.



### Auckland University of Technology

Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is New Zealand's fastest growing university. Recognised as the second largest university in the country, AUT aims to offer its more than 29,000 students with learning environments that empower them to collaborate, experiment and learn beyond the classroom. As the youngest of New Zealand's eight universities, AUT strives to differentiate itself by driving graduates to challenge routine thinking, and provide innovative solutions to industry and society by immersing in impactful research that makes a difference.

# Enrolling Crestron long-term

The university's AUTV media channel showcases the excellent work of AUT students and staff via 100 single screens and five video walls across its campuses and shuttle buses. David Yetton, Creative Director for AUTV, says that the institution has always had a focus on looking to the future. Yetton explains that Crestron technology has been embraced throughout the university since 2006, consistently helping it to remain innovative and current in an ever-changing world.

"Historically, AUT has always been a Crestron university," said Yetton. "Crestron has always been the best option for us; you could almost say that all the students and staff have inherited Crestron and its modernity."

With more than 300 lecture theatres and classrooms across its three campuses, a key goal for AUT was to deliver a learning experience that was reliable and consistent. The university worked closely with Resolution Audio Visual Consulting, one of New Zealand's largest Crestron suppliers, to outfit learning spaces and classrooms with various

technology, such as a resident computer, projector, speakers, microphones and document cameras. A Crestron touch-panel or keypad system in each space, allows all in-room tech to be easily controlled from a single device.

AUT's Teaching and Learning Technology Manager, Bruce Colloff, explains that the university does not assign set rooms for faculties, so each space needs to have the same functionality as the next. "As you can imagine, having the same type of gear replicated more than 300 times over creates a vast network to keep an eye over – and that is where Fusion comes into play," said Colloff.

With the help of Crestron Fusion, the university's three campuses are effectively managed with a team of just two AV specialists, with assistance from service desk and desktop support personnel. "Fusion adds a layer of monitoring to our operations," said Colloff.
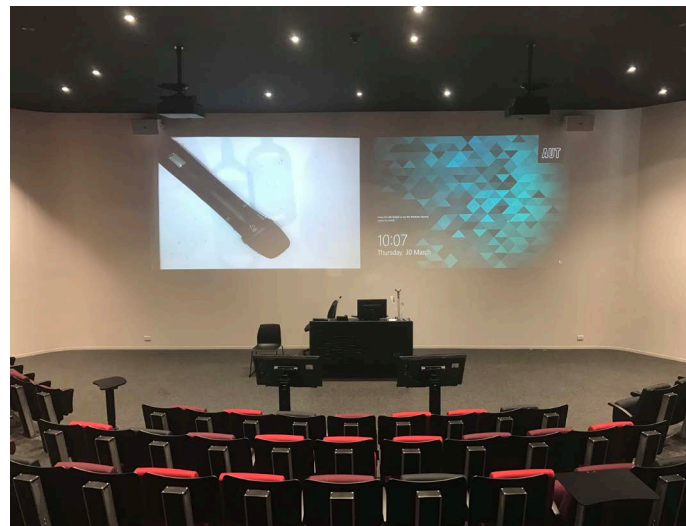
# Fix issues remotely via the Fusion Platform

"Rather than having our IT support team going from room to room to fix problems, they can often assist staff with any technology issues remotely via the Fusion platform. We also get alerts in the middle of the night for any tech that is failing, so we know to address the issue first thing the following morning," said Colloff.

