

Norwegian University of Science and Technology



NTNU

Norwegian University of Science and Technology



Trondheim, Norway



20,000 full-time students; 4,300 faculty and staff



Higher education

At a glance

- University continually searching for technology to assist faculty and staff in teaching and student interaction
- Mediasite selected to replace manual, time-consuming online course production techniques
- Professional and engaging interface increases retention of knowledge
- Mediasite virtually eliminates production time, allowing for intensified development of instruction throughout the university
- University's competitive edge enhanced among superior academic institutions in Europe and the United States

Executive summary

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology spearheads unparalleled technological innovation with Mediasite to enhance its competitive edge.

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim is a center for technological education and research in Norway. With a solid foundation in the sciences and technology interwoven with a broad-based expertise in classical disciplines, NTNU is continually searching for technical innovations to implement in the classroom.

With Mediasite, digital presentations that previously took NTNU staff members innumerable work hours to produce are now created instantaneously. Nearly every university discipline is using the technology for instruction, and faculty members have easily become proficient in the simple interface and operation of Mediasite. All lectures are made available online via Mediasite to NTNU students, who can then access the content at an individually convenient time and pace. NTNU hopes to expand Mediasite usage to their nearly 2,000 research and development projects and related industry partnerships to share their expertise with an international audience and ensure a competitive position among top-notch educational institutions in Europe and the United States.

“Mediasite is a complete web solution for both our students and faculty. It is exciting for us as one of the region’s only universities to make this technology available to our professors and staff members and remain competitive with not only other European institutions but also with Ivy League universities in the United States.”

> Thorleif Hallén, Concept Developer, NTNU

Challenge

NTNU regularly researches technologies from around the world that will assist faculty and staff in their teaching and interaction with students. Prior to being introduced to Mediasite by Sonic Foundry, NTNU produced rich media presentations with SMIL-scripting and Real Video. With this method, it took several days, sometimes weeks, for a lecture to be made accessible online to faculty and students.



“We literally would sit with a stopwatch to time each slide we wanted to show, and everything was done manually,” said Thorleif Hallén, concept developer at NTNU. “An email changed everything. We were not even aware that a solution like Mediasite was available to us until a colleague sent us a link to a Mediasite presentation,” said Hallén. Almost immediately, Hallén and his staff began searching for the supplier of what they describe as an “exceptional technical education solution.”

After contacting Avikom, a Norwegian reseller of Mediasite, NTNU decided to pilot the product. The objective of the pilot program was to select professors who represented various campus programs to capture conferences and student discussion sections using Mediasite. Students would then be able to conveniently access the content on-demand from their own computers. From the onset, Hallén and the team of professors at NTNU were amazed at the possibilities Mediasite could offer to the university.

“With Mediasite, we produce everything from ordinary lectures to popular science talks given at the university. As long as a professor knows what they want to mediasite, there are no limitations on what you can do with it.”

> Thorleif Hallén, Concept Developer, NTNU

Solution

The success of the pilot program led NTNU to purchase two Mediasite Recorders immediately. The university continues to expand usage of Mediasite to additional campus disciplines, allowing professors to simply show up and teach as usual without a complicated interface or a time-consuming training process. Professors appreciate being able to show diagrams, graphs and web pages all in one screen.

“Mediasite is a highly versatile system which allows us to capture in real-time the output of virtually any type of presentation device, from projectors to document cameras. It synchronizes that content with the audio and video of the presenter, streaming it live to the web for our students to watch,” said Hallén.

Students enjoy the option of a flexible education, attending lectures online as many times as necessary at their own time and pace. Nearly all disciplines on campus have used Mediasite. Once captured, lectures are made available on the university network for all students to watch, regardless of whether or not they are enrolled in the course.

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Result

As Mediasite use expands on campus, Hallén and his web services team are seeking new opportunities and partnerships, both locally and around the globe, to continue to broaden their use of the webcasting system.

Hallén also hopes to expand Mediasite to advanced degree programs in the humanities, social sciences, economics and public and business administration, as well as professional degree programs in medicine and psychology. The Mediasite program is expected to grow exponentially as NTNU continues to provide courses of interest within its growing educational disciplines.

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About the Norwegian University of Science and Technology

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim represents academic eminence in technology and the natural sciences, as well as in other academic disciplines ranging from the social sciences and medicine to architecture and fine arts. NTNU, founded in 1996, offers a wide selection of bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and professional degrees, awarding about 3,000 degrees annually. NTNU is unique in its international and industry connections and has the main responsibility in Norway for education and research in technology. Cross-disciplinary cooperation results in innovative breakthroughs and creative solutions with far-reaching social and economic impact.