

SUPA (Scottish Universities Physics Alliance)

Enabling 1,200 physicists to collaborate over video - anytime, anywhere



The Challenge

Bring together 1,200 physicists spread across eight University campuses for teaching and learning.



The Solution

Custom-built video conference rooms delivering face-to-face classes over the Vscene platform.



The Results

Effortless video collaboration and an immersive learning experience for everyone.

The Client

SUPA is a strategic alliance of eight physics schools with a shared strategy for research. Located across Scotland, they incorporate The Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews, Strathclyde and West of Scotland.

The Challenge

How to deliver face-to-face learning and collaboration to every student?

- SUPA recognised that providing in-person teaching within each campus was both unfeasible and uneconomical.
- With the increased reliance on video conferencing, SUPA wanted the flexibility to run parallel classes.
- Staff needed the technical capability to deliver both synchronised collaboration and asynchronous learning.

SUPA's existing video conferencing installation wasn't up to the job. They needed to find a cost-effective solution that could be accessed by everyone, wherever they were based.

The Solution

The answer was to equip each of the eight SUPA institutions with high quality technology designed for that very purpose:

- Custom-built video conferencing rooms were installed on every campus.
- Each room was designed and fitted with Ajenta's V-Room system hardware, providing 4K resolution over dual cameras as well as visualisers and smart boards.
- The Vscene platform delivered seamless video collaboration across the geographically dispersed community.
- Both students and lecturers enjoyed a natural, immersive learning experience.





Maximum delivery

SUPA offers 80 courses across its network. This equates to over 800 hours of lectures delivered annually via Vscene and V-Room hardware.



Minimal disruption

Campus closures no longer mean disrupted learning. Students are able to access high definition recorded lectures, wherever they're based.



Minimal expenditure

Delivering lectures and events with Vscene has proved hugely cost-effective. It significantly reduces travel and operational costs for both students and lecturers.



Client Q&A

What were your main priorities when sourcing a solution?

We considered cost, reliability, quality of experience, support, ability to schedule classes, recording and low maintenance costs.

From specification to deployment, how have Ajenta and Vscene performed on expectations?

Ajenta have been very accommodating in helping us to find the best solution for our specific needs - needs which occasionally changed as our thinking developed. We were already using Vscene with the previous system, but we are now able to benefit from more of its capabilities than before.

“Compared to the alternative of having lecturers travel to eight institutions, the benefits of Vscene are so great that the school simply couldn't function without it!”

Dr Christian Killow, Graduate School Co-ordinator, SUPA, University of Glasgow

Did you have any challenges during deployment and how did you overcome them?

Yes, initially we chose a different technology platform which was more costly and much less effective. We learnt the hard way. We re-evaluated our brief for a solution that would enhance rather than detract from the learning experience and outcomes of students; Vscene ticked our particular boxes. We went for a bespoke set up to create that true immersive and seamless teaching environment. It took time for us to master a shift in teaching style, student management and engagement and to tweak some technical points in support of this.

What subjects are you currently teaching?

We teach a range of courses including Science, Physics, Creative Arts and Humanities. We are currently in the process of timetabling a number of Higher Education courses at present.