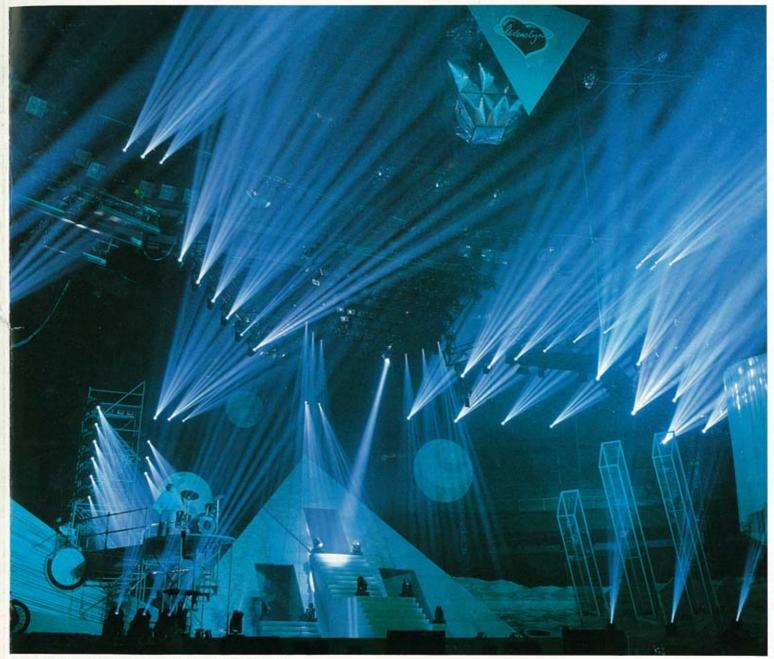
LIGHTING SOUND International

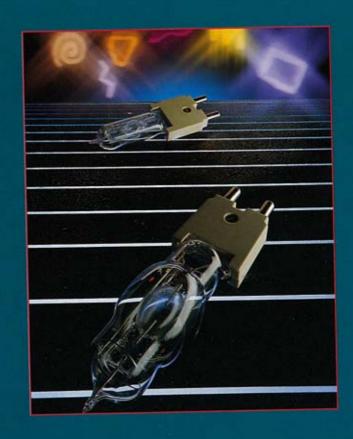


ANTWERP, BELGIUM: LIGHTING FOR THE OM TE ZIEN TV SPECIAL

- Siel 92: First show of the International Season
- Birmingham Arena an Acoustic Forum
- Company Profile: Ramsa Panasonic
- Sporting Sound at the Winter Olympics, Albertville
- Belgian TV Special and Eric Clapton On Tour
- Full Show Report from Sound '92

MARCH 1992

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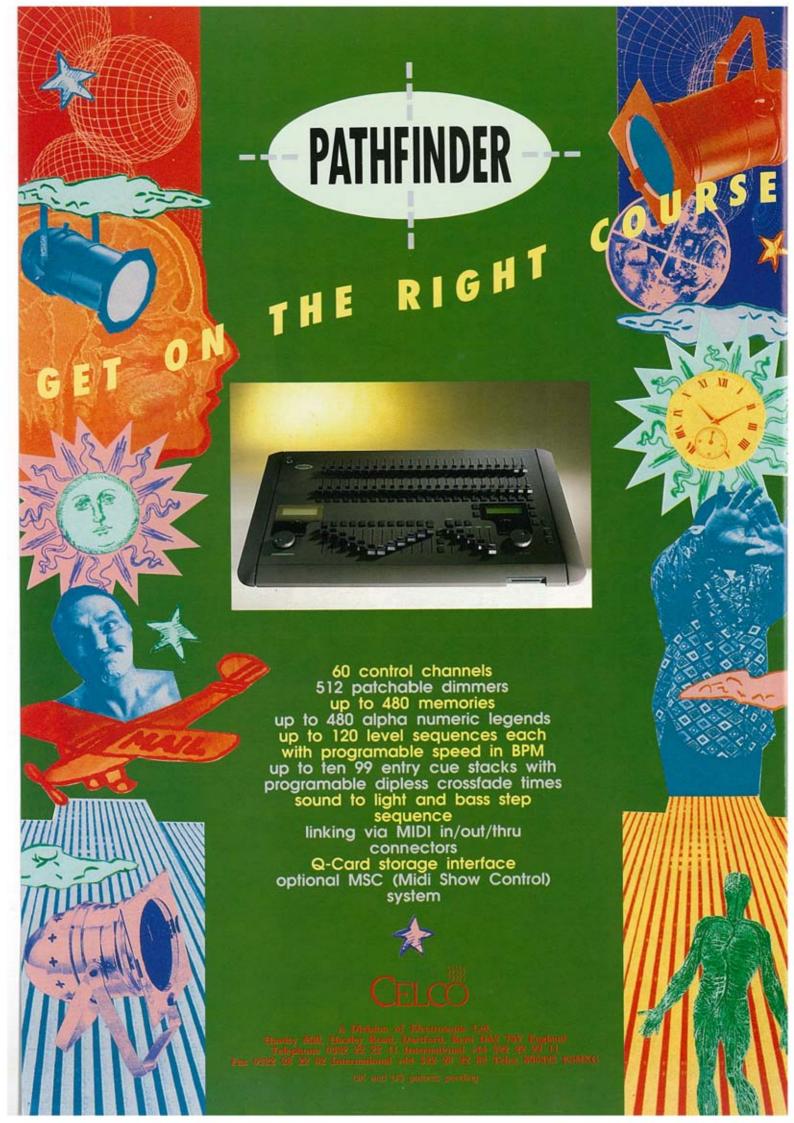
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MARCH 1992

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LIGHTING SOUND News

Brits Going Big

Meteorlites have been contracted to supply the lighting equipment and control for the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics in Barcelona. They'll also provide a lighting rig for the royal enclosure. Lighting design by Marc Brickman.

Two majors recently announced by **Britannia**Row include Turbosound Flashlight sound systems
for the Eurovision Song Contest at Malmo in
Sweden (May 9th) where a five stage set-up has to
be accommodated, and for a tour of The Cure in
North America which commences in May and runs
through to the end of the year.

Latest list of 'biggies' being looked after by the Samuelson Group of companies includes the major Freddie Mercury Tribute due to take place at Wembley Stadium on April 20th. A truly massive rig will draw on the combined resources of Samuelson Concert Productions, Vari-Lite and Theatre Projects. Stars lined up include Elton John, Rod Stewart, Madonna, George Michael et al. Vari*Lites will also be involved in the Olympic ceremonies mentioned earlier where 36 VL2Bs and 50 VL4s will be employed, and at the opening of EuroDisney in early April.

Light & Sound Design have a string of tours on the go that you've already heard about in these pages including Dire Straits, Bryan Adams, Eric Clapton, Guns 'n' Roses and Simply Red. Just starting to tour in the States are U2, and Prince is currently in rehearsal. Apart from the fact that they've just opened their new 70,000sq.ft manufacturing facility in Birmingham, Simon Austin of LSD warned that an announcement was imminent on the 'biggest jobs we've ever done'.

Samuelson Stage Brilliant Move

The lighting and sound division of Samuelson Group is to form a new company, Brilliant Stages, which will be headed by Charlie Kail. Working closely with Samuelson Concert Productions the new business will provide custom fabrication to support and enhance the conventional lighting aspects of the company.

Roger Dix, MD of the division told L+SI: "I'm pleased to add the name of Brilliant Stages to those of Samuelson Concert Productions, Vari-Lite Europe, Theatre Projects and Samuelson Communications. I believe we now have a good combination of talent, expertise and resources to meet the challenges of our industry in the years to come." Brilliant Stages will commence operations this month at the Division's Greenford base.

Musical Chairs at Siel

Partly due to the collapse of Ever-Radio France last year, there were a large number of changes in distribution arrangements in that country announced at the SIEL show which took place in February at the Parc des Expositions in Paris.

As Coemar confirmed Collyns as their outlet, in a volte face High End and Lightwave Research abandoned Highlight Systems and appointed their existing Swiss agent LSE to take on France as well. In a connected move, FAL and Collyns separated, to avoid internal competition with Coemar's product range, and FAL moved to Celestion. FAL are virtually Coemar's next door neighbours at Castel Coffredo.

Optikinetics, who were also unrepresented as the result of the Ever failure, decided to appoint Dominique Belot, who previously worked for their ex-distributors, to cover the territory on their behalf selling both lighting and Trilite products. Radio Violette continue to sell Optikinetics, High End and Coemar products in Belgium from their headquarters in Brussels.

The full story of this year's SIEL, which seems to have been the most successful yet, starts on page 21 of this issue.

SIEL Introduction



Cerebrum Lighting's Rod Bartholomeusz (right), currently celebrating his 35th year in the lighting business, had for various reasons over those years missed out on meeting with Hermann Sorger of Vienna-based Ludwig Pani.

L+SI editor John Offord was delighted to be able to effect the necessary introduction at SIEL, Paris last month. (more SIEL pictures and full report on page 21)

Laserpoint in Town



Pictured on the front steps of their new London premises are (left to right) Andy Holmes, Johan and Lucian Hamelinck and Ron Turpie with Sussi Christiansen in foreground. See story page 10 this issue.

New Venue for ABTT

The 1992 ABTT Trade Show will take place at the Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster, London on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd April. As with previous years, the ABTT awards will be presented during the show and nominations are invited for the Product of the Year and Technician of the Year categories.

Stand space is still available, so if you're interested in exhibiting, contact Ethel Langstreth at ABTT in London, telephone 071-434 3901.

Showlight '93

The fourth Showlight international conference, Showlight '93, is scheduled to take place in 1993 in Bradford, England, from the 19th - 21st April.

Based around the twin venues of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television and the adjacent Alhambra Studio Theatre the conference is aimed at lighting designers and associated professionals working in ,or supplying, the performing arts. It provides a forum for discussing both new and established techniques across the wide spectrum of entertainment lighting.





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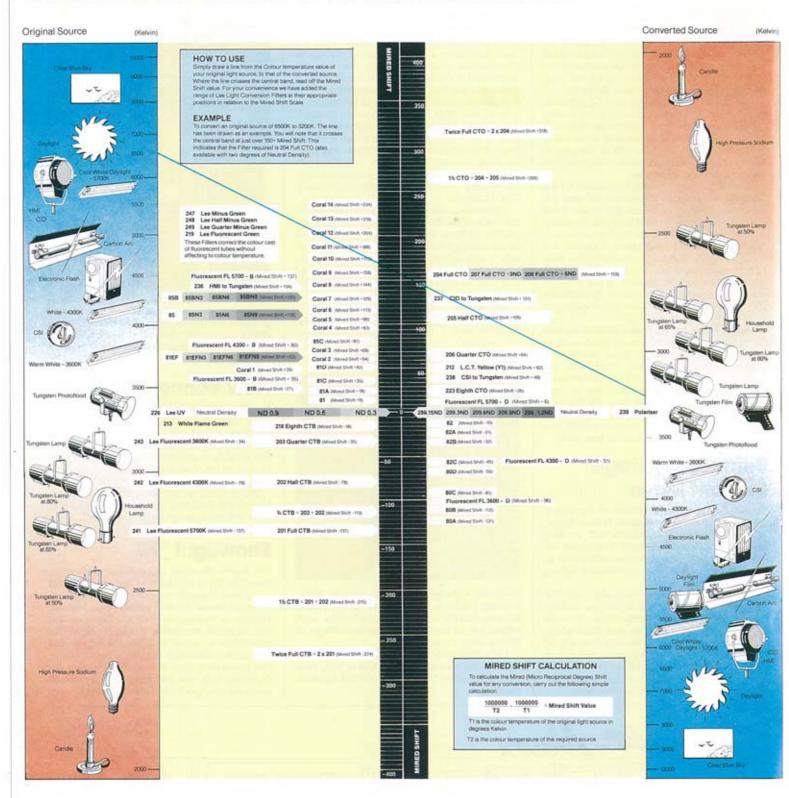


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SIEL PEOPLE (see main feature pages)



Carla Maris of Sylvania (centre) with Mike Lowe and Christiane Staboli of Teatro.



