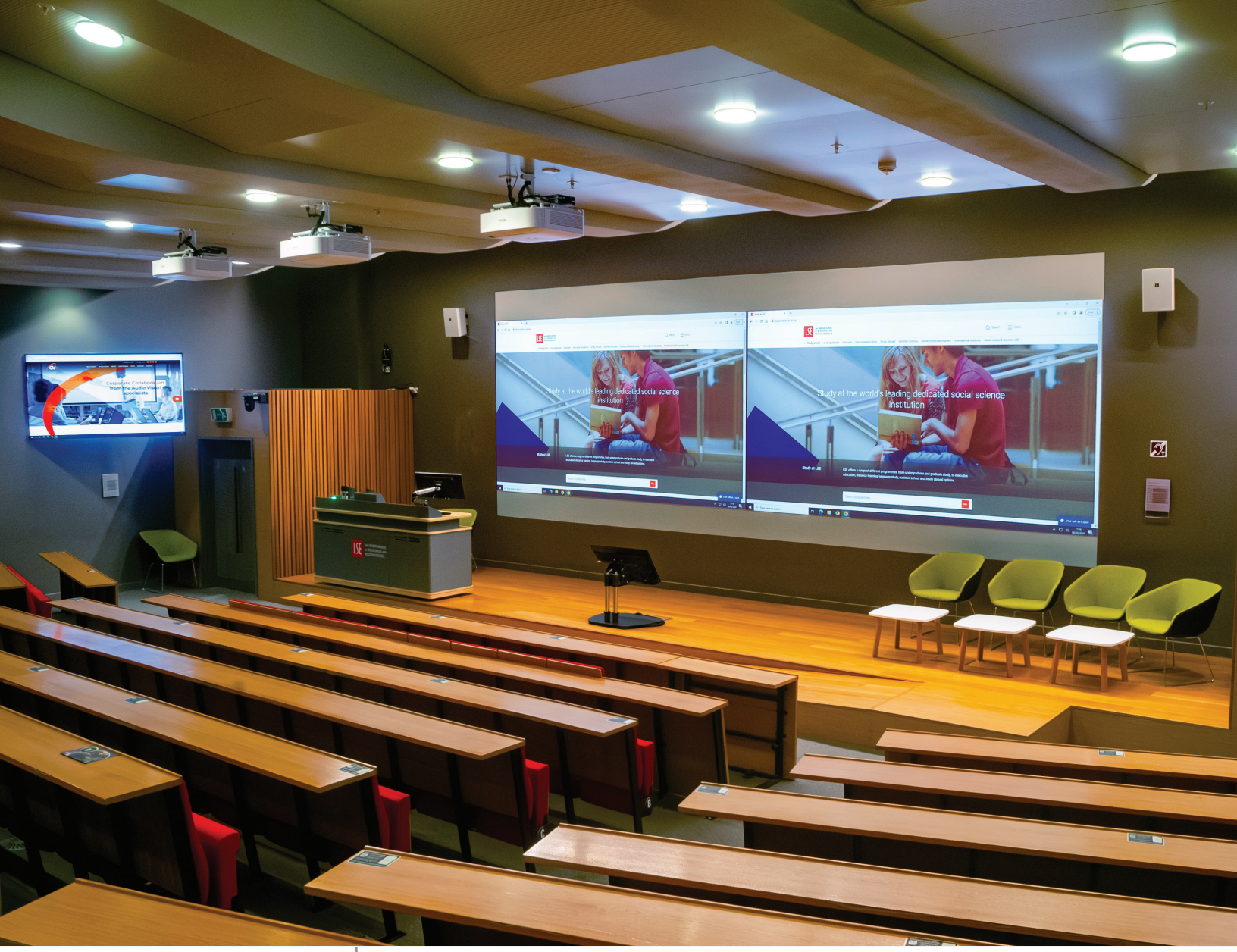


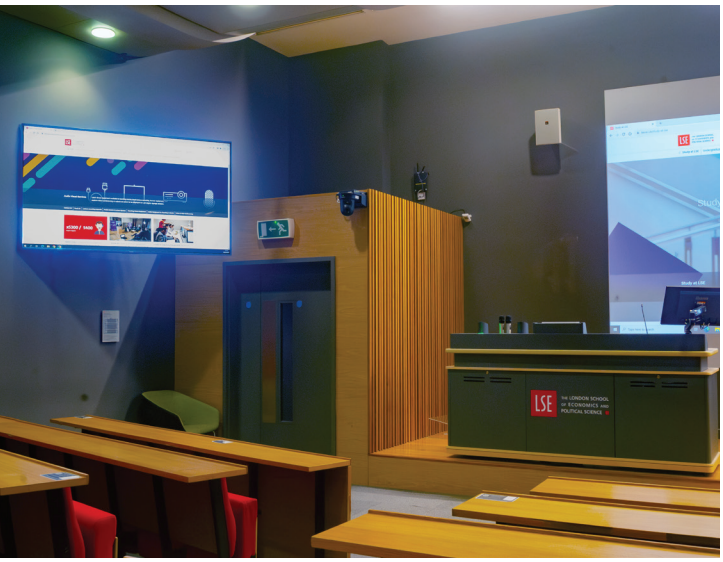
CASE STUDY

Extron Seamless Control and Scalable AV Elevate London School of Economics' Flagship Lecture Theatre

Extron

The front projection screen delivers bright, high-resolution visuals for lectures, panel discussions, and broadcast events.

The Sheikh Zayed Theatre at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a key venue within one of the world's leading academic institutions. Located in the lower ground floor of the Cheng Kin Ku Building, this 400-seat, tiered lecture theatre hosts a broad spectrum of events, including daily academic lectures, high-profile public discussions, and televised broadcasts. A favored venue for internationally recognized speakers and the recording of BBC Radio 4's *Any Questions*, the theatre is vital to the intellectual and civic life of the university. To meet the