

iomart Hosting selected as first specialist hosting outsource partner for LSE

When the London School of Economics and Political Science took the bold step of outsourcing its presence on the internet, it did so in the belief that it was the first Higher Education establishment in the UK to use an external provider to host its website.

Traditionally, universities have tended to keep their web management in-house but with the LSE launching a new and improved website to coincide with the start of the new academic year; it decided that it was time to bring in a specialist managed hosting partner to guarantee the availability of the new site.

The LSE turned to 2009 Data Centre Operator of the Year iomart Hosting, which owns and operates its own resilient network of five UK data centres. iomart Hosting designed, built, and now maintains a hardware platform that supports a new website containing more than 100,000 pages of data on fully secure servers located away from the LSE's London campus.



Stephen Emmott, head of web services for the LSE said: *"Like most universities we have been quite traditional in managing and hosting our own data on site. But we realised it'd make sense to use an external supplier so that if there were any on-site problems, for instance with power, it wouldn't affect the use of our website. It's a good example of how boundaries between academic institutions and the commercial sector can be changed and extended."*

iomart Hosting, the managed hosting arm of AIM listed iomart Group plc, created a Content Management System specifically for the task of moving the LSE's huge wealth of information onto its external servers. It was essential that the existing website continued to function while the data and server migration took place. Each of the 100,000+ pages has as many as 400 points of contact, so the process has taken many months.

Angus MacSween, CEO at iomart Hosting said: *"A lot of smaller academic institutions tend to host their websites using their own data centres or computer rooms. The broad appeal and worldwide demand for the LSE's content and services - publications, video, web and pod casts - suggested that the website needed to be managed externally rather than internally to accommodate bandwidth usage, traffic management and 24/7 monitoring."*

The decision by the LSE to have its new website www.lse.ac.uk hosted externally also allowed it to increase the wealth of information it can now offer to both students and the wider population. Its Experts Directory has been expanded with links to more of the institution's prestigious 'institutional repository' which contains free-to-access original research papers from the LSE's huge range of world-renowned academics. Users can also go online to watch the films that the LSE has made on important issues like I.D. cards and euthanasia.



Stephen Emmott added: *"Turning to a commercial party like iomart Hosting has proved very successful. Their expertise of offering individual solutions to a range of private and public sector clients and our own in-house team's knowledge of LSE's needs have proved a strong combination."*

"The outcome is a bigger and more reliable website that has a secure online presence and opens up our academic expertise to the worldwide web. iomart Hosting has definitely gone the extra mile for us."

Angus MacSween added: *"We are extremely proud of the fact that the LSE, with its world famous reputation for academic excellence, selected iomart Hosting as its first website hosting outsource partner. Day to day collaboration between the two organisations has proved the perfect client/specialist partner relationship model, with the LSE free to concentrate on the website content and iomart Hosting focused on ensuring the site remains online and available 24/7."*



About the LSE

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is one of the foremost social science universities in the world. It is a specialist university with an international intake and a global reach. Its research and teaching spans the full breadth of the social sciences, from economics, politics and law to sociology, anthropology, accounting and finance and, as the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise found, it has the highest percentage of world-leading research of any university in the UK.

Founded in 1895 by Beatrice and Sidney Webb, LSE has an outstanding reputation for academic excellence. Fourteen Nobel Prize winners in economics, literature and peace have been either LSE staff or alumni.

The School has just under 90,000 registered alumni. As of February 2009, around 32 past or present heads of state have studied or taught at LSE, and 28 members of the British House of Commons and 42 members of the House of Lords have either studied or taught at LSE.

For more information visit: www.lse.ac.uk

About iomart Hosting

iomart Hosting is one of the UK's leading providers of hosting services. From a single server through to private cloud networks, iomart specialises in the delivery and management of mission-critical hosting services, enabling customers to reduce the costs, complexity and risks associated with maintaining their own web and online applications.

By physically owning and managing its own network infrastructure, including five state-of-the-art data centres in the UK, it offers world-beating levels of service to its customers.

For more information visit www.iomarthosting.com

**For further details: visit www.iomarthosting.com
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