Enigma on show: Rod Bartholomeusz (Cerebrum Lighting) and John MacPhail (ALS) with Jean-Paul Lerat of Business Number One.



Grouped on the Ariane stand: Adrian Brooks (Lite Structures) and Bob Hall (Anytronics) (standing), with Andrew Morris (Mode Electronics) and Didier Lepetz of Axel.



Oliver Verlet (left) and Alain Cornevaux (third from left) of ESL with Mervyn Lister (second left) and Andy Trevett of Doughty Engineering.



Joanne Shapley and Mike Hall of Rosco on the stand of Régiscène.



Christophe Sauvage (left) of Animation Lumineuse with Graham Norman of Light Processor.

UK Venture

Lighting specialists Venture Lighting International have recently established new UK headquarters in Hatch End, north west London. The company specialize in the design and manufacture of metal halide lamps for use in office, retail and leisure

Well-known for their White Lux range of lamp fittings which are intended to replace high pressure sodium lamps, and which are designed to retrofit directly into a 250 or 400 watt sodium fixtures, the company have more recently introduced a new metal halide lamp. This unit features an integral extra safety glass which allows its use in open fittings.

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Wembley in France

After providing sound for many Martin Professional presentations, Wembley Loudspeaker's Paul MacCallum has announced that Martin's French distributors, SLD of Paris, will become his distributor for France.

Rumours Most Strenuously Denied

Rod Bartholomeusz has denied suggestions overheard at SIEI. that he will be handling exclusive world-wide distribution of Pani's 24k 'Uranium' projector currently under development. "It's pure fall-out," he said. "In any event, I hadn't even met Pani's Hermann Sorger until the SIEL show." Rod Bartholomeusz is 95.



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Laserpoint in Town

A new operation has been launched in London under the Laserpoint DJS banner to provide an active 'front of house' facility for the promotion and sale of products and services to production companies, designers and architects, discotheques, show and exhibition promoters and the rest.

Located at No.1 Hardwick Street in EC1, a short walk from Sadler's Wells, lady luck came to hand during the search for premises. The all-steel 3,500sq.ft ground floor venue, complete with designer pipes and valves and numerous bits of metal framing and gadgetry, was just waiting for a company such as Laserpoint looking for something 'a bit different'. Evidently, the previous design company inhabitants didn't beat the recession clock and all their hard work had to be left behind.

So Laserpoint DJS have made excellent use of resident fixtures and fittings and bought in a wide range of equipment to show off.

"The prime reason for opening this London showroom was a direct response to the rental demand for the Pioneer RM-V2000 projection cubes combined with Pixelite Electronics - also the further promotion of laser projection systems for show and exhibitions," explained Sussi Christiansen, marketing director. "Along with the complete projection package, Laserpoint DJS are also promoting their services to production companies where designers can use the in-house facilities. A laser display exhibition is also being created within the complex.

The on-site video projection wall consists of nine Pioneer RM-V2100 projection cubes complete with computer and monitor, Pixelite electronics rack, software and timecode reader. The sound system comprises two Axys speakers, AGM stereo enhancement and a Tascam 16 into 4 mixing console. The video monitor wall consists of nine 28° monitors and the necessary back-up equipment.

Laser equipment consists of two Coherent Purelight 3.5W mixed gas units, fibre optics, scan head effects, blanking units, colour mix units, graphics and animation, MIDI sequencer and tape interface system. An Aquarius is in control. There are a large number of downrange effects and target mirrors including motorised screens. There are two 50 x 60cm white light reflection real image holograms which are changed every month. Laserpoint's latest, a new laser video projector hot from the United States, will be launched from Hardwick Street next month.

To view all this Laserpoint DJS had a launch party on February 13th.



No 1 Hardwick Street.



Launch party-goers: Alan Parker, Tony Panico (left) and Derek Halliday (right) of Meteorlites with Martin Crick of Outback Productions.



Laserpoint duo Sarah Bradford (standing) and Sussi Christiansen.



Lasers and projection in action at the new Laserpoint DJS facility.





Light Relief Power Up Cyfartha Castle in Wales

The exterior lighting of Cyfartha Castle in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, which was the outright winner of this year's 'Lighting up Wales' awards presented by the Electricity Board, was carried out by Light Relief of Cardiff.

Design consultant Mark Satchell has produced a

series of colour washes and highlights of different features of the castle creating different moods which have been worked into a five minute programme of changing light and colour.

Cyfartha Castle is one of many unusual major projects which Light Relief has undertaken throughout Wales, including lighting and sound in the Dan yr Ogof Showcaves complex in the Brecon Beacons, lighting for the 'Dinosaurs from China' exhibition in the National Museum of Cardiff, and lighting for a permanent exhibition 'Power in Wales' in the museum in Linaberis, Snowdonia.

New Distributor, New Company

Compulite R&D Ltd have appointed the Lighting Technology Group as distributor for their products within the UK and other selected European markets. As a result a new division of the Lighting Technology Group, called Compulite GB, has been formed to handle the marketing, sales and servicing of the Compulite product range.

Both companies hope that the distribution of products, such as the Smart, Applause and Ovation lighting control desks, from Lighting Technology's premises in London and Manchester and through their various regional sales offices will help extend the customer base and enable them to provide an extremely high level of product support.

Compulite GB will also play an active part in specifying new products, and developing existing products, alongside Compulite R&D Ltd. The new company is based at 2 Tudor Estate, Abbey Road, Park Royal, London NW10 7UY.

Memotech's new Italian Distributor

Oxon-based Memotech Computers Ltd have appointed Videosel International srl, the sales and marketing division of Italy's largest TV and video manufacturers, as their Italian distributor. The first collaboration between the two companies will come this month at the SIB '92 exhibition in Rimini. Memotech will be displaying their videowall products on the Videosel stand.

Donmar Museum Piece

Donmar has just completed work at the Eureka Children's Museum in Halifax. The installation included Pulsar dimming and control Donmar cordpatch & IWBs and CCT zoom profiles, fresnels and PCs. In addition to this, Electrosonic 20amp unit dimmers with local controls for various low voltage luminaires were installed by the main electrical contractors.



At the Museum of London, Donmar were asked to light the Lord Mayor's Coach. Part of a larger Donmar supply contract to the Museum, the coach is lit by 18 Strand Lighting Quartet PCs on Donmar IWBs suspended on 250kg SWL self-sustaining hand winches. The intensity of the luminaires is controlled by Strand Lighting 20 amp Universal Unidim dimmers installed by Andy Murray, the chief electrician at the museum.

£12 Million Concert Hall for Basingstoke

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has announced plans for a £12m concert hall which promises to become a major focus of artistic entertainment and business activity in the area. The 1400 seat hall designed by architects Renton Howard Wood Levin Partnership, will be adapted to many uses including provision for a full symphony orchestra, cinema, conference facilities, sport, trade launches and a disco.

Cadac J-Type Debut

Opening night for London's newest musical Moby Dick will see the unveiling of a new live console series from Cadac. The 59-channel J-Type used on the production is the first to be commissioned and features flexible output options, programmable routing and the ability to reconfigure modules quickly and easily once in situ.

The J-Type design is a natural progression from Cadac's successful E-Type series, differentiated primarily by its unique frame design, in which modules are fitted with connectors on the rear vertical face and can be placed in any position. Each frame can be configured to hold any combination of modules, up to a maximum of 16 sub groups, providing a 16 x 32 matrix. All inputs, outputs, audio mixing busses and insertion sends/returns are electronically balanced. Cadac have also added the external PC interface into the Central Control module and provided local cue memory storage. (See 'Moby Dick' feature next issue.)

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LIGHTING IN BRIEF

Entec Sound & Light have expanded their range of lighting equipment with a bulk purchase of Clay Paky Goldenscan 2s to add to their hire stock. The Goldenscans are to be used on the lighting systems Entec are supplying to Barclay James Harvest's lighting designer Carol Cooper for the band's 10-week tour of Britain and Europe.

Over 150 papers from 26 countries have been received for the European lighting conference Lux Europa, to be held from 4-7th April 1993 in Edinburgh. The conference, organised by CIBSE, will cover all aspects of lighting, and papers will examine new techniques and applications, presenting the results of the latest research. The venue for Lux Europa is the new purpose-built conference centre at Heriot-Watt University. For further details contact CIBSE in London, telephone 081-675 5211.

Tunnel luminaires and approach road lighting from Siemens Lighting Ltd have been installed in the revolutionary Conwy Tunnel in North Wales. Nearly 4000 luminaires were supplied for the 1km twin-bore tunnel comprising 2600 58W single and twin flourescent luminaires and over 1100 150W, 250W and 400W twin lamp SON fittings. The fittings have end access for easy maintenance of the gear and lamp trays. To save energy and improve visibility it is linked to a computer which provides eight stages of switching according to light levels outside the tunnel. All single tube fluorescent luminaires are fitted with high frequency control gear and are dimmable. Twin lamp units have dual circuits so that lamps can be individually controlled to meet the requirements of the switching system.

Osram are publishing a new journal for specifiers and independent luminaires manufacturers. Each issue will contain details of new product developments, examples of OEM luminaires, a selection of case studies, advice onlighting and an opinion piece from a leading figure on lighting. The magazine is generally available and copies can be obtained from Rob Thomas at Osram, telephone 081-904 4321.

Trafalgar Lighting have increased their line up of hire stock. New additions to the range include Intellabeams, the Celco Navigator, Zero 88 XL control desk, Sirius DMX and demultiplexers.

London-based i-Laser have provided a custom laser and lighting system for Le Chat Bleu nightclub in the Bordeaux region of France. VSI Clublife of Croydon were brought in as sub-contractors for the lighting installation with main effects provided by Fal - Blowstars, Crocodiles, and a Sapro Rainbow. Control is provided exclusively by Light Processor equipment. i-Laser installed an Image Synth V.2e laser system with six watts of blue, green and cyan laser power. i-Laser have also been hard at it at Richard Branson's Heaven nightclub where they have also supplied an Image Synth custom laser system.

Goodbye old Friend?

It seems the future of an old industry favourite may be in question. The 15 amp round-pin plug and socket has been the standard theatrical connector for about 40 years, but in the next few months this could all change, if MK Duraplug decide to call it a day.

MK bought out Duraplug 18 months ago, leaving only themselves and Permaplug as the two major suppliers of 15 amp plugs. Following the buyout MK ceased production of 5 amp plugs which are now only available through Permaplug. More recently, several PLASA members report having difficulties getting hold of the MK843 socket connector, which MK have now confirmed is no longer being manufactured.

Speculation is now rife that MK will pull the plug on the 15 amp too as the market for it is relatively small. It seems that this is not the first time such a move has been considered. The manufacturers have tried before to kill off the 15 amp, but were forced to keep it in the catalogue under lobby pressure from the theatres.

More recently it has been noted that the HSE are taking a very close look at safety standards within theatres. The feeling is that they will soon implement recommendations which will make the 13 amp, which has shrouded pins where the 15 amp doesn't, the industry standard.

This would prove an unpopular move, if it were to happen, as the 13 amp contains a fuse, and people want connectors without fuses as they are easier to maintain. Peter Coleman of Midland Theatre Services, who manufacture equipment that uses the 15 amp told L+SI: "The industry should take the initiative and approach HSE to recommend CEEFORM as the industry standard. PLASA now has an opportunity to decide on the direction we take." CEEFORM is a relatively cheap multi-source family of connectors and has already been adopted by the television and broadcast industries, and would seem the more acceptable alternative.

Change for M & M

M & M Lighting and Camelont London have moved to larger premises in the heart of London's Camden Lock. The new premises give the two companies more than four times the amount of floor space, allowing warehousing on site, so all product including Rainbow Colour Changers, Smoke Factory fog machines and Selecon Lighting is now available for immediate delivery. The move also gives both companies showroom space so that viewing of the products can be easily arranged.

M & M can be reached at Unit 2, Cameron House, 12 Castlehaven Road, London NW1 8QW, telephone 071-284 2504.

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PEOPLE

Phil Pell of Celestion International has been promoted from the role of UK sales manager for the SR Line only to sales manager for all professional products including chassis business.

Catherine Harrower has joined M & M Lighting and has taken on the day-to-day client contact, with particular emphasis on the Selecon Lighting and Smoke Factory product ranges. Catherine was previously deputy chief electrician at the Shaftesbury Theatre and prior to that was hire manager at Avolites.