evolving expectations for hybrid teaching, media production, and live conferencing, LSE embarked on a complete overhaul of the theatre's AV infrastructure.



Stage-right flat-panel display provides presentation reinforcement, ensuring clear visibility for all attendees.

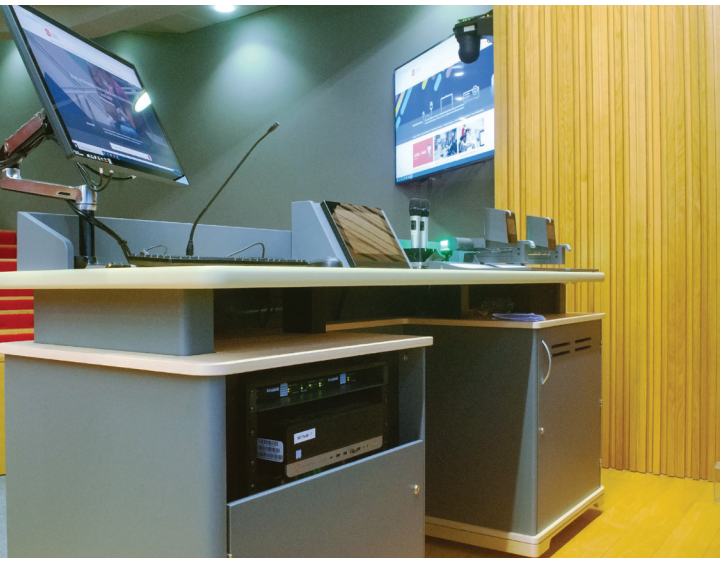
CHALLENGES

The university required a high-performance AV solution capable of supporting daily academic functions as well as dynamic hybrid events. In addition to native lecture recording and presentation delivery, the system needed to accommodate external broadcast crews who regularly connect to the internal infrastructure for live events. Reliability was paramount;

The presenter's table and accessible ramp offer an inclusive, functional platform for lectures and public events.

any downtime or complexity in system navigation could compromise high-stakes broadcasts or scheduled lectures.

