

## MELBOURNE CONNECT

### Innovation Awards PROJECT FINALIST 2021

#### The Brief

Melbourne Connect is a new ecosystem led by Melbourne University to provide a visionary precinct for innovation partners, world class researchers and leading minds to collaborate on first class education, hands on training, and leading-edge research. This district is on the edge of the Melbourne CBD with commercial and retail partner tenants including technology, design, energy, health and major multinationals to create an epicentre of brilliant minds.

EQUANS AV Technologies was engaged by Lendlease and Melbourne University to integrate all areas, including Melbourne School of Engineering, Melbourne Super floor, Science Gallery Melbourne (SGM), Lendlease Super floor with shared AV spaces for multiple tenancies and the Student Accommodation Building (SAB). The requirements for this project were to provide seamless, cutting-edge audio-visual collaboration spaces to cater for innovative, world-class research, education, and training.



Chosen Audio Visual  
Partner for Melbourne  
Connect



Melbourne Connect  
Nov 2019 - March 2021  
\$5m

#### The Solution

##### Melbourne Connect Super Floor

Melbourne Connect Super Floor is a shared tenancy spaces dedicated to foster a culture of collaboration. It is located at the heart of the innovation community and is comprised of over 27 spaces that allow tenants to collaborate and bounce information off each other. All meeting rooms are fitted out with custom Concierge room booking system which has been programmed for optimal user experience and branding. The development of the room booking brief required significant custom software development from EQUANS AV Technologies in partnership with NFS to meet multiple stakeholder requirements. Within the Super Floor, there is a 400 person seminar space with the ability to open operable walls and individual room control panels, to be divided into three separate meeting spaces. EQUANS AV installed four



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Sony laser projectors, hidden above the ceiling line, inside motorised Ultralift projector cages, lowering when in use. JBL pendant speakers were placed strategically around the room to ensure that sound was well distributed throughout the rooms with Bose Panaray Speakers for front of house program audio at the projector screens. Content can be selected through BYOD devices and displayed on all projectors simultaneously or independently. The Studio is located in a high traffic area, to assist workshops and knowledge sharing. The informal area has been fitted with a 180 inch motorised screen and a 9000 ANSI Lumens Sony Laser Projector with to ensure that the image is clear and bright to combat the significant natural daylight in the space. All controls throughout all the spaces, including this Studio are Crestron based to ensure a uniform experience and ease of use.

The Conversation Hub is also a high traffic collaboration, open plan area located behind the Oculus Zone. This space will become a canvas for all precinct tenants, offered as a dynamic area for all occupants to use as they see fit, whether it is a lunchtime presentation, space for collaboration and idea pitching.

#### Melbourne School of Engineering

Melbourne University has a strong presence at Melbourne Connect and will be relocating several departments to Melbourne Connect. This includes Melbourne School of Engineering, where EQUANS AV Technologies installed custom and bespoke elements into the department. Especially in the Human Computer Labs where IDL group users utilise 3D mapping and augmented reality to further research and insight into our innovative future.

EQUANS AV Technologies thus was required to suspend custom rigs and mounting grids in all Human Computer Labs and IDL spaces to mount motion sensors, lighting, microphones, and the AV interface audio systems. This allows for all the technology to be controlled via racks and wall patch plates in the Usability Lab Control Room. Having all the AV infrastructure out of sight removes any distraction for those students working towards their master's degree, while their activities are being observed. All audio-visual hardware in the Observation Rooms needed to be seamlessly integrated with in the main infrastructure.





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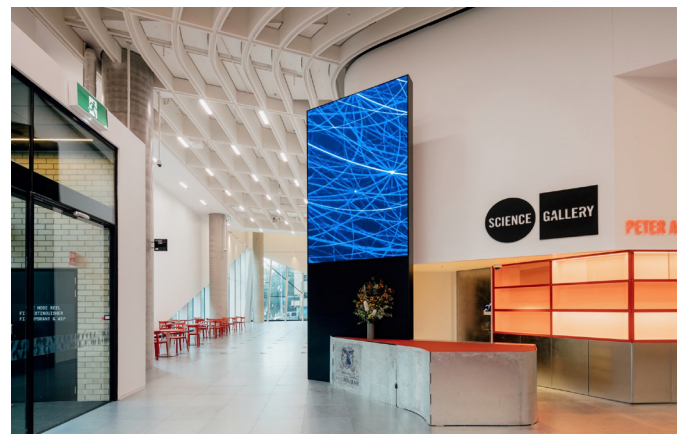
The Usability Lab Control Room sits on the other side of the Observation room, where users would be able to communicate, observe and record observations. To have the ability to do so, as well as manage matrix switches and staging connections, EQUANS AV Technologies installed and programmed tech boxes in the observation room. This allows the users to easily direct content and information to where they desire, whether it is to the room next door, or another room on a different building level. Hence the mapping and connection between the required inputs and outputs, can be easily changed based on manual patching which required significant engineering and design, as it needed to consider multiple signal types including both analogue and digital endpoints.

#### Science Gallery Melbourne

The Science Gallery Melbourne is the blank canvas for the intersection of art and science, where exhibitions and ideas to come together. To lead innovation in the science and art realm, the Science Gallery is targeted towards the younger generation aged between 15-25 years of age. There is a multitude of spaces within the Science Gallery where EQUANS AV Technologies installed audio visual equipment in the Ground Floor Exhibition, Theatres, Basement Gallery and over 43 lecture theatres and 63 workshop areas.

To capture the attention of the younger generation and for a first-rate space to explore issues and ideas of the future, EQUANS AV Technologies integrated cutting-edge audio-visual equipment in all areas to create a world class education area dedicated to STEM. The projector screen in the Basement Gallery is a whopping 140inch premium motorised screen complimented by a high brightness Sony Laser Projector. Pendant speakers are suspended from our installed staging and lighting rig to provide zoned audio for exhibitions and ultimate flexibility. Zoning allowed each section of the room to be

controlled separately allowing certain areas to be turned off if not required, saving energy. All 72 speakers both ceiling and pendant use "Dante" power and protocol on the data network to connect to the main audio system. A Biamp Tesira digital signal processor and Extron Touch panel help address the control of the audio in the space. Sennheiser wireless microphones, both handheld and lapel are also available to presenters for interactive and engaging workshops or exhibitions.



#### Student Accommodation Building

The 527 bed building has been constructed to ensure it provides the best accommodation for students and facilities to collaboration and research. This includes all the audio visual that were designed for each space to ensure it provides world class student accommodation. The areas that EQUANS AV Technologies installed include the Reception and Foyer, three Communal Spaces, Multipurpose Space with AEC, Gym, Study Lounge and Student Cinema. Students are greeted by 65" Sony UHD Pro Bravia displays fitted into the Reception and Foyer. These displays are utilised as digital signage boards to communicate and promote to the students. Not only does this mean content can be changed on a regular basis, but also the cost of doing so

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is reduced minimising the carbon footprint. SONOS Port Music Streamers were installed across the Multipurpose space and Cinema Room as it allows the students in the rooms to choose to stream whatever they wanted to hear. Whether it is music, audio book or recording of a lecture they need to re-listen to, the installation of this has made the students and researcher's sharing of information easier and the areas more user friendly. Again, Crestron Control was chosen for control of communal spaces to unify control systems and make it easier for all the students who are familiar with the user interfaces of the control system in the other areas of Melbourne Connect.

Throughout the entire precinct, Crestron collaboration engines have been installed in all meeting spaces to ensure controls and systems are unified. Occupancy sensors have been placed in all rooms to automatically turn off lights and set AV equipment to energy saving state when rooms are unoccupied. Room booking systems are all Concierge Touch panels located outside bookable meeting spaces to ensure ease of use and user experience.



### **The Benefit**

EQUANS AV Technologies is honoured to be the chosen audio-visual partner and integrator for Melbourne Connect. All audio-visual systems and spaces have been curated in a way to encourage a high level of collaboration and learning from the younger generation. Students, researchers, and high-tech companies will further understand, explore and achieve their goals in STEM.

This multi-million-dollar AV project has also been designed to ensure it is future proofed and represent evolving and innovative solutions.

