

Bangor University PJ Hall

Distance no object: Projecting exceptional images

Background

Bangor University is a world-class research university with an international reputation for teaching and research. Based in an idyllic part of Wales, it has a range of historic buildings on campus including the cathedral like PJ Hall.



Designed by well-known architect Henry Hare; PJ Hall is used for university events, concerts and lectures.



“The projection system in PJ Hall needed to be replaced. Guest lecturers, professors and students use the projector to show a wide range of content. While the space – which is a long hall – is beautiful, it’s a challenging environment for a projector to work in. We invited the AV specialists that completed the original installation, Pure AV, back to help us find an upgrade solution that could cope with the space.”

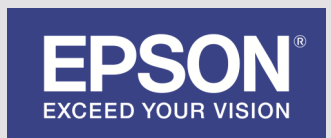
Paul Wood, deputy director, IT Services.

Projecting from afar

With a number of large windows, PJ Hall is bathed in natural light – light that the projector would need to slice through. This was made more challenging by the distance that the projector has to cover. As the building is Grade 1 listed, its fabric cannot be changed. The planning constraints dictated that the projector could only be secured to the metalwork on the balcony at the rear of the hall. The balcony is 30 metres away from the projection screen.



Bangor University is amongst the UK’s top universities for student satisfaction.



“Pure AV are an easy company to work with; consistently high standards ensure smooth, trouble free installations.”

Paul Wood,
Deputy Director
IT Services

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Pure AV recommends a bright solution

The project had two components: sourcing the right projector and building a bespoke installation sympathetic to the environment.

Paul Wood had already seen a number of projectors at the ISE trade show. The Pure AV team arranged for the university to view several potential models in more detail. Mike Addis, sales manager, from Pure AV says: *“Projector performance has advanced markedly in the last 18 months or so, especially in regards to brightness, and we were able to secure one of the first production units of Epson’s EB-Z10000 units – which projects in WUXGA quality – for the university to see.”*

The EB-Z10000 installation projector offers a range of features that are ideal for the challenging space. These include ultra-bright 10,000 lumen performance, the option of using a long-throw lens, a water-cooling system that keeps operating noise to a minimum and an eye-catching contrast ratio.

With the projector selected, Pure AV worked with the university’s IT team to build the installation. The existing bespoke bracket and platform, previously designed by Pure AV, could be used to house the projector. Keen to also maintain the previously designed lectern (which Pure had built with the same type of wood used in the Hall’s panelling); the new system was designed to incorporate user friendly controls on the removable lectern whilst hiding the core of the system under the stage.

The lectern includes a multi-pin connector in the base so it’s easy to disconnect and move the unit. The connector includes signalling for Mac and PC and a Blu-ray player with numerous digital and analogue feeds. A confidence display was also installed on the lectern for presenters to view what’s on the screen behind them.

A projector fit for the venue

PJ Hall is an attractive venue and the new projection system lives up to its surroundings. *“Whether it’s video, images or text, the EB-Z10000 projects a stunning image,”* observes Paul Wood. *“The blacks are deep and the whites pure and there’s no colour bleed at all – the contrast is faultless. Even over the long distance, the performance is comparable to a cinema screen. A number of people who have used the projector have commented on the quality of the image.”*

Another aspect of the project that Paul is keen to emphasise is the subtlety of the system. He says: *“The projector is barely audible; few people notice that it’s there. And with Pure AV’s discreet installation, we’ve achieved our goal of putting an advanced projection system into this historic environment that only enhances and in no way detracts from that environment. We expect the system to be in use for at least the next five years.”*



“The EB-Z10000 was the clear winner from an image point of view...whether its video, stills or text the unit projects a stunning image”.

Paul Wood,
Deputy director,
IT Services