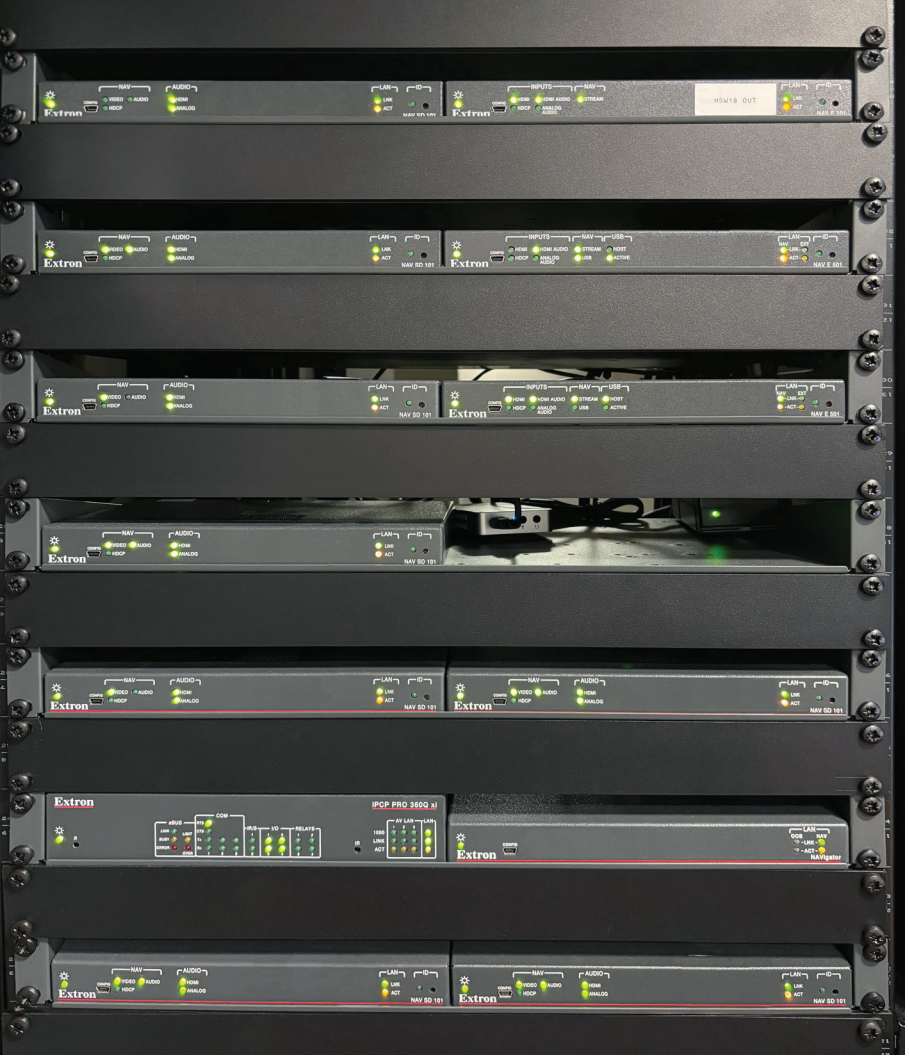
A key consideration was maintaining a flexible presentation environment that could serve both in-person and remote audiences with equal clarity. The AV upgrade had to be deployed during the tight three-week window of the winter recess, requiring precise coordination and pre-planned network configurations. The inital vision included an expansive LED wall, but due to cost and scheduling implications, an alternate display system was specified with three edge-blended laser projectors.

