Sennheiser for University of Manchester



The University of Manchester is continuing to expand its use of Sennheiser audio and conferencing solutions across teaching spaces, meeting rooms and staff offices. Building on more than 25 years of experience with Sennheiser, its Media Services team is deploying SpeechLine Digital Wireless, TeamConnect Ceiling and TeamConnect Bar solutions to support teaching and hybrid collaboration. With more than 1,000 Sennheiser products estimated to be in use across the university with nearly every lecture theatre equipped with Sennheiser microphone solutions, the ongoing AV rollout places ease of use, audio quality and reliability at its heart.

Trevor Byrne, Head of Media Services, leads the university’s AV services across campus. The Media Services team comprises 30 staff and covers every aspect of the university’s AV requirements. Its work spans installation consultation, event support and conferencing, alongside teaching support, filming, production, graphic design and printing. This broad range of services requires the team to oversee a variety of specialist disciplines. Senior Audio-Visual Engineer Alex Mckown has worked in the education sector for many years. He and the wider Media Services team have continued to select Sennheiser solutions across successive generations of campus AV technology.

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The university’s use of Sennheiser equipment began with the original evolution wireless G1 series in teaching spaces, progressing through the G2 and G3 systems then moving to SpeechLine Digital Wireless. “With SpeechLine, we have moved to a licence-free model using lapel, handheld and boundary microphones,” Mckown explains. “We have also been deploying TeamConnect Ceiling microphones in video conferencing spaces. More recently, we’ve been integrating the TeamConnect Bars as well. They have become our go-to small to medium meeting room hybrid device. The sound from the TeamConnect Bars is so good, they are priced well, reliable, and you’re getting great value for money compared to other manufacturers.”

The Media Services team is proud to be one of the few UK university AV teams with the resources to complete installations in-house, while occasionally bringing in external integrators when required. The team has been installing TeamConnect products for over seven years. The state-of-the-art Manchester Engineering Campus Development (The Nancy Rothwell Building) and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) both use TCC 2 microphones and were among the first locations on campus to do so, with TCC 2 use expanding across other areas on campus and offsite locations.



The installation of the event space in the Henry Royce Institute, a multi-zone audio and video distribution project, presented some specific challenges to the team. “These included acoustically challenging areas with hard surfaces and minimal

treatment in place, different elevation levels, and bleed requirements set by our client,” recalls Mckown. “Selecting the microphone solution for this project was critical as we needed something sleek in design and reliable, while also being easy to use. We chose SL MCR receivers, which allowed us to position them throughout the space and aesthetically blend them into the services of the building. With monitoring via Control Cockpit, wireless charging of microphones, and control system integration, we can remotely support this space effectively.”

For video conferencing, the team relies on TC Bars, which represent a cost-effective solution that delivers crystal-clear audio. “The TC Bar is cost-effective, easy to install, and intuitive for the user to operate,” says Mckown. “It’s a well-priced conferencing solution, and we’re very happy with the results it produces.” He also highlights the product’s microphone performance: “For such a small product, the microphone pick-up is much better than one might expect.”

There are more than 220 buildings on the University of Manchester campus, making it an extremely large AV estate. Systems and solutions vary from space to space, with some larger spaces pairing TCC 2 microphones with PTZ cameras. In other spaces, small and medium TeamConnect Bars (TC Bar S and TC Bar M) provide all-in-one options for video conferencing, enhancing the experience and improving connectivity.



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For the University of Manchester Media Services team, ease of use for customers is paramount, and efficient installation, maintenance and service are of major benefit. TeamConnect enables straightforward third-party integration in AV control systems. Meeting rooms, collaboration spaces and teaching halls are all more connected than ever.

Deploying a recognisable standard of interface helps users from different disciplines become familiar with the look and feel and operation of the in-house interface design. The team judge reliability by support requests for technical assistance and maintenance work, and those are few and far between for Sennheiser products.

Support from the Sennheiser team is another important factor. The university’s Media Services team has developed a strong working relationship with Inesh Patel, Business Development Manager Corporate EMEA at Sennheiser, through industry events and ongoing contact. Whenever issues have arisen, Sennheiser’s technical support team has joined a video call promptly and resolved any technical queries efficiently and quickly.

“The failure rate is amazing, there isn’t any,” Mckown concludes. “We haven’t had one TC Bar go down or ever had to send anything back for warranty repair. You never see a Sennheiser product on a repair shelf.”

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