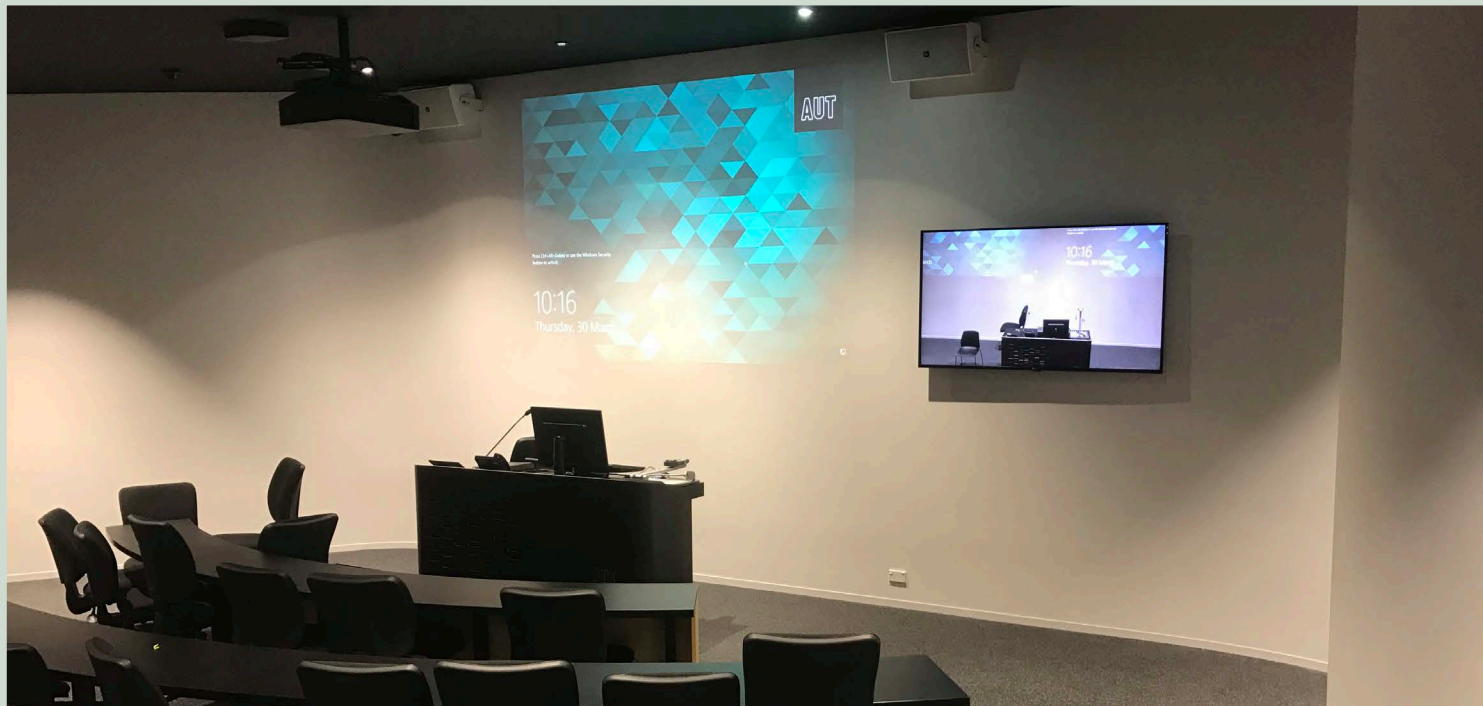## Building the highest resolution video wall in New Zealand

A significant centrepiece of Crestron technology at AUT is its impressive video wall. It is the highest resolution indoor video wall constructed in New Zealand, located in the MH building on the South Campus. One of many video walls at AUT, this one is the largest, measuring three metres tall by nine metres wide, and consisting of 27 individual screens. The magnificent display truly celebrates student and staff work when it runs across the AUTV network. Powered by Crestron integration and DM signal distribution, the wall can showcase one single image across all 27 screens, or allow various images to be tiled across screens to create separate visions.

"By showcasing the best of what we do, AUTV provides a means by which students, staff, industry and the public can engage with the university's leading edge," said Yetton. "The purpose of our hero wall is to project AUTV content like never before, furthering its visibility while also creating vibrancy within the campus."



Academics have also been modifying coursework and creating new subjects that incorporate the video wall into the curriculum. "There are a lot of lecturers and tutors who are looking for exciting ways of engaging their students, making the video wall a potent tool to stimulate student interest and creativity," said Yetton. "The wall also makes a statement to the wider world: AUT is walking the talk as far as supporting technology and looking to the future."

Usage of the video wall goes beyond campus borders, with the local community using the space for special events. One of the first events due to be held in the space will involve the local primary school, which had 50 of its students contribute special artworks. "We will display the fantastic content the kids have produced on the wall so they can recognise and be proud of their work on such an extraordinary screen," said Yetton.

# Driving smarter energy usage

As a university constantly focused on future proofing, AUT aims to drive sustainability across its campuses. Crestron Fusion technology enables the university to reduce costs and environmental impact through remote management of teaching and learning spaces

"Fusion has been handy in letting us know whether a space is being used," explained Colloff. "If a room is empty, or a meeting has finished early, Fusion can turn off the devices in a room. We also save a considerable amount of energy shutting down any spaces over the holiday breaks when the university is empty."

## Gold stars for tech innovation

In 2014, AUT was formally recognised by Systems Thinking, a researcher and bench marker of the tertiary sector, as an innovative and technologically advanced university, ranking first in Student ICT services and second in staff ICT services in Australasia.

Crestron is an integral part of AUT's technology provision. It has helped streamline the work provided by ICT Services to allow students to be future ready.





For additional information on Auckland University of Technology and its commitment to be a university for the changing world, visit www.aut.ac.nz