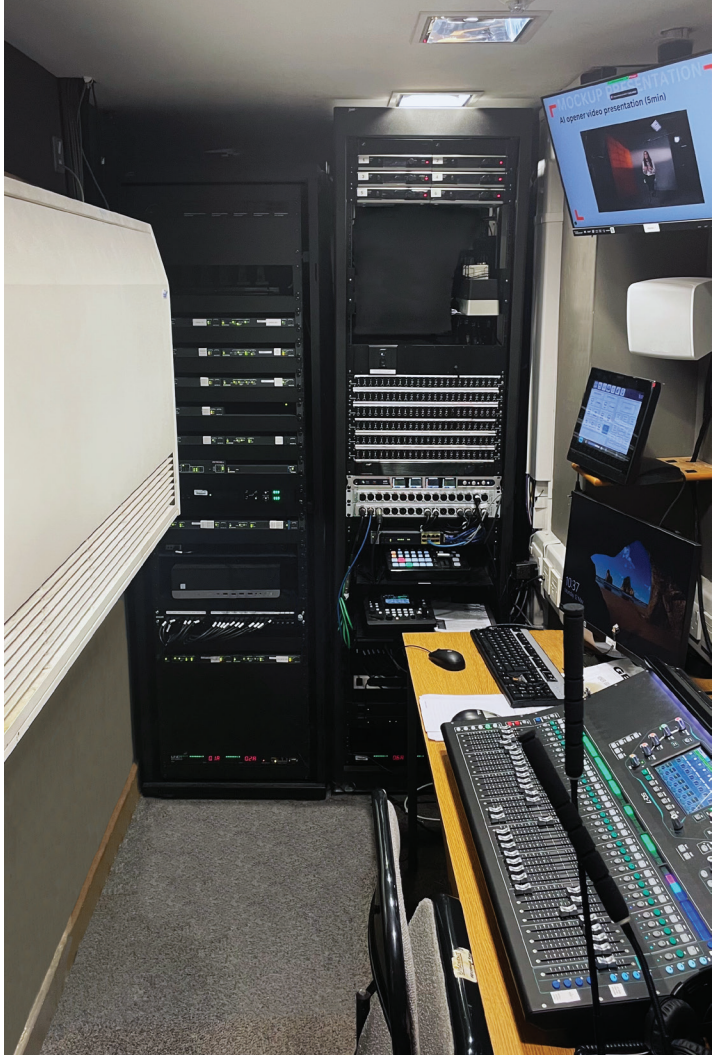


The presenter's table features an arm-mounted monitor, tabletop TouchLink Pro touchpanel, and built-in AV equipment racks for convenient, centralized control.

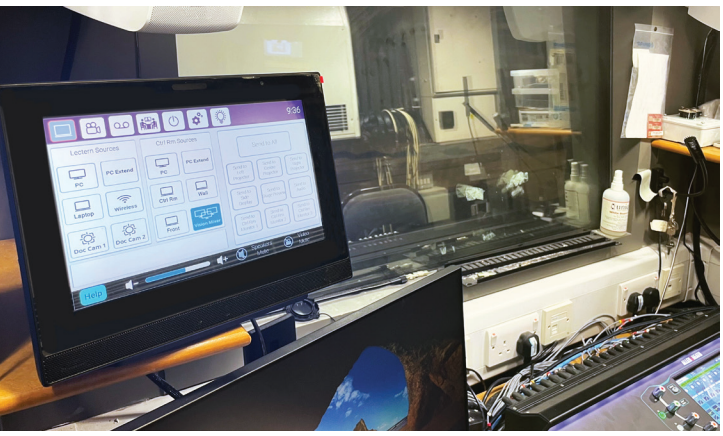
DESIGN SOLUTION

LSE collaborated with UK-based integrator GVAV Ltd and Extron to develop a system centered on network-based video distribution and intuitive AV control. The design team selected Extron NAV® Pro AV over IP solutions for their scalability, signal fidelity, and ease of integration with both HDMI and USB sources across the lecture theatre.





Left: The main control room rack houses Extron NAV endpoints and the NAVigator System Manager for efficient AV over IP distribution. Right: The compact but well-equipped control room integrates sound mixing and AV distribution within a streamlined, well-organized space.



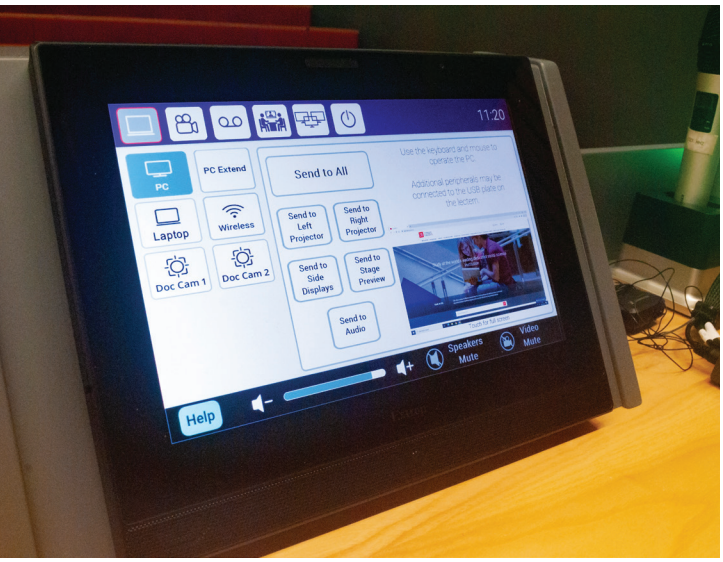
The main control room touchpanel offers AV technicians an intuitive, comprehensive interface for managing events.

