

## MARVEL STADIUM



**Marvel stadium underwent a covid-era technology renewal that didn't eat into game time. Equans delivers, getting shortlisted for an AVIA in the process.**

It's been a couple of decades (and a few naming rights changes) but Marvel Stadium has been a mainstay of Melbourne's sporting and entertainment landscape for a long time. The recent AV and technology upgrade was a mission-critical project – one that had to be completed while keeping the venue fully operational for major events. Enter Equans, tasked with enhancing the stadium's AV infrastructure, ensuring a seamless match-day experience while also making function spaces more versatile.



## MARVEL STADIUM



## BUILDING THE BACKBONE

The Marvel Stadium upgrade wasn't just about replacing old gear with new; it was about creating a cohesive, intelligent AV ecosystem that seamlessly integrates content distribution, lighting, and control systems. At the heart of the deployment was a mix of robust AV solutions chosen for reliability, flexibility, and scalability. Equans faced the logistical nightmare of integrating a vast AV infrastructure while the stadium remained fully functional. This required meticulous planning and, ideally, a fleet of golf carts for the team. "We couldn't afford downtime," Equans Project Engineer, Tobias Feld explained. ***"Every time we touched a system, we needed a fallback plan in place."***

To mitigate risk, Equans pre-commissioned systems off-site, ensuring that any faulty units or configuration issues were resolved before installation. A temporary router bypassed the existing network, allowing for a seamless transition to the new system. They even set up a backup vision switching suite as an insurance policy.

## WYRESTORM | A PIVOT THAT PAID OFF

One of the biggest COVID pivots in the project came in the function spaces, where the original point-to-point video distribution plan was shelved due to post-COVID stock shortages. Instead, Equans turned to Wyrestorm's Network HD AV-over-IP platform – initially a pragmatic decision based on availability, but one that paid off. Tobias Feld from Equans explains: "We originally specified fixed frames, but the supply chain situation made them an eight-month wait.

## MARVEL STADIUM



*“We needed a solution that was available, and Wyrestorm ticked all the boxes”*

We needed a solution that was available, and Wyrestorm ticked all the boxes.” in the function spaces. The original spec may have been for a conventional point to-point video switcher but the flexibility of an AV-over-IP system has made room combining very simple indeed. It allowed the local input to be routed dynamically to any display in the function spaces. ***“It’s worked flawlessly for over two years now,” says Feld. “It proved itself. It was a chance for Wyrestorm to show us what it could do, and it delivered.”***

### OFF THE BENCH, IN THE GAME

The covid-era stock shortages was curse for most but an opportunity for some. In this case it gave a perfectly competent AVoIP solution, such as Network HD from Wyrestorm, the chance to show its wares, while also allowing Q-SYS to stretch its control legs when it would otherwise be only performing DSP duties. Covid also played havoc with live events. But again, it did provide the perfect window of opportunity for Marvel Stadium to reframe its technology offering. The upgrade has transformed the stadium’s ability to deliver world-class match-day production and flexible, high-quality AV for corporate and function spaces alike. And best of all, for the patrons? The show never stopped.



## MARVEL STADIUM



## PROJECT BILL OF MATERIALS

In the build, WyreStorm's **NHD-400** series products played a central role in creating a robust and scalable AV-over-IP system, with the **WY-NHD400TXIW** in-wall encoders providing discreet and convenient video input points, the **WY-NHD400ETX** and **WY-NHD400RX** units delivering seamless encoding and decoding of 4K content across the network, the **WY-NHD400ERX** offering enhanced receiver capabilities for high-performance display outputs, the **WY-NHD000CTL** acting as the powerful control hub for managing the system's operations, and the **WY-NHD000RACK4** providing a clean, professional rack-mount solution to organise and house the critical networked AV components.

**WaveCAST by Williams AV** was also integrated into the Marvel Stadium upgrade, delivering a state-of-the-art assistive listening solution as part of the new AV ecosystem. Designed to stream high-quality audio over Wi-Fi directly to personal devices, WaveCAST ensured that Marvel Stadium could offer an inclusive, accessible experience for all patrons, including those with hearing impairments. Its seamless integration alongside the broader AV and control infrastructure further demonstrated Equans' commitment to innovation and accessibility — all while maintaining uninterrupted game-day operations.

**WyreStorm** **WILLIAMS AV**