



Kaust Inauguration Ceremony



The inauguration of the brand new King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) took place in the Saudi town of Thuwal, on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. The main venue, one of three bespoke ES structures, was a vast 6,319m² space providing seating for over 3,000 VIPs and specially invited guests. Working for the creative team led by Simon Ransome, Technical Director of FilmMaster Events, we provided an automation and set building package that included the largest tracking projection surface we have ever installed, measuring over 1000m².



WORKING WITH SCALE

Dealing not only with the installation but also the automation of such large screens required our team to give special consideration to both the materials used and the construction methods employed. We worked with screen cloth suppliers Harkness Hall to ensure that the screens would be a practical weight for tracking – although even with this in mind, each screen weighed in at around 1000kg.

The tracking was controlled using Qmotion, our in-house motion control system, with each screen capable of moving independently and at its own speed, providing Creative Director Daniele Zambelli, a high degree of flexibility and creative freedom. We provided 12 axes of control, hydraulics and stock positional winch control systems for all screens, carefully timed to synchronise tracking with the video imagery.

We also provided a lectern, concealed beneath the stage, which was raised and revealed using a Qmotion controlled scissor lift. As well as being used for speeches, this piece acted as the trigger for the ceremony finale, providing the cue for the tracking screens and the final reveal of the campus.

The fit up required a crew of 15 on site in Saudi Arabia for a period of two weeks, working in over 40 degrees of heat each day. On site, we worked closely with a number of other suppliers including 3 Monkeys Communications who provided all of the video, and lighting company Procon.