The NAV system includes multiple NAV E 501 and NAV E 101 encoders, supporting HDMI, Ethernet, and USB, and NAV SD 101 scaling decoders to distribute content across all endpoints. All NAV endpoints are managed by an Extron NAVigator system manager, which enables centralized configuration and rapid switching of content sources to any display location in the space. Extensive pre-installation network testing, including switch configuration and device validation, enabled the AV team to begin installation with minimal friction.

At the core of system operation is Extron's advanced control infrastructure. A combination of IPCP Pro 360Q xi control processors and TouchLink® Pro tabletop and wall mount touchpanels provide seamless control for instructors and technicians alike. The user interface was carefully designed in collaboration with LSE to accommodate varying user needs, from quick source selection to advanced camera, recording, and hybrid session controls.

The visual backbone of the theatre comprises three edge-blended laser projectors (each delivering 10,000 lumens with 4K enhancement), supplemented by a pair of 75" 4K displays for auxiliary viewing.

An arm-mounted monitor and keyboard provide presenters with direct access to digital content, framed by the tiered seating of the theatre.



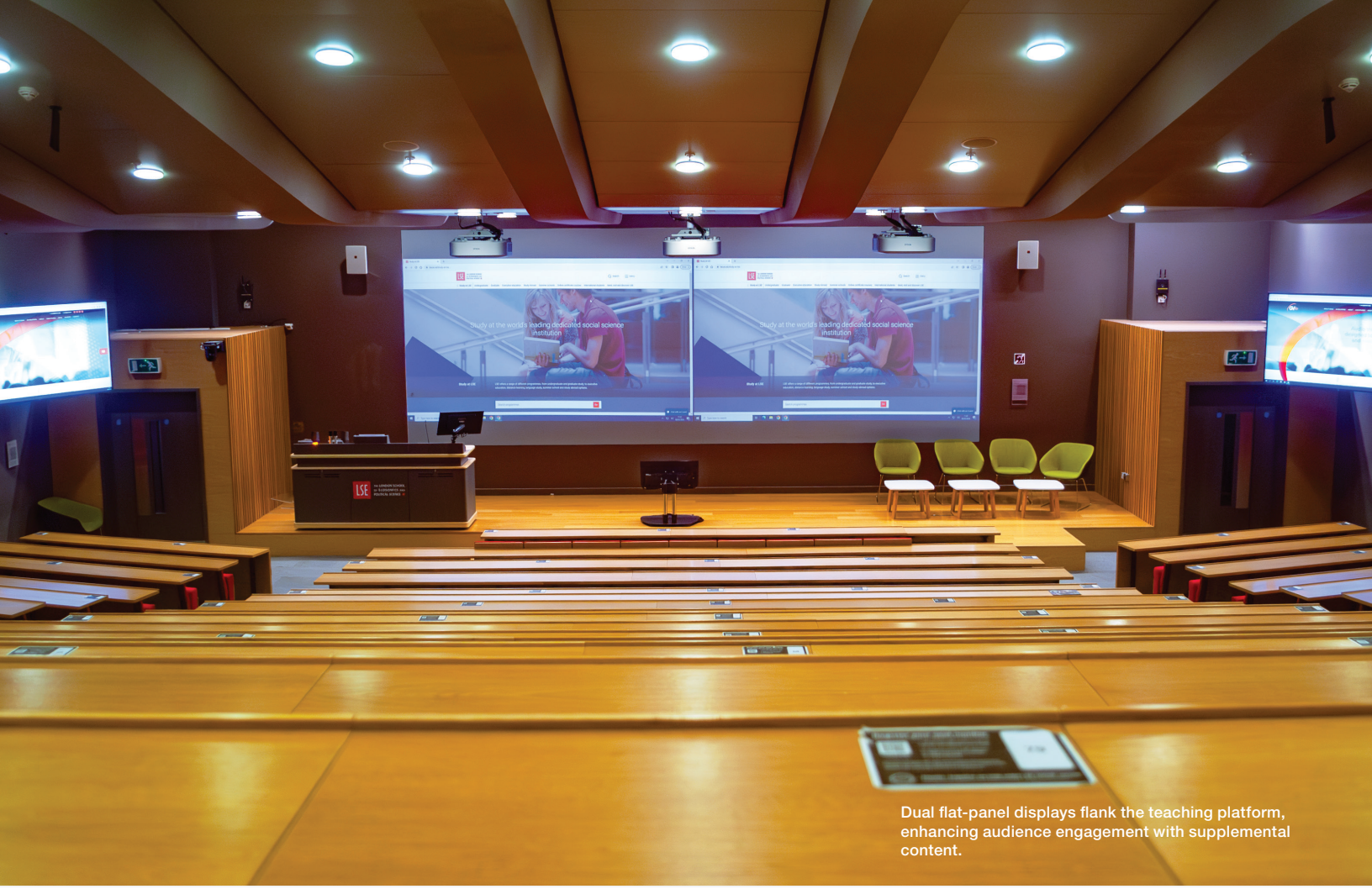
TouchLink Pro touchpanel displays a clear, intuitive AV control interface on a 12" capacitive touchscreen.