Catherine Harrower.

The Autograph group of companies has announced the departure of David Solari from his position as managing director of Autograph Sales. He was instrumental in establishing Meyer Sound within the UK and Europe and having completed the hand-over and transition arrangements of their Meyer-related European business, he will be moving on to pursue other projects.

Graham Paddon has now joined the board of Autograph Sales as sales director. He joined Autograph four years ago as sales manager, but has undertaken the role of European sales manager for the last two years.

Turbosound have announced that Tony Andrews and John Newsham have resigned as directors of the company and will now act as

independent consultants to the company. Their new consulting group will work closely with Turbosound and will continue to supply the

necessary technical support.

US-based Hoffend & Sons inc have appointed Bill Liento as vice-president of sales and marketing. He has previously worked as senior vice president of Colortran where he headed sales and marketing. Prior to that he had been executive vice-president at Strand Lighting.

Neve Electronics have appointed David Franklin to the position of European sales engineer. Working alongside Roger Clemo, sales manager Europe, Franklin's territories include Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Holland and Greece. He moves to sales from R & D, where he was involved in digital research. Previously he worked in digital systems design for Marconi.

Mitchell Moves On

Colin Mitchell has left the Juliana's Group, where he had been responsible for co-ordinating projects in Tokyo and elsewhere in the Far East to take up a new post as technical manager with Light and Sound Image in Singapore.

LSI are distributors and installers of audio visual and specialist lighting equipment, representing Electrosonic and Celco amongst others. Mitchell gained considerable experience of the videowall business when, prior to returning to Juliana's for whom he had previously worked, he was responsible for marketing at Memotech.

At LSI he will take on the design and project management of contracts throughout the Pacific

Festival Lights

Clay Paky has been chosen to supply the lighting for this year's San Remo Festival. Futura Luce, the company responsible for stage lighting at the festival will utilize 34 intelligent SuperScan projectors to create the special effects required. Clay Paky have also been involved in a number of other projects including the Eurofestival, Fantastico, Domenica In and Non e la RAI.

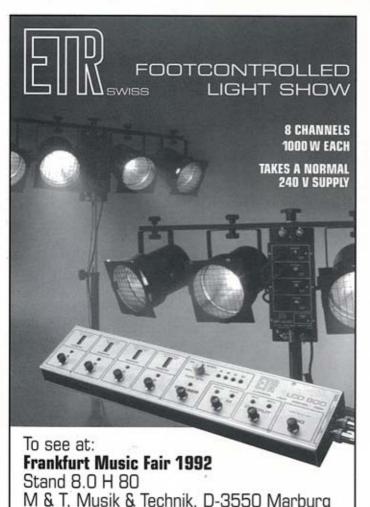
Buzz at the Station

The opening of a new nightclub on the site of the old Liverpool bus garage, marks the third such venture for local entrepreneur John Fallows, whose previous clubs are now part of the European Leisure estate. Partly as the result of a scouse in-joke, the place is to be called 'Buzz'.

As with previous Fallow's verntures, the interior design was by Graham Fields of Bulldog Design and lighting and sound by Hi-Tec of Liverpool, for whom the club is the first major project since shaking off earlier commercial difficulties and starting afresh. The site, close to the Adelphi Hotel and Lime Street Station, will eventually incorporate a conference/function centre and a hotel. Mike Boylan of Hi-Tec, who was responsible for the sound design, opted for a 'wall of sound' principle with all the dance floor speakers, mainly ElectroVoice, in a single stack and acoustically coupled. Hi-Tec's Paul Davis, told L+SI: "We were asked to engineer a high-powered music system focused on the dance floor. We chose the point-source approach to optimise the low end coupling characteristics, while maintaining even high frequency and minimising phase cancellation." The dance area lighting which, among other items, features Clay Paky Miniscans and Lynx Synchro Pins on a largely static three dimensional frame with a single, central, Lynx Elevator carrying a WB Lighting Tango, is controlled by a Pulsar Masterpiece.

SCIF Initiative

At the Annual General Meeting of the Sound & Communication Industries Federation (SCIF), the new Chairman Peter Barnett announced the Federation's intention to proceed with Project '92. The project encompasses the introduction of an Approved Installers Scheme, the publication of a Product and Services Directory, technical standards, training, and seminars. Further details are available from SCIF, telephone (0628) 667633.



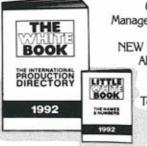
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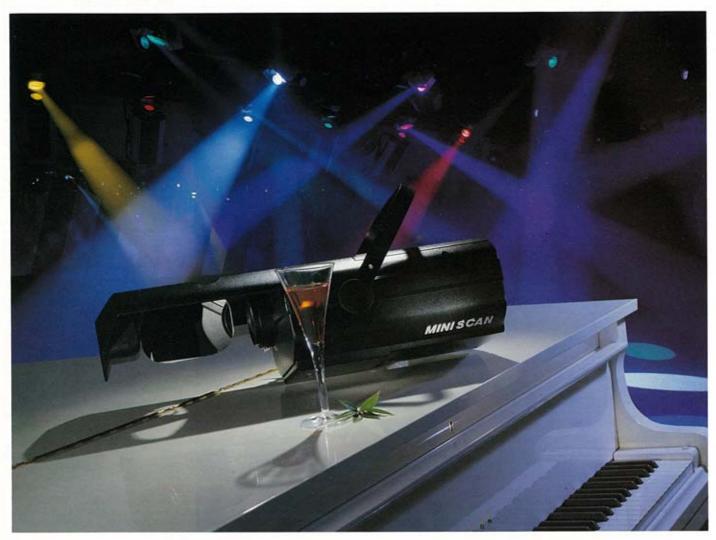


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MINI SCAN is mini only in its dimensions: in reality is a giant of technology.

SOUND IN BRIEF

Marquee Audio has now expanded its activities to include the manufacture of custom flight cases, having purchased the assets and stock of Wearhard case company. Marquee has doubled the size of its Shepperton headquarters to both accommodate the new venture and to extend the technical manufacturing capabilities. In addition to flight cases, the company is now also building complete pre-wired systems and multicores.

Mersey Television has recently purchased an EMO GEQ60 stereo 30 band graphic equaliser for use in the 'Brookside' programme's dubbing studio.

Orbital Acoustics, the London-based theatre and conference sound rental company is currently involved in two very different projects. On one hand, the company are supplying a small system for the UK tour of 'Straight and Narrow' starring Nicholas Lyndhurst, and on the other they are supplying no less than 19 Micron diversity radio mic units, and a 40 input Midas XL3 (pictured below) console for Sainsbury's 1992 management conference in Birmingham.



Sound reinforcement company Dimension Audio has recently installed a 'unique' multi-play CD system in London's much talked about Ark office complex. Prospective tenants arriving to view the building, activate the remote-controlled system, which fills the air with orchestral music, giving the impression of a full concert orchestra performing on the sixth floor, and leaves visitors non-plussed as to

Birmingham-based PA company SSE has become the first in the UK to commit to TC Electronic's 1128 programmable graphic EQ for system equalisation, part of a major move by the company to add total recall control to its touring rig.

The system's first use is on the current Simply Red tour using ElectroVoice MT4 and a small amount of MT2 for nearfield. The system is semi-distributed with five loudspeaker stations to enhance coverage.

An electro-acoustic system installed at St Albans Arena Theatre has won major acclaim for SIAP Ltd of London in the Toa/S&CS Golden Ear Awards for 1992. Sponsored by Toa the aim of the award scheme is to acknowledge and promote standards within the sound industry.



Michael Holden (far left), managing director of SIAP, a finalist in the Toa/S&CS Golden Ear Awards 1992. He is pictured with Harry Greenaway (centre), managing director of public address manufacturer Toa and Kevin Hilton, the editor of Sound & Communication Systems magazine.

Encore installed the full house sound reinforcement system into the newly-opened Grand, Clapham, featured in January's Lighting and Sound International. The installation consists of a Martin Audio F2 system coupled with a Midas XL3 and system control and effects.

Dartington College of Arts in Devon has installed five Tannoy Monitor Series loudspeakers in its listening rooms. The rooms are teaching areas for the college's BA degree in music. Three Tannoy System 2 NFMs and two System 8 NFMs have been bought from Tannoy dealer KGM. At the other end of the UK (well nearly) 100 Tannoy CPA 5 speakers are currently being installed into Glasgow Airport as part of its extension programme.

Sennheiser is the first, and according to the company, only manufacturer to date to produce DTI approved equipment for use on the new Channel 69 radio mic frequencies. Channel 69 was introduced in January to replace the old Channel 35 which is being given over to the new Channel 5 television station, the advantage being that the new channel has far more frequencies available.

Clive Green & Co have announced the completion of the latest Cadac 'E'-type console for the Tokyo production of Miss Saigon due to open in May of this year. Comprising 70 input channels, the desk is specified in accordance with the US version of the show, with sound design by Andrew Bruce of Autograph Recording.

French speaker system manufacturer Nexo will be showing several new products at the forthcoming AES in Vienna. In contrast to last year's new products, the TS2400 touring system and L-Sub ranges, this year's launches feature high-powered smaller cabinets, which will feature alongside Nexo's complete range of products.

The new musical Crazy for You, which recently opened at the Schubert Theatre on Broadway is the first US production to harness two Out Board Electronics SS1 theatre sound automation systems running in tandem.

The SS1 was specified by leading sound designer Otts Munderloh, and is similar to that used on the Broadway production of Miss Saigon.

Audio Technica (pictured below) have moved to new headquarters in Leeds. The new site offers almost double the warehousing space, and room for further expansion. During the summer the company will be building a professional showroom, designed to showcase the full range of pro-products. In a concurrent move, Audio Technica announced their decision to end all hi-fi sales through wholesalers. All business will be handled by AT's direct sales team and product specialists.



Neve Electronics have relocated their headquarters to a brand new purpose-built facility in Litlington, five miles from the current office complex in Melbourn, near Royston. Located on a three acre site, the new 4,500 sq.m premises have enabled Neve to centralise its operation by bringing R&D back under the same roof as sales and marketing. A major feature of the new Litlington facility is Neve's own purpose-built state-of-the-art recording studio, to be used for both training and demonstration purposes.

Wigwam Acoustics Ltd have won the contract for a sound reinforcement installation at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The new system, designed by Wigwam's Mike Spratt, consists of four Meyer Sound UPA-1Bs, two Meyer MSL-3s, Meyer sound processors and Crest Audio power amplifiers. This will complement the existing sound

system which will eventually be replaced by an all Meyer system in the near future.

Aberdeen-based Northsound Radio have recently purchased a British-designed and manufactured 3G Unit 8 Series mixing desk for outside broadcast duties. The system supplied by UK distributor HW International is a 24-8-2 configuration, and has already been used for OB's from Aberdeen's Music Hall.

Saffron Walden-based company Envotech are installing a new sound system into the George Canning, a live music venue in south London. The system comprises of a Toa process professional sound system with a Tascam M216 mixer. The system is a permanent installation for visiting bands to use.

MSL are launching a major promotion of the SM150 mixer directed at the 'bedroom mixer' market. The promotion kicks off with a competition in DJ magazine which is aimed directly at the mixer DJ. MSL are putting up prizes to the value of £1500 and are planning to follow up the competition with a series of 'mixing' events at their north London showrooms. The company are busy on the competition front and are also running a joint promotion of the Martin Junior 700 Fog machine. Away from all the promtions and competitions, the company has recently been appointed pro-dealer for Denon.

Soundcraft consoles are finding new homes all the time, most recently in Studio Luca in Slovenia, where the TS12 model is being put through its paces. BBC Northern Ireland has bought a 24 input Delta monitor from Belfast-based Soundcraft dealer Sound Control. The Delta monitor is part of a complete stage monitoring system for its new Studio A complex based at Blackstaff in Belfast.

VDC At Work

VDC Trading the central London-based audio and video cabling company have recently secured the contract to supply Channel 4 Television with pre-wired audio patchfields for their transmission room re-vamp.

The company have also completed an external patchbay for Soundcraft Electronics' top of the range 3200 console. Consisting of 11 1U 96-way bantam patchbays to accommodate all the facilities of the 48 channel desk, all 1056 balanced lines are accessed through 54 90-way chassis-mounted EDACs connected to the desk by EDAC to EDAC

Aside from all this the company have also just completed a £.25m installation at The Garage Arts & Media Centre under the auspices of Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council. Using three 24channel TAC Scorpion consoles, full audio and video link-up was provided between the 24 track recording studio and the live auditorium's 8.5kW

Discoscene Grows

The second annual Discoscene Wales & West is to take place at the Hilton National Hotel in Newport, Gwent, on Sunday 8th March. It is the first in a line-up of regional Discoscene events that will take place throughout the summer and autumn. Traditionally the shows have had a bias towards the mobile disco market, but to reflect the expansion of the industry, Terry Lees, organiser of the shows, has broadened the scope of the exhibitions.

The autumn Midlands exhibition in Birmingham attracts exhibitors from the club installation, mobile and theatrical supplies sectors. A special feature of the day will be a showcase of live disco/cabaret acts giving club managers a chance to see artistes in a

working environment.

Other dates in the Discoscene season are Sunday 12th April, Discoscene East in Cambridge, and Sunday 17th May, Discoscene North in Manchester. Details of the Birmingham exhibition will be available soon.

For further information on these exhibitions contact Terry Lees in Birmingham on, 021-707 1925.

AVOLITES LTD PRODUCT PROFILE DATA

The D-30 Dimming Systems

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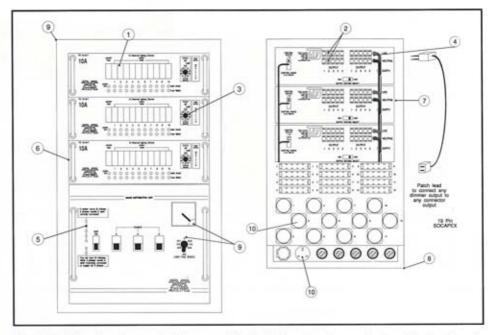
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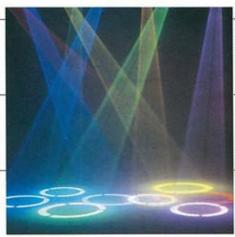








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Get Legal

At the moment if you're using radio mics you are more than likely to be illegal . . . that's the word from the DTI's Radio Investigation Service. Under pressure from manufacturers who have spent much time and money ensuring that their radio equipment meets regulatory standards, the DIT is about to clamp down on the widespread use of non-approved equipment, still being sold in music stores.

Whilst not wishing to give details of any campaigns about to be faunched the DTI commented that "radio microphones are a problem area that has come to our attention," and they draw a parallel with last year's campaign on car radio alarm systems, where much of the equipment being sold was unapproved.

Whilst many groups currently operate radio equipment on the deregulated VHF channels, the equipment still has to be DTI approved and issued with a Type Approval Number. So check before you buy!

Leisure Group Blues

Further signs of the continuing gloom, and the impact of high interest rates, emerged recently with the announcement that European Leisure PLC would not be paying dividends on their Convertible Cumulative Preference Shares in 1992. Payments are due in April and October and the company state that they will not be resumed until, and only if, the Group experiences a sustained period of recovery and bank borrowings are reduced by disposals.

Lightwave gets the call from Detroit

Despite the serious impact of the recession on the automobile market world-wide, Chrysler seem determined to complete an ambitious project to create an R&D centre whose singular goal is to be the finest such facility in the world.

The Chrysler Technology Centre is a 3.3m sq. four storey structure of granite, glass, steel and concrete situated on a 504 acre site, 30 miles north of Detroit. At the hub of this complex is a circular show space 44 metres across, below a perforated aluminium dome, which will be used to display vehicles for evaluation of their design and styling, and for demonstration purposes.

The dome itself had to be capable of totally concealing all the luminaires, in order to provide what is described as a 'horizonless' backdrop for the viewing and photographing of automobiles and for evaluating prototype finishes and surfaces. The job of solving the illumination problems in order to achieve as 'real' a result as possible by artificial means, no easy task with the spectacular and highly reflective nature of metal body finishes, went to lighting design consultancy Illuminart of Mississippi.

When it came to the production, supply and control of the 85 customized, colour and opticallycorrected 'smart' spotlights, which they had specified for the purpose, together with the technology to achieve mechanized porthole covers in the dome behind which the lights would be concealed, Illuminart turned to Lightwave Research of Texas who were able to plunder the expertise gained in the devlopment of Intellabeam for solutions. The units had to be installed above the skin of the dome, had to eliminate any spurious light spill and the fixtures had to be silent. The room is acoustically designed to minimize resonance. Several defined colour correcting dichroic filters were developed for the project and produced in Lightwave's in-house vacuum coating plant, to emulate various artificial and daylight conditions. Remote focus of the units allows for control of beam definition from hard to soft edge and the broad range of projection distances, from 7 to 20 metres, necessitates a luminaire with precise focus and dimming capabilities. The project is being co-ordinated at Lightwave by John McDowell, and a full report will appear in a future issue.

Coemar's Dedoro Talks Back

It has been Coemar's policy not to respond to controversial issues. However now, in a frank and wide-ranging interview with Tony Gottelier, Bruno Dedoro speaks his mind.

With the entire market in considerable turmoil, as the result of the continuing downturn in business, a situation from which no one is exempt, it was a poignant moment for Bruno Dedoro, ebullient Capo di Coemar, to speak out.

On the question of grey importing Dedoro was adamanant. "I can assure you that Coemar have never sold a single item to any English customer directly, but only through WB Lighting. We are therefore not guilty and no one can justify accusing us of having done so. What I would say, however, is that it is up to the distributor, in this case WB to take appropriate action to defend himself against any such unauthorized imports. Keep in mind that he buys our products at the very lowest price and so he has all the weapons he needs to defend himself in such a circumstance."

I am sure that he could have been equally forthright in his response to a question about the change of distribution in France, but preferred instead to disregard what he describes as "useless polemics" and "not waste any more of my precious time on this particular matter." It was sufficient he said for him to say how pleased he is with his new arrangements with Collyns and to look forward from there.

He was equally reticent about the question of parallel importation via his associate TAS, pointing out that WB are also the sole agency for these products. This is still a conundrum for UK companies who find the sleight of a change of name on similar or identical products, though sometimes aimed at different market sectors, hard to swallow. However this seems endemic in continental Europe.

Snr Dedoro confirmed that, in the light of market restrictions, trading conditions between Coemar and its outlets will be toughened-up but otherwise it will be business as usual in 1992. "Our new policy is to have one Coemar distributor only in each country and they will be expected to operate a serious commercial policy, to provide excellent back-up service and to pay their bills on time. Should they fail to satisfy any one of these requirements we will dismiss them and appoint another in their place." Tough talk.



Bruno Dedoro.

At SIB in Rimini, Coemar will show two versions of the Microscan, their compact articulate projector, one with a 650W halogen source and the other a 400MSR lamp. The Samurai, for which there have been some delays with the control electronics, should also be ready but with Italian software. This seems quite a calm and considered approach for Coemar who usually show off a lot of new product at the show. "What is more important right now is having the right products as the right price," Dedoro emphasized. "But we will be making a splash with some dynamic new products at the PLASA Show in the Autumn."

Finally, I asked about the situation with Teatro, the theatrical arm which had undergone something of a change since Mike Lowe acquired all the shares in that company. "Never before have we had such a good relationship or such close cooperation between the two companies and between Mike and myself. I am convinced that this happy situation will continue for many years to come."

Translations and diplomatic interpretations for this interview were provided by Ivano Burato, Coemar's ever-patient international sales executive whose delight in continually exploring the vagaries of the English language is a source of pleasure and admiration throughout the industry.

As I complete this report I cannot help feeling that this will not be the last occasion that a touch of controversy surrounds Coemar and its ambitious president, Bruno Dedoro. Watch this space.

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SIEL OF THE CENTURY OR SIEL DU SIECLE

John Offord and Tony Gottelier report from the Porte de Versailles where the French show celebrated its tenth year.

With no sign of a lift in the recessionary gloom a surprising number of international people headed for the SIEL Show in Paris this year. More on a wing and a prayer it would seem, than the appearance of any solid encouraging evidence to the contrary, nevertheless it appears that few of them lived to regret their straw-clutching decision.

SIEL is a show which in the past has always been as idiosyncratic in its Frenchness as boules, berets and baguettes, and considered, by many as largely parochial in its market position. Suddenly, this year, it became the place to be for visitors and exhibitors alike. Of course, all the quirky 'French' sideshows and jokey bits were there as ever, but so was a spirit of serious intent despite the fact that the market in France is as flat as a galette in common with the UK. It was as if the world of entertainment technology woke up on Saturday 15th of February and said, as one: "To hell with this, let's go to Paris tomorrow and make things happen!" And there were certainly enough changes in distribution arrangements alone, between this year and last, to keep everybody on their toes.

As one stalwart of the exhibition circuit commented: "We were talked into this recessionary spiral by the national media and others, and now we must bloody well talk ourselves out of it before it drowns us all!" Hooray to that.

What was really extraordinary was that most exhibitors had booked their stands with the original intention of showing the flag in the French market, or possibly as their first chance of unveiling some new product for '92. On evidence of the previous year they were not really expecting great tangible results. Yet, there you go, many of the people we talked to were amazed and delighted with the actual orders written at SIEL, as can be seen from the brief round-up below.

Whether we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel at last, or just the light show at the end of the 'toonelle' (as she is spoken) is quite another matter. What is certainly true is that we are all dependent on a few brave entrepreneurs, until the punter on the street cries "enough!", or even "ca suffit", and starts to spend again. A grim insight, into what passes as the real-world in these days, was given by a passing executive from one of the quoted leisure companies, who told us, with only a degree of levity, that whenever anyone spent 60 Francs (circa six quid



SIEL 92: the shapes of Stacco.

in your pocket) buying him a round of drinks, he was struck by the thought that the same sum would now buy more than 60 shares in his employer's multi-unit operation. So it's the investing punter too that's sought.

However, in the same area also there was a whiff of hope during SIEL, when it was announced in London's Tuesday city pages that Nick Irens, presently financial director of First and previously in the same position at Juliana's in its glory days, was to resign to set up his own leisure company with a partner. While this may not immediately seem like a cause for celebration, certainly not for the company themselves, anyone who has come into contact with Nick over the years will know just how astute the man is. If anybody knows when to jump, or when to reach for the lifebelt, it's Nick. If he says this is a good time to start a major new leisure enterprise, I would rely on his judgement every time in preference to testing the texture of the proverbial seaweed, which is about all else we can do at present.

First out of the hat by virtue of the alphabet, are A C Lighting. Consolidating their sales effort into Europe, Peter Searles (projects manager) and Nic Tolkein (sales director) had a very busy four days on stand in Paris. Equipment and companies on show included Jands lighting control systems (Event and ESP boards) plus dimmers and the E21COM intercom system, Commando stands, Vision luminaires, the Pro Colour filter range and Summa Technologies' fully automated luminaires. "It was an excellent show for us," commented Nic Tolkein, "and the contacts made were excellent, giving us the chance to expose our products to an ever-wider audience."

Any journalist looking for the quiet life shouldn't put ADB on his shopping list. Christian Leonard, group vice-president, and Michel Musso, marketing consultant, had such a massive batch of new equipment and product enhancements to explain that a feature article would have been the best device to portray the extent of output from Zaventem these days. The company boasted a 30 per cent growth in 1991, and they seem to want to beat that for 1992.

First on their list was Eurodim/2, the second generation of 180 and 225kW digital dimming systems. These have a new central processor, enhanced performance and diagnostic capability built-in. Europack also moves on to its second generation with a host of options and enhancements, and far too many to list fully here. Bolero/12 and 24 are two new manual effects lighting control desks designed to replace the SM22 and SM26 desks, thousands of which have been sold over the years. They come with 12 (or 24) pre-defined effect patterns and many other features and outputs are DMX512 or optional 0/10v and 370 uA analogue.

Next comes Tango. These two new manual/memory lighting control desks will be available in 12/24 and 24/48 channel versions with 1 or 2 software configurable presets. In addition to features and capabilities of the Bolero desks, Tango 24/48 will offer nine banks of 99 memories each plus five insert memories between each of the 99 memories, direct access for memory modification, nine programmable chasers with 99 steps each, a softpatch up to 96 dimmers, a manually or timed operated cross-fade submaster, memory and library storage, comprehensive LCD display, etc, etc.

There's a lot more. ADB-Demux 24/48/60 is a brand new range of three demultiplexers in 19° x 2u racks and able to convert DMX512 or AVAB digital signals into a series of 0/+ 10v or 370 uA analogue signals on Socapex or DB25 connectors. Front plate controls allow the addressing of any channel between 1 and 512,



Celco's Keith Dale explains Navigator - in French?



French format: the Masterpiece Screen Driver from Pulsar.



Strand Lighting: global development.

the programming of 10 lighting curves, the creation of a lighting cue and the testing of each circuit. ADB-Mux 120 is a new multiplexer (1u), able to convert up to 120 0/+ 10v analogue channels into a digital DMX512 signal.

Finally, and in brief, there was Data Booster, Multipro and Gelbus. Data Booster is a new line amplifier which will find its application whenever data line exceeds 250m or is split in a T junction. Multipro is a universal protocol converter and mixer in a 19th x 2u rack allowing the conversion of any one or two of six digital and analogue multiplexed protocols into any of the others. Shown briefly at PLASA last year, Gelbus, ADB's own colour changer, is now in full production. It can scroll between two and 21 colours at three different speeds: 0.2, 0.5 or 1 second per colour. According to Michel Musso it has already found its way into several theatres, particularly in Germany.

Meanwhile, French company Ariane, who we see at most international shows, were busily promoting two products with evocative American names. California is a neatly packaged, sound activated double scanner incorporating two ENH250W lamps and six dichroic colours. The other, Hawaii, is a waggling mirror centre piece which uses stepper motors and MSR400W lamps, with five dichroics and five gobos to simulate the presence of several articulate projectors.

Up, running, in full production, and with alarmingly high order books, CCT Lighting had their complete luminaire range on view. Don Hindle and David Manners were taking orders on stand, and had nothing but praise for this year's show, which they considered a great deal more 'active' than in previous years. The next



Solar 575 projection from Optikinetics.

product enhancements from CCT can be expected at the PLASA Light and Sound Show at London in September.

Celco, represented by their new distributor CAW Sonoss, were also having a good show. Confirming a higher level of response over last year, Keith Dale and Colin Whittaker were keen to praise Sonoss' efforts on the marketing front and the way they had approached customers prior to SIEL to let them know what was going down. This had resulted in a high level of interest in Navigator. Sonoss are also the distributor for Thomas in France, so they are also an ideal outfit for Celco.

We spent some time talking to Bruno Dedoro of Coemar, via his affable and ever diplomatic international sales manager Ivano Burato, and that wide ranging conversation is reported more fully elsewhere in this issue. Specifically with regard to SIEL, Dedoro confirmed that they had not come to Paris with high hopes but mainly to launch the Microscan in France and he would be doing the same, perhaps surprisingly, at SIB this year. "We do plan a big push and exciting new product for uplift in market expectations, Dedoro told us. However, his enthusiasm for new distributor Collyns, gained in an emotively charged back-to-back swap with High End Systems last year, was tempered somewhat by setbacks with the introduction of the first Samurai, on which much future hope is pinned. A Samurai without guts would not be an appropriate reflection of the original Chinese warriors after whom the, eventually, articulate luminaires were named, so a speed-up with the development at the Coemar end has had to be found posta hasta.

Bruno Dedoro adds that it's tough out there.



Full house - the Lighting Technology emporium.

"But unlike some people who, as we say in Italy, will drop their trousers and expose themselves completely in such circumstances, we prefer to pull in our belts and hold tight," he said. "We are restricting credit and concentrating on producing the right product at the right price. For Coemar that is the way out of this difficult time."

At Collyns themselves, who incidentally must have the most appropriate address in the industry at Avenue des Freres Lumiere, we talked to their marketing manager Patrice Vandenbussche, in search of an insight into the stage of the market in France. This is a company of which we don't hear much in the UK these days, that is since their last great innovative product, the much emulated Raflaflash. Confirming that the French market is still threadbare, M. Vandenbussche told us. "Although we have been amazed at the response at SIEL, we are really here for prestige reasons and to ensure that we keep up last year's sales figures at least," he said. "This is the most important show in the French market so we have to be seen to be here and, of course, we welcome the opportunity to show off our new association with Coemar which will be very important to us."

He also spoke about several new Collyns control products. There are two new 'Compulite' controllers suitable for both generic and moving light control, not to be confused with a product of the same name and same definition from Crystal Equipment, exhibited elsewhere in the same hall, about which more below. The Collyns 'Compulite' S240 is a 19° rack mounting, 240 channel controller with accessible controls and a joystick. It outputs 192



ADB - a range of new and enhanced products.



Pariscene - the route into France for Teatro, Arri and Chris James.



The united colours of Clay Paky and Pulsar (CP&P).



The Robert Juliat display included AVAB equipment.



Wybron Scrollers - a Paris view.

channels of AMX192 and 48 zero-to-ten analogs provides many facilities pre-programming and memory states and comes with a monochrome monitor. 'Compulite Micro' is simply a Collyns-branded version of the basic Daslight, the Amiga-based control system also exhibited by the manufacturers in its 'Gold' version. Collyns offer two versions: the M22 'Junior' which is 0-10v only offering 16 dimmable channels and six non-dims, and the M54 which provides 48 DMX512 channels and six analogs. Both can be boosted by ten extra channels via 19" rack add-on. The mysteries of unravelling AMX and DMX are resolved via low cost eight channel demuxing receiver cards, which can be resident in the dimmer packs or wherever. These have been realised without the use of microprocessors which, they say, explains prices as low as £35 and £52.50 respectively. Collyns have also released a simple, but programmable, slimline, four channel controller called 'Master TL4'.

To add to the ever-changing jigsaw puzzle of international interconnections, Collyns no longer distribute FAL, who have now moved to Celestion France. For their debut with Celestion the Italian company constructed a 10 x 12 x 6m



Ryger Electronics from the UK.

stand entirely from standard Trilite, no mean feat this, and announced one new product and two enhancements to existing effects luminaires. Nouveau is the 'Wizard' which is a new twist on the RoboZap 'mirrorball-in-a-box' concept with the colour provided by the mirrors. A tunnel version of the static 'Scorpion', generating eight coned beams, is now available thanks to a new mystery 800W lamp developed for the purpose. The 'Super Cleverscan' (Yuk!) launched at Pro Asia, from whence the name was presumably borrowed, has since acquired some cute dichroic colour effects. Concentric circles of colour are achieved by twin overlayed filters looks great behind a gobo. This 575HMI contender for the Golden Scan, Intellabeam, Roboscan, Samurai, 'smart' projector market will be upgraded for the Rimini SIB show with microstepping, and a Junior version will be launched contra Mini and Microscan. As usual, the FAL show was run by Paul Dodds who, we were sad to hear, is soon to end his full-time involvement with Avitec.

The aforementioned Crystal Equipment introduced two boards designed specifically to make life easier for LDs using those same 'smart' projectors, provided they receive USITT standard data. The MLC-24 and MLC-48 will



Projections from Hardware Xenon.

provide control and programming of 192 and 384 signal channels respectively, for such luminaires, plus 48 analogs. Aside from the memory and recall capabilities, which are similar to a more conventional memory desk, programming is made simple by the provision of a tracker ball and eight digital wheels to replace the more usual linear faders, such antique technology having proved itself entirely unequal to the task.

The French distribution company DCI were demonstrating Oxtron's new programmable digital sound store under the guiding hand of the UK company's Geoff Kington. By applying simple programmable logic to an audio storage unit, Oxtron have in Aud- It a unit which can hold up to 14 sound effects or messages on a 1.44MB floppy, which can subsequently be programmed, edited, timed or otherwise manipulated under predefined and dynamic conditions. Aud-It works in conjunction with a PC. Oxtron were also promoting their CL6-10, multi-function intelligent 10A wall mounting dimmer, aimed at the architectural lighting market which is proving attractive to several other manufacturers at present. DCI also handle Databeat in France and were prominently displaying the system which



RVE: listening to 'wish lists'.



Anytronics: amps for France.



Mode control on the Ariane stand.



The Doughty 'Combi' top.



LCB: showing Zero 88, Pan Command, Niethammer and Kupo.



A C Lighting's Peter Searles and Nic Tolkein.

is currently undergoing major re-constructive surgery both commercially and technologically. (More in a forthcoming issue).

For their first trade show appearance outside the PLASA Light & Sound Show in London, Doughty Engineering practically took over the stand of their distributors ESL of Montpellier. Technical director of Doughty, Mervyn Lister, told L+SI that the move was a major step forward for the company. "Previously, we had concentrated our efforts solely on the PLASA Show, but as we have released so many new products over the past 12 months, it is important we provide as much support as possible to our overseas distributors," he said. "We will also have a very high profile at Frankfurt, Rimini and Madrid as we continue with this policy."

New Doughty products on display at SIEL, and described by sales manager Andy Trevett, included a deceptively simple device, the 'Combi' top, which allows the use of either a standard 19mm spigot or a 29mm TV spigot on the same stand. Andy, an ex-hire manager, was confident this little piece of metal would be a sure-fire hit all around the business. Also new were additions to the Studio range of stands, with three units coming in triple extension format, and compact as a result. Doughty have high hopes for their new followspot stand. "Our existing unit was not flexible enough," explained Mervyn Lister. "Our customers either loved or hated it. We would prefer them all to love it and we are sure they will really go for this new one."

Fiat Lux was the base for Cerebrum's Rod Bartholomeuz and Anytronics' Bob Hall, both of whom probably know the difference between a piss up and a piste de dance but were keeping it to themselves. They were also talking with

New Product

Martin: two 1208s in a case.

enthusiasm about positive reactions at the show. Bob Hall, who commented that the Cerebrum/Fiat Lux route into France was proving very successful, showed Anytronics' Series 194 three phase D6106 x 10A dimming packs, customised for the French market, and he's got them ready for the Germans too. A new blinder of a strobe was due for Rimini, he promised. On the same stand there was Powerdrive equipment, Pani's famous projectors, and the ControLite system from Amptown. This motorised lighting system, first seen at PLASA last September, is now in its final version with 12 units currently undergoing 'on-the-road' testing. Full production is expected within a couple of months. Also on demo was Fiat Lux's own computerised Digital-Lift system.

Laura Cowen of **High End Systems** also told L+SI about their new distribution arrangements. "We felt it was necessary to make a change in France and, after considering various options, we asked Juerg Tscharner, whose company LSE has been our Swiss agent for the last three years, to take it on." Whether the switch from a Belgian to a Swiss company, in staunchly xenophobic Gaul, proves the ideal move only time and the sales figures will tell. Ever Radio Violette retain their agency in Belgium.

Incidentally, after the show we spoke to Richard Belliveau, wired-up president of associate company Lightwave Research, who in an attempt to shock the unshockable said that he had come to work in a skirt that day. We took this to mean a kilt, if only because its image is a whole lot less dramatic, at least in certain parts of the UK. Nevertheless, the mental picture of Richard in a tutu was quite enough to make our

day. He told us in passing that the Texas-based outfit are keeping their powder dry on new launches until LDI in the Autumn when he promises several "awesome new products". Can't wait.

After some careful pre-planning in their backyard at Park Royal in London, the chaps

from Lighting Technology came up with a snug and highly attractive stand at SIEL, and enjoyed their first-ever showing at the event. They certainly pulled in the people, and had the advantage of a quiet spot with plenty of space around it. As Garry Nelsson reported: "Visitors were a good mix from the very top French lighting designers thinking of another thousand ways to use an electronic candle through to the etudiants de theatre who were just wanting to know about everything." LT also had a lot of interest in the Lightpaint colour scroller from Sweden - orders were taken on the stand - and in their brand new 'Brucie Brute', an eight-light unit that measures only 160 x 180 x 20mm using 20, 35 or 50W MRII lamps. It's output is quite

We also asked Peter Johansen of Martin Professional, who opened the exhibition season with a new presentation which will develop further over the year, for his impressions of SIEL. "We really only went to Paris as a flag waving exercise with no great expectations. But we were really amazed at the orders we took this year and not just in France, for example we received an order for 40 Roboscans from one Belgian customer!!"

New on stand and emphasising their move to mobility, Martin showed their flight-cased double 1208 unit - two projectors with 250W 12v ENH lamps. Each unit has a waggly mirror, strobe effects, eight different gobos and two colour wheels. All you do is take off the lid, hang it up or put it on a stand and you're ready to go. Shock absorbers take the strain of travel and Martin are looking for a big sale to mobile discos and touring bands. Also new is RoboColour Mobile - four of their basic RoboColour units built into a flight case for stand mounting. Finally, to make it all happen at the touch of a foot, the new Stage Controller enables musicians to do just that, if they so wish. It provides on-stage control of any Martin products, coping with up to eight intelligent lighting units or 128 standard dimming/smoke units or a combination of these.

Tucked away in a corner we found an interesting system, based on the Atari, providing 128 channels of lighting and SFX control via MIDI with added SMPTE options. The Midi Synchro MTC from Midi Pile provides for 256 cues and 2560 timed cue-calls which can be recorded with music in MIDI and played back accordingly, or recalled to an external time code programme or via the on-board SMPTE. Simple but useful graphical displays are provided to help



Soak test for a Diafora colour changer.

with soft patching, programme preparation and monitoring, or preview facilities. Outputs to analog dimmers are via 32 and 64 channel signal convertors which can also be used as stand-alone items. The company also provides a number of other MIDI interfaces, including units to convert some channels on an analog lighting desk to enable MIDI generation, units to fire pyros from music, and a 'MIDI Sound Expander' to control VCAs.

A similar fate to that which affected High End also awaited **Optikinetics** who, in contrast, opted to appoint a commission agent to handle both the Trilite range and all Optikinetics lighting product in the territory which, according to Neil Rice, has certain commercial advantages. Again, he was pleased with the response, taking over 200 enquiries. "It was a buzzy old show, wasn't it?" The Solar 575 in particular attracted a great deal of attention as it continued its campaign to revive the liquid wheel. Also on stand was Opti's Club Strobeflower system.

New from Pulsar on the CP&P France stand was their Masterpiece Screen Driver. Userfriendly Andy Graves showed how it provides options for several different output modules including RGB DIN sockets and SCART socket, both of which are capable of driving standard colour television screens. These are in addition to CGA monitor, green screen BNC monitor output and a slot for a 32 RAM memory card. It comes housed in a 19" rack mounting 1U high unit. The software, developed in-house by Pulsar, incorporates a user text area which enables the operator to allocate names to each channel, scene, environment or environmental chase, for easy identification. You use the Masterpiece itself for text input. Latest versions of Masterpiece actually incorporate text key codes for ease of programming, and yet more ease of use is provided by five different help



Oxtron's Geoff Kington talks Aud-It.



No standing room on Manfrotto France.



The Bytecraft display.

screens in various European languages. The activity of Masterpiece's 108 channels can be shown at any time on the monitor in the form of a two page bar graph, showing the status of 54 channels on each page. By the addition of an E-Prom the Screen Driver is compatible with all existing Masterpiece systems.

There was a rumour that Japanese would soon follow on the Masterpiece Screen Driver 'help' screens, and that sales director Ken Sewell was currently at work on the language. With the flags of the European Community, Germany, France, Italy and the UK flying over the Clay Paky and Pulsar information centre, one wonders whether banners from nations in the Far East will be joining them in the not too distant future.

Clay Paky will be making major product launches at SIB in Rimini, but they had on view the new Astroraggi Twin, an update of their classic Astroraggi, first launched in 1983 and still available in the original form. The new 'Twin' has two lamps moving inside the projector which can be switched on together or alternatively. Combined rotation with sequential switching produces an oscillating effect with a total of 103 concentrated beams. In addition, the new unit has full colour capability, using dichroic filters, giving a much brighter all-round result than the white 'mono' original.

Following comments in the January issue regarding updating dimmer technology, it seems that, not surprisingly, others have had similar ideas at much the same time, or otherwise they have been listening to customers with similar 'wish' lists. In particular, RV Electronique, who until recently have kept their light hidden under a Gallic bushel, have in the advent of the single market, gone decidedly international and introduced product to match. The HDS and HDD dimming systems provide analog and fully



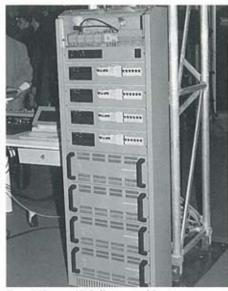
Coemar equipment on the Collyns stand.



Two Optikinetics' Solar 575 in tandem.



Zero 88 line-up on LCB.

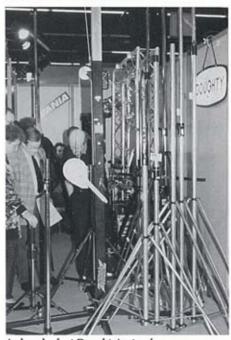


Zero 88's new LTC dimmer cabinet.

digital lighting control respectively, using plug-in dimming modules from 2 x 10A to 1 x 50A and others in between. While the analog system provides a selection of individual dimming curves, and can be adapted to accept a wide range of different protocols via RVE's demultiplexer, the HDD system is truly digital and incorporates intelligent control. This has major implications both for maintenance, performance and security all of which are of considerable interest for DMX512 users as, of course, no feed-back to the desk is normally possible. This control unit, which can be remoted from the rack, provides diagnostics, soft patching and selection of dimmer performance characteristics, plus the automatic activation of a pre-programmed back-up lighting sequence

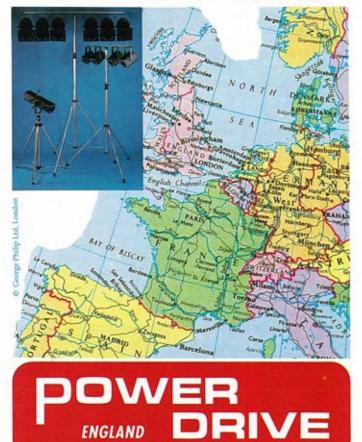


Inspecting Teatro's Colour Box.



A close look at Doughty's stands.

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in the event of a catastrophic breakdown at the desk. The dimmers are packaged in a pre-wired cabinet providing from 96 ways at 10 and 15A to 48 and 24 ways at 25 and 50A successively, although these values can, of course, be mixed. RVE also announced their programmable architectural lighting controller the AP Micro, which is already giving Electrosonic some competition in the cruise ship market.

French manufacturers Sapro seem to produce new effects units like there's no tomorrow. They announced no less than 10 new products which included Nancy and Rotary. Nancy has two projecting 'eyes' of eight gobos and seven colours which multiply in rhythm, with the centre of the mirror moving in and out to adjust the light beams, along with a continuous change of gobos and colours. Get the idea? Rotary is a three-coloured prism of dichroic filters projecting a myriad of coloured beams. It has interchangeable gobos. Another unit of note was the latest version on 'Moving', Sapro's multi 'laser' effect unit. It has a wider range of facilities

including bigger area of sweep.

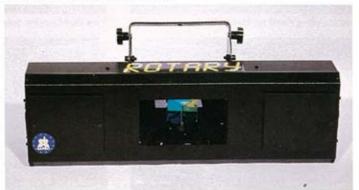
Strand Lighting's Peter Ed ("over busy, but enjoying it all immensely") reported five new launches. Most important for the French market was the new Cantata 'Optique' luminaire, a condenser optic profile that gives a good flat field for gobo and shutter projection. A battery of 45 of these units ran a permanent projection show on stand. Aside from France, there is a lot of interest in the Optique from both Britain and Scandinavia. Next, Strand highlighted a move back towards their roots with the introduction of a new range of suspension units for both theatre and studio use, and developing further into the television field, their Reporter Lights - hand-held units and accompanying kits for news gathering camera work, were also seeing the first light of day. The EC90 is at every show now, and the French version of this digital dimming system comes ready flight-cased to attract business from the massive summer theatre festival market. The biggest thing for Peter was the Euro-launch of Mini-Light Palette 90, a mid-range control system for up to 578 channels and carrying all the essential functions of big brother used extensively on Broadway. This system came out of Strand in

Los Angeles and is typical of the international linking now playing such an important part in the development and launch of the company's products world-wide. "Pulling together global expertise," is how Peter Ed put it.

Zero 88's David Catterall, based on the stand of LCB, was busily talking up the company's new LTC dimmer cabinet, though he was offering no cigars for the meaning of the product's initials. This neat package, which can easily be wall-mounted, provides 24 ways of dimming at 10A each way via four dimmer racks, which plug-in to the pre-wired cabinet. Each of the six-way dimmers, which have all breaker protection, has its own 1u control panel in the armoire which provides various test facilities, manual level settings and the possibility of adjustment to receive positive or negative analog control signals, which can be useful in retro-fitting situations. A demux option is provided for DMX512 enthusiasts. Zero is another company edging into architectural lighting controllers, with a tiny memory preset unit which, they say, takes the mystery out of such systems for Joe Public who don't want to read a manual in order to programme their lighting. Joe is not alone in that one! Also represented on LCB were Pan Command, Niethammer and Kupo.

We've left out talking about the major sound companies and their products for two reasons. In this issue you'll find a report from Tim Frost on Sound 92 in London, and in our next issue you'll have the full Frankfurt line-up to contend with. Between the two we shouldn't miss out much of what's new. Suffice to say that many of the major names in live sound were present at SIEL on their own or distributor's stands, including JBL, Soundcraft, AKG, C-Audio, Allen & Heath, RCF, Celestion, Cerwin-Vega, Kark Teknik, Sennheiser . .

As usual with shows outside these shores, and especially in France where we all know they have their own special way of doing things, there were some wonderfully juicy exhibitors' names to juggle with. Aside from the delightfully verbose Chambre Syndicale des Cabarets Artistiques Salees et Lieux de Spectacle Vivants . . . (the three dots are theirs, indicating more to come!) we leave you with the following selection without comment: Froggy Audio, GBH Equipment, Necrophages, Orefice and Young Boys. The mind simply boggles. Au revoir.



Rotary - new from Sapro.

ONE MAN AND HIS MACHINES

(THE RAMSA UK STORY)

John Offord sets out to discover how a Japanese electronic giant reaches out to his customers



Panasonic UK HQ at Bracknell, Berkshire.

RAMSA equals Panasonic Business Systems equals Panasonic UK Ltd equals Matsushita equals Japan's largest manufacturer of consumer electronic products equals the world's 17th largest industrial corporation.

In Britain, Panasonic UK Ltd began operating from its head office in Slough in 1972 with 34 employees and its first-year turnover was £6m. Today, their Bracknell head office, on a 16 acre site, houses over 600 staff - part of a UK total of 4,000 personnel at various sites - and turnover is over £600m.

RAMSA (Research into Audio, Music and Sound Acoustics) is part of Panasonic Business Systems and the brand name of their professional audio equipment. And in pro-audio terms, there is only one further piece needed to complete the jigsaw: the name that fronts and is RAMSA in the UK.

lan Sharpe (marketing manager) is at the end of the chain, or the first link in it, depending on how you look at the structure. At the same time, this is also the key to understanding how a tiny part of a massive organisation operates successfully within its market.

Look at it from one direction and Ian Sharpe is at the head of the pro-audio pyramid of an organisation that spends six per cent of its annual world-wide \$46.8 billion turnover on basic and applied research activities. (Take the trouble to work out the sum - it comes to an enormous and incomprehensible figure.) Bear in mind also that the company is pushing him hard to promote and sell into the pro-audio market sector.

Look at it another way, and Ian Sharpe is the man who has to take on board all the critical comment from a prickly little industry, keep his dealers sweet, and produce the results the analysts watching their computer screens are waiting for.

I spent the best part of a day at Panasonic UK in Bracknell in an attempt to understand how the machinery worked. How did our quirky quagmire of an industry fit into the shape of things corporate? Or, possibly more pertinent, how did an economic giant cope with our flamboyant little sector? I came away amazed at the high-tech but sheer sophisticated simplicity of it all. The ideal machine in operation?

First of all, we need to remember that although RAMSA products are relatively new to



The latest from RAMSA: the new WR-S44 Series live sound 4-bus live mixing consoles. There are three models offering 12, 16 and 24 inputs.



New RAMSA power amplifiers were launched at the 1991 PLASA Show. Shown above is the WP1400, offering 400 watts per side.



Ian Sharpe: from a background in electronic organs and keyboard technology he was offered the challenge of introducing RAMSA products into the UK in 1986.



Ian Sharpe (left) with Steve Spencer (sales manager, Britannia Row) and David Panton (managing director, Nomis Studios) with the RAMSA S840 stage monitor console at Nomis Studios.

the UK and Europe, having commenced their move into our pro audio sector in the mid-eighties, Matsushita have many decades of experience in the business. RAMSA equipment was selected for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles: over 900 speakers, 250 microphones, 215 power amplifiers, 57 mixing boards and 19 miles of cable were orchestrated in 24 locations across a long stretch of Southern California. Their equipment is installed in Japan's National Opera House.

The Matsushita pattern of development travels a well-formulated path. Ian Sharpe: "Basically, the way the parent company in Japan grew on a policy of listening to the market. Having identified market demands and requirements we followed this route and came to the point where we were producing professional audio equipment in the sound contracting industry in Japan. Even to this day we take about 60 per cent of the domestic sound contracting equipment in the hotel industry in the country. Development continued and we became well known for arenas, auditoriums and recording - all within Japan.

"In the early sixties we started to export big sound systems for stadia - in those days the equipment was known as 'National'. The RAMSA name came on the scene around 30 years ago and that was about the time of the launch into the export market of various live sound reinforcement products - not the contracting side. Products were re-branded RAMSA with that in mind."

From there RAMSA attacked the American



The mixer production line at the Yokohama manufacturing facility.

market in the late seventies before progressively taking on the rest of the world.

So, having established the credentials, how does this small element of Matsushita and Panasonic sit within a massive corporate operation? One that has all the sometimes cynically commented upon trimmings of the highly energised Japanese corporate machine. And, one might well ask, why do they bother anyway?

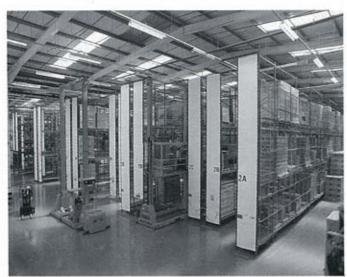
"RAMSA itself, although small, is still very important, as all our product categories are," continued Ian Sharpe. "It's easier to become well-established within the television industry with its massive quantities and value every year, but you can only go so far with that, and after a while you run out of massive markets you can penetrate. You then start looking at the more specialist industries, and the needs of a marketing activity for a specialist industry are not that different from those of a huge consumer based product.

"So we already have the infrastructure - we also have the foundations and a great deal of experience - and Matsushita see professional audio as a vital part of its future development and its survival into the 21st century. Also, because of the systems within the company, an added benefit which is unusual for large companies, we are very flexible and sensitive to the market. With these assets we can operate like a very small company offering a very personal service but from a big company base where we have the additional advantage of the resource, the support, and of course the

research and development back-up for the future. We can never go back. Whatever happens we will always go forward, but with care and with carefully thought-out steps."

So much for the policy, but how does it all work in practice? I'd seen for myself by now the splendid organisation and systems established across the Bracknell complex: corporate planning, training and learning areas, medical centre, the computer 'brain' room, accounts, library, service and spare parts - complete with the overhead message boards pushing for customer satisfaction ('Answer That Call Within 3 Rings') - test rooms, stores ('Zero Defects - PS UK Campaign') and despatch. There are 48 departments or 'activity sections' in all and the quality of management and dedication of staff is obvious even to the untrained eye.

lan Sharpe again: "If we choose to import a new model from anywhere in the world, the early stages are vital, and cannot be circumvented by cutting corners. The product has to come in and be tested for safety and the relevant standards of that country, in our case British and European standards. We also have to look at the quality and image of the product, and whether it's a RAMSA power amplifier of a huge Astrovision screen going to a major stadium or wherever, the same rules apply; the same process, the same laboratories, the same people get involved. In some cases we will call in an outside expert if it's a product area where we don't have the specialist people on site, and this usually happens when we launch into a new market category. In the main, however, we can



Part of the huge computerised warehouse and despatch area at Bracknell



Matsushita's Central Research Laboratory, Osaka, Japan.

satisfy most of our own demands without any trouble at all.

"In this way we have total control over what product comes into the UK market. We are not forced to take anything from any factory around the world if it isn't suitable for our customers. It is my responsibility to find the right products, assess them, find out if they are what the market wants and how much they will pay for them. Then we will put them into the system."

Before this is done, the back-up support that a product will need has to be put in place. It's just not possible, within the company rules and regulations, to sell a product until an initial guidance parts stock is in place and all the circuit diagrams and any technical data are available including special tests jigs if these are necessary.

"When we set up a model on our computer, with all its relevant information, there are two codes, covering service and sales, and one of my responsibilities is to make sure that these codes are not released until I'm satisfied that all the pre-requisites of the company's policy on product introduction have been met," continued lan Sharpe. "No product can be invoiced or get out of the company until all the systems required are in place."

When it comes to service, and come to that anything from transport to spare parts, Panasonic have people in place responsible for various specialist categories of product, so there is always more than one person to cover a particular product. Specialised training and facilities are brought into play right through the system to cover all Panasonic products sold in the UK - and some from Europe as well. If a piece of equipment is likely to 'stray' across national borders during its working life, you can be sure it will receive service at Bracknell.

If one dare feel frustrated amongst all this super organisation, Ian Sharpe's one slight grudge is that he is not in total command of his own destiny. "I'm part of a massive company, and we are all very much reliant on what we get from the factory and the R and D people, and what I do in future relies very much on what product becomes available. If it isn't suitable then I won't take it. If I do find things that are suitable then I will obviously have a job to do as my part in Panasonic UK."

That was the down side, if you could call it that. But didn't the people in Japan listen to market feedback?

"One of the philosophies that has made Matsushita so successful is that it listens to the market. I know this isn't exactly news nowadays, but it was when they discovered it 90 years ago! The point is, they're not going to make anything the market doesn't want, so communication in the early stages is quite vital and we're continually being asked to comment on ideas, product requirements and current trends. It is very much our responsibility to advise the factory, even if we're not asked to. Every now and then we all hit on a central idea or product that is exactly what we want. Sometimes a product has been worked on without us knowing and we were just about to ask for it anyway. It's amazing how it all works.

"Market trends are pretty clear now in our industry. We all know where we are going. More efficiency and compactness is the key, plus costs, of course. These are the guidelines for future products. As far as RAMSA's future is concerned one of the things likely to change is the image, in that it covers products going into the live sound area. We will be looking to other areas, and this effort will generally go under the banner of Panasonic Professional Audio Systems. DAT is something that comes to mind. In recent years it has been gaining a foothold in the industry and our system is well thought of. We've got some exciting digital products that will arrive during this year, and we will expand in that way."

Distribution is a common problem in most countries, at least establishing a network of good ones is, and often takes years of groundwork.

"The professional audio market isn't very large," explained Ian Sharpe, "and the actual amount of profit you can make in the industry is somewhat modest. This is illustrated by the lack of what I would call large well-established and dedicated distribution companies. In our industry distributors often have to do something else to survive. Another problem is that there is so much product available in the world it's almost possible for virtually every dealer in the UK to be a distributor as well.

'So the market didn't have a clearly defined structure, and Panasonic has to have one, we have to have a dealer on hand to support the product totally. He must also be the sort of dealer that calls on the services of Panasonic and benefits from them and knows how to use them. What we've done is to set up some regional distributors who in some cases do installation and design as well, but also to have a thriving dealer network of smaller companies who have gained sufficient business out of a small industry by becoming specialists in certain areas. This spans from broadcast right through to musical instruments and covers such things as training, government buildings, discotheques, bowling alleys, swimming pools - you name it. They are all addressed by slightly different types of dealer.

"Our distribution system is therefore one



WS-A240 (bottom) and WS-A200 speakers.



The WS-A70-EW speaker.



WM-P50E condenser microphone.



Liam Byrnes, professional audio service supervisor.



Sue Mellor, supervisor for the CCTV/professional audio department.

spectrum/'spektrom/n.(pl.-tra)

band of colours as seen in rainbow etc.; entire or wide range of anything arranged by degree or quality etc.* © Oxford University Perss

Thorn Lamps by GE Thorn Lamps

Lighting the way



Telcome to the first issue of Light Spectrum. Through this publication we will keep our customers and the industry informed on the stage by stage progress towards the integration of GE Thorn and GE Tungsram as one company, GE Lighting UK. It will have its commercial operation on one site at Mitcham in Surrey.

With General Electric's acquisition, just over a year ago, of Thorn Lighting's light source business, GE Lighting became the world's largest lamp supplier and the No.1 lamp supplier in the UK. The Company's ambitious plans for the GE brand throughout Europe were unveiled recently. Mainland Europe will immediately embrace the single GE brand identity. The UK market with its extensive product ranges and large manufacturing units will take a little longer - but only a little - by the middle of this year, the Company will be known as GE Lighting, introducing a phased programme of GE branded lamps.

The integration of the two companies is more than a change of company name. Significant resources have been invested in the UK manufacturing sites at Leicester and Enfield £10 million has been invested in a new UK based distribution facility and we are expanding our product portfolio.

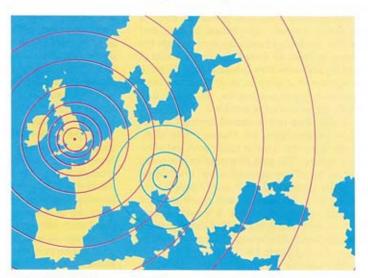
As for the future, GE re-invest over 9% of its sales revenues into research and development programmes across its thirteen core businesses. With GE resources behind us we are able to develop lighting sources and solutions to meet the future challenges of the industry. I hope you will find LIGHT Spectrum interesting and informative.

Clive Salmon Business Manager Photo, Stage & Studio

£10 million distribution investment

GE Lighting has set up the Company's new European state of the art distribution facility in Northampton at a cost of £10 million. The centre operates as a central warehousing facility for products from the Company's international manufacturing plants in the UK, US and Hungary, servicing both the European and UK markets. A southern European distribution centre, in

Vienna, will also stock Hungarian made products. The next step in the phased distribution programme is to handle specialist lamps for Photo, Stage and Studio applications. From midsummer ex-Daventry products, mainline commercial, wholesale and retail products will fully utilise the new warehouse and distribution facility.



£34 Billion Sales

1991 saw a 3% increase in GE's sales to £34 billion, with world sales for GE Lighting up 13%. Worldwide. GE ploughs back over 9% of

its sales revenues into huge research and development programmes across its thirteen businesses.

Sales Operations familiar faces remain







Joe Fowler

On Photo, Stage, Studio and Disco products your sales representatives will remain the same with immediate effect, all customer calling will be by Clive Connor in the South of England and Joe Fowler in the North, for both GE Thorn and GE Tungsram products.

GE Lighting - part of the 10th largest company in the World

Thirteen core businesses, of which lighting is one, make up the \$58 billion General Electric corporation. Nearly all GE enterprises operate on a worldwide basis and each of its thirteen core businesses as wide ranging as aircraft engines to medical systems holds the number one or two position in its global market. Lighting is no exception to this rule - the company is the world's leading lamp supplier.



The new source of light Mirror lamp Guarantee

Photo, Stage, Studio & Disco

GE Lighting

March 1992

ps by GE Thorn Lamps by GE Tho

eet the New Boss! In fact many customers have already done so! Charles Pieper - or Chuck as



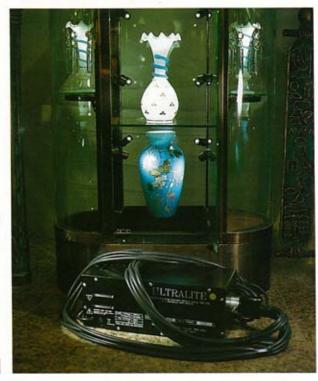
he prefers to be called - has joined GE Lighting to drive the European business as President and Chief Executive Officer. Putting the customer's needs first is what he's all about. With a reputation for being a "hands on manager", he believes in fast action and since he's been in the UK. he has been finding out for himself what customers think of the company, its plans and its products. He has unashamedly set his sights on market supremacy. GE Lighting is the No.1 lamp supplier in the world, No.1 in the UK and Europe is next.

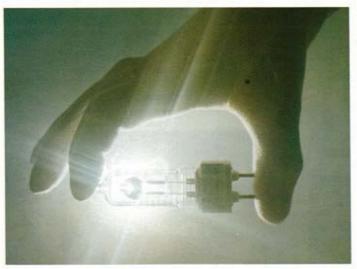
A truly international manager, Chuck has been with GE since 1981 and joined the European operation from GE Medical Systems Asia where, from a base in Tokyo, he worked for the past three years developing the business throughout the Far East.

GE Lighting goes High-Tech with the Light Engine

The Light Engine is an instant light discharge lamp, first demonstrated on automotive applications in conjunction with fibre optics. A fibre optic light is essentially a pipe, normally made of glass, along which light travels by reflecting itself off the inside walls. The intensity of the Light Engine is capable of driving fibre optics to new levels of brightness. The fibres are electrically nonconductive. GE Lighting is developing Light Engine technology to increase the range of general lighting applications.

Miles Pinniger, principal of Pinniger & Partners who are lighting systems advisers, is a great advocate of fibre optic lighting and predicts that the '90s could turn out to be the era in which fibre optic display lighting comes into everyday retail use. In fact he has already specified display spots with fibre optics driven by Arcstream in the New Harrods' Egyptian Room showcases (illustrated) with great success.





Design with the family of

compact metal halide lamps Arcstream lamps are available in 70 & 150 watts with 3000K and 4000K colour temperatures and a colour index of Ra80. Arcstream is one of the smallest single ended metal halide lamps in the world. Its arc gap of 4mm 70W or 6mm 150W gives a highly controllable point source that may be easily and effectively employed in a variety of luminaires for indoor and outdoor lighting. The cap is a G12 ceramic cap common to all low wattage single ended metal halide lamps.

For further information on the GE range of Photo, Stage, Studio & Disco products please contact: Marney Lowe, GE Lighting



Arcstream Metal Halide





New Star Performers





GE Lighting

Miles Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3YX Tel 081-640 1221, Fx 081-640 9760



The spares reference library document every Panasonic product ever-produced for the UK market - and more.

single system, but two-tier. It hasn't left us with a massive network, but then it is a high quality one. Whilst in some cases a customer may be a little surprised that there isn't a dealer in his town, it's far better to have a dealer who knows the product very well and who knows about the

Wilkes Iris Diaphragm Co Ltd Widco Works, London Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, England Telephone: (0424) 217630 Fax: (0424) 215406

Wilkes know a thing or two about iris diaphragms - they have been manufacturing them for over a century. In recent years they have carried that wealth of expertise into the Theatre and TV markets, and now supply some of the industry's leading companies. Find out why by calling Wilkes today

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products and the policies that make them successful."

But getting to the real bones of it, lan Sharpe's is the only name at Panasonic the industry knows, outside the distributor/dealer network. Wasn't this situation a little fragile?

"I don't feel this is a problem, it does us something of an injustice because it means people don't fully understand what it is that's behind that one guy or the way Panasonic works. My job is more one of guidance and management rather than sitting down with all the varied activities necessary for an individual in a small company."

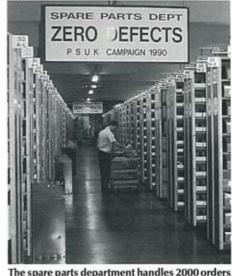
With the launch of five new products at the 1991 PLASA Lighting & Sound Show last September, Panasonic made their first-ever appearance at the event.

"The new products shown were in two categories: two new power amplifiers and three mixing consoles," Sharpe continued. "We also took the opportunity to show our DAT machines as well. The most important development at that point was our entry into the mixer market. Whilst we've had some good products, in fact we've become quite famous for the 840 monitor console for concert touring, we've never really challenged the main part of the market and therefore this development probably turned some heads in the industry.

"In addition, another very important move, and one we've been targeting for some time now, is to attack the main body of the amplifier market. The problem of this sector is that it's saturated with product. The other problem, in my view, is that they don't really offer the market what the majority of customers want. They don't solve the simple problems and offer a budget price solution. They all offer very high-tech quality products that some customers need, but the majority of the market doesn't. What we've tried to do with our two new amplifier models is to address that bulk market area where the customer wants a simple, good quality and reliable product - a work-horse.

"It doesn't have to be super tough or very high-tech, or super light or super small. It just has to work every time it's switched on. It's got to be put in a rack, away in a room, and it's got to be forgotten about for as long as they need the thing to work."

"This changes the requirements of the



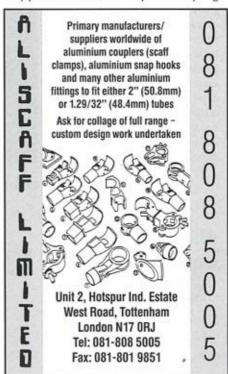
The spare parts department handles 2000 orders every day, 95% of which are desptached to dealers within 24 hours.

product quite considerably and enables us to build a product at a far more competitive price than if we, like many of our competitors, were trying to address some esoteric requirement of a specific market area, whether it be broadcast, studio, touring, and so on. So our winners for the year are without doubt the new amplifier models.

"DAT is an interesting development for us because we've gained the opportunity to offer these products through our network. They have become very well thought of in mastering areas and are becoming an industry standard. Coupled with that they are very programmable. With all the facilities available it makes it very easy to edit, control, cross-mix, control remotely, and so on."

Despite the obvious predictability of movement with a corporate giant the size of Matsushita, they've also shown they can be very nimble on their feet when it comes to introducing innovative electronic products. So don't be deceived whilst from one year to the next the RAMSA machine encroaches steadily into pro-audio territory. Every now and then, and perhaps ever more frequently in the future, they are going to present lan Sharpe with some tasty products to sell, all set up and ready to go.





SOUNDING THE ALARM AT THE INDOOR ARENA

Tony Gottelier visits the National Indoor Arena and finds Audix' Orbit 'Smart' voice alarm system working away behind the scenes

Except in the very obvious extenuating circumstance, like Victorian children, alarm systems should be seen and not heard and certainly not speak unless spoken to. The problem with such systems, which are normally centralized, has been that they can be susceptible to error and, in large spaces, may cause panic in areas where there is no real danger - for example, when a small problem is restricted to a room where it can be easily dealt with by staff.

So, as with my earlier analogy, what is needed is an element of 'intelligence' where the system is constantly surveying, polling and reporting back from each risk area while maintaining its own security through self fault-diagnoses. Modern fire detection systems will do this, of course, but the alarm transmission system also needs to be more secure than a conventional centralized PA system, and independent of human error as far as possible.

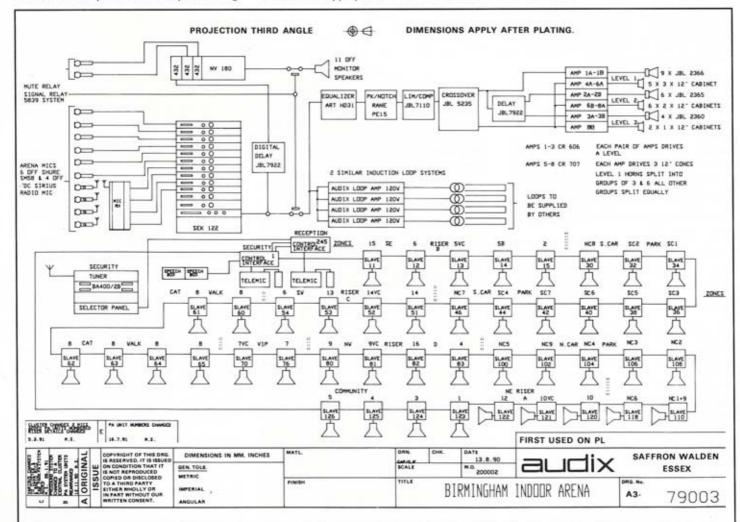
This, and the distribution of cabling to vast numbers of speakers necessary to deliver the appropriate messages, would have been very expensive to implement in the days before microprocessors and daisy-chained data links. If, however, you could have addressable amplifiers local to speaker locations, rather than a centralized system, considerable cabling economies could be made and altogether more efficient system result. This is precisely why Audix, a subsidiary of the TGI Group, are having

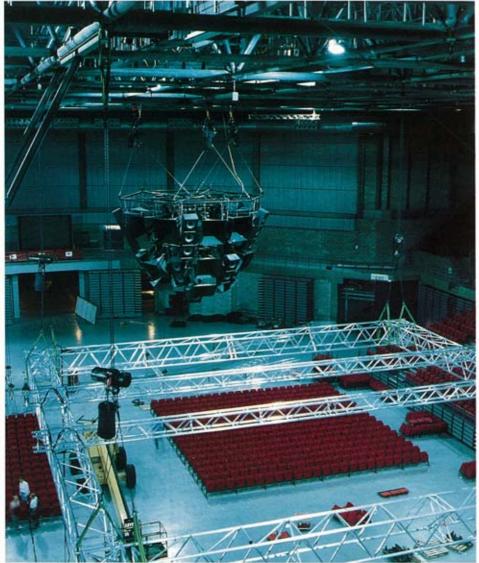


The Soundcraft 'Delta' mixing desk for the PA system.

some considerable success with the marketing of a system called Orbit, (but for which I would have used the acronym DEAVA for Decentralized Adressable Voice Alarm since, at least by its pronunciation, the allusion to a prima donna seems appropriate to the vox method of

evacuation messaging). The system, which consists of a small central console which can control and programme up to 240 remotes into any or each of 99 zones, operates on a single two-way data highway thus potentially saving miles of cable.





Central JBL loudspeaker cluster.

In the case of the National Indoor Arena, with a capacity of up to 13,000 many of the considerations outlined above would have been paramount. The NIA is another brick in the edifice of the City of Birmingham's campaign for international recognition. Already boasting the National Exhibition Centre, with its famous Symphony Hall, and the NIA on an adjacent site and with the most accessible motorway network in the country, the City can't be far off having the facilities it needs to distract foreign attention away from London.

The Indoor Arena is another of those flexi-halls, in the mould of the Sheffield Arena covered previously in this magazine, where the terraced seating can be rolled back and forth to create various different event formats, including concert configurations. In recent months they have staged the large-scale production of Aida, the Moscow Circus, Disney on Ice and Eric Clapton.

Clapton was appearing later also at the Sheffield venue and this is obviously set to be the pattern for the major tours of the future now that it has been recognised that Britain previously lacked halls of the circa 10,000 capacity to support such performers. It is surprising really that Harvey Goldsmith was unable to make more of a go of the London Arena in Docklands.

Following the well publicized difficulties incurred during the installation at the neighbouring ICC, Audix were determined to set the record straight at the Indoor Arena and it seems that they have succeeded in doing so. The

speech system, which is largely separate from the voice alarm system, was carried out by Audix with considerable input by Harman UK and vetted by Craig Jensen of Joiner Rose, the American acoustic consultants specializing in stadia who have since split up but who were also involved at Sheffield.

The decision to go for a central cluster, rather than a distributed system, was greatly aided by computer modelling provided by Harman which



A typical 'orbit' slave amp cabinet installed in the risers.

showed that such a system met the parameters laid down by the consultants and delivered the best capital value. This flying system, installed in good time for the opening event in October, incorporates eight C-Audio SR606 and 707 power amplifiers, 19 JBL Horns (10 x 365 and 9 x 2366), 19 Compression drivers (IBL 2445)) and 29 JBL 2206 HPL speakers. The cluster is trackable and demountable so that it can be stationed to suit the various different performance configurations. A technical booth high in the terracing houses the Soundcraft 'Delta' mixing desk and the Strand MX lighting board controlling the 'house' Parcans, though for sports events and broadcast the Arena relies on its 254, 2kW metal halide floods from Thorn Lighting which can be computer-controlled to provide three different lