

## UWTSD

### Facilities and Services

## Modern Meetings @ UWTSD

### About the project

#### Summary

For UWTSD, providing a flexible communication platform to connect our staff, students, and external contacts is a necessity. **Enabling people to connect with one another is central to our institutional mission to reinvent productivity and help staff and students make the most of every moment they spend at our University.** We believe that the ability to communicate whenever, wherever and with whoever is more important than ever and we have facilitated this by embedding new communication platforms across the multi campus institution according to sustainability principles of increasing virtual bilingual communication, reducing carbon emissions and costs.

#### Project partners

UWTSD IT Department / UWTSD Translation Department / Welsh Video Network (WVN) / Vscene

### The results

#### The problem

There was a need for maintaining communication and collaboration between staff and students with the UWTSD Group being spread across a wide geographic area with 16 campuses. In addition to this we also have campuses being established overseas. The challenge was to provide these services whilst at the same time whilst reducing carbon emissions and actively encouraging the use of telepresence over travel and thereby reducing costs.

Being a bilingual university we actively promote the use of the Welsh language wherever and whenever possible. UWTSD utilised a system to provide this simultaneous translation service implemented by WVN over ten years ago known as **Rhl**. The UWTSD IT Dept. have re-vamped this system and provided additional functionality, allowing the translator to be located anywhere as long as they have a network connection.

#### The approach

We have installed videoconference systems in all of our campuses, which are used on a frequent basis. In addition to this we have rolled out Skype for Business (SfB) / Lync to all staff PCs and have provided our staff with the necessary equipment to use desktop videoconferencing.



#### Profile

- HEI
- 11,400 students (includes full and part time students)
- 2,125 staff

Category supported by



# Finalist's case study

## Our goals

Improve Communication and Collaboration, Reduction in Travel, Shift in Culture away from traveling.

## Obstacles and solutions

Shift in Culture	Provision of Webcams and Headsets, user training and user guides,
Providing Welsh Translation with VC equipment	Investment from UWTSd to improve Rhl simultaneous translation equipment
Making the Rhl system portable	Further investment made to make the simultaneous translation system mobile.

## Performance and results

During August 2015 which had 21 working days, there were a total of 171 scheduled Lync meetings/conferences. This works out to an average of just over 8 per day. The usage of videoconferencing at UWTSd has been steadily increasing, between the 1<sup>st</sup> of Aug 2014 and the 30<sup>th</sup> of Aug 2015, there were 636 videoconferences across all UWTSd sites.

## The future

### Lessons learned

The use of technology can greatly reduce the environmental and economic impact of the university. User training is key to familiarise users with the equipment and make them more willing to participate.

### Sharing your project

We have spoken with peers at other Welsh universities during Gregynog Colloquium which is an annual event hosted by HEWIT and WHELP to provide an opportunity for all Welsh universities to discuss recent developments.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

'I would be delighted if the University were to win a Green Gown Award. Such a prestigious accolade would acknowledge our commitment to sustainability as one of our core values and most importantly it would celebrate the excellent work and inspiring work of colleagues and students across the University's campuses.'

Professor Medwin Hughes, DL Vice-Chancellor University of Wales Trinity Saint David

### Further information

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