For hybrid and remote teaching, four Panasonic PTZ cameras were installed to capture the theatre from multiple angles. These feeds are integrated into the schools streaming platforms and include real-time document sharing

RESULTS

The installation was completed within the three-week holiday recess, two weeks for deployment and one for testing and commissioning, meeting the university's critical deadline for reopening at the start of term. The positive impact of the new system was immediate: faculty, students, and visiting presenters benefit from the flexibility to route any source to any display with a single touch. Previously, users were constrained by fixed modes that dictated what could be viewed or recorded. The new design eliminated that rigidity.

The system's ease of control and flexibility for lectures and high-profile events stand out as major successes. The redesigned touchpanel interface streamlines all AV interactions, from selecting cameras and activating hybrid links to starting a recording or adjusting display feeds. Presenters are able to manage sessions independently from the lectern. Technicians



Dual flat-panel displays flank the teaching platform, enhancing audience engagement with supplemental content.

“The Extron NAV system has given the venue the flexibility and reliability it needs to host everything from daily lectures to high-profile broadcasts, all managed through an intuitive control interface. Seeing how easily the staff have embraced the new capabilities is a real testament to the design and planning that went into this project.”

Michael Courts
Marketing Manager
GVAV Ltd

have complete access via all touchpanels, enabling them to resolve issues quickly and keep sessions running smoothly, saving valuable time. The ability to host and manage hybrid events from multiple positions within the theatre has greatly enhanced the venue’s operational agility.

From an infrastructure perspective, the networked NAV system allows for future scalability, with additional endpoints and display devices easily added without structural rewiring. The shift from a planned LED wall to a multi-projector approach has proven cost-effective while preserving visual quality. Moreover, the collaboration with Extron extends beyond product deployment to include technical consultancy, training, and ongoing support, which continues to play a vital role in sustaining system performance.

By leveraging Extron’s NAV and control platforms, the Sheikh Zayed Theatre now stands as a model for modern, high-impact academic environments where clarity, control, and adaptability intersect to support a dynamic learning environment.

FEATURED EXTRON PRODUCTS

Model	Description
NAVigator	NAV System Manager
NAV E 501	1G Pro AV over IP Encoder - HDMI, Ethernet, and USB
NAV E 101	1G Pro AV over IP Encoder - HDMI
NAV SD 101	1G Pro AV over IP Scaling Decoder - HDMI
NAV E 201 D	1G Pro AV over IP Encoder - HDMI – Wallplate
TLP Pro 1225TG	12" Tabletop TouchLink Pro Touchpanel
TLP Pro 725M	7" Wall Mount TouchLink Pro Touchpanel
TLP Pro 525M	5" Wall Mount TouchLink Pro Touchpanel
IPCP Pro 360Q xi	IPCP Pro xi Quad Core Control Processor

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