

# welcome to AstonIP

## Background

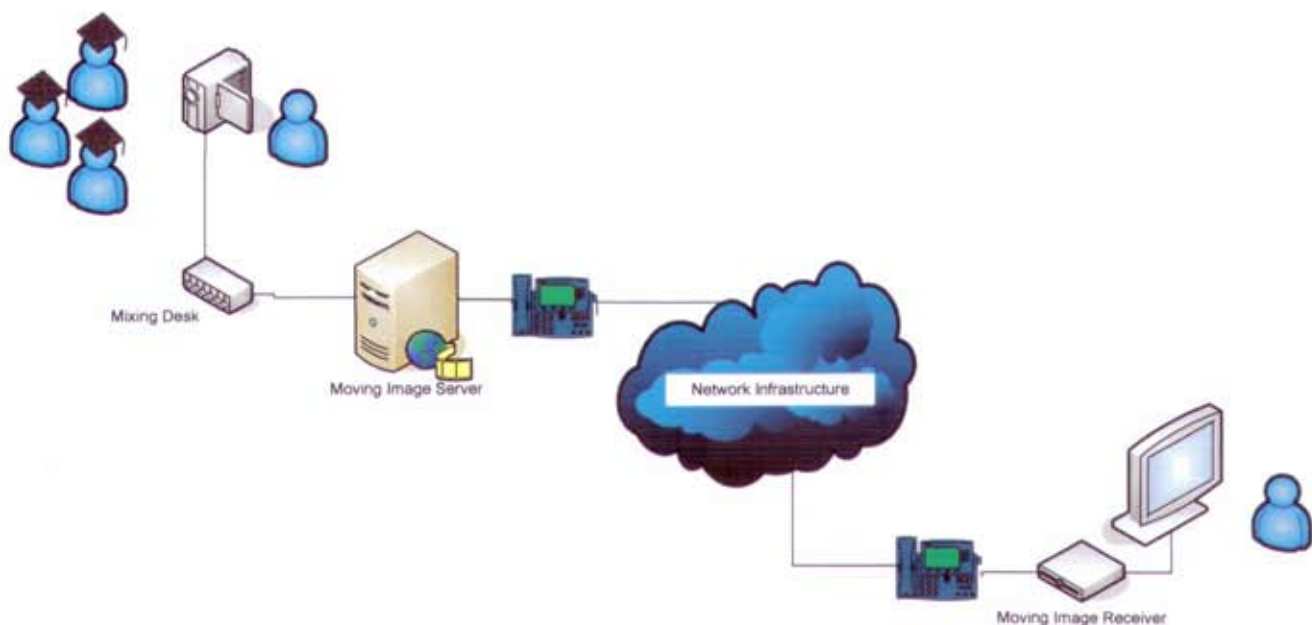
Aston University has embarked on a major, multi £m investment to replace its IT Infrastructure in support of its Teaching, Learning, Research and Administrative systems. The new, single, IT infrastructure uses a standards based approach, for flexibility, and encompasses:

- A high specification campus wide cabling system,
- A secure and resilient data system for computer systems, (email, internet etc)
- A feature rich and extendible telephone system and
- A high quality Moving-Image system to stream voice/video anywhere on campus.

The installation started in second half 2003 and is nearing completion: the telephone and moving-image systems will be ready for the start of the 2004 session, with migration to the new data/computer system being complete shortly after.

## Demonstration

On show for the first time, at the 2004 graduation ceremonies, is a pilot of the new IT Infrastructure. Cameras in the Great Hall are capturing the event for recording as a permanent record and for live transmission (streaming) around the campus. The images are converted, in real-time, into a form suitable for transmission over the converged network (MPEG2) which are then decoded by receivers, for display on monitors. The equipment connects to the network through telephone handsets to emphasise the common under-pinning technologies in use.



## Comment

The new IT Infrastructure is a user-led initiative in support of the University's IT strategy and brings together three previously separate systems into one - a converged service. This is very much an enabling technology, opening the way for future enhanced applications and integration in all areas of Teaching, Learning, Research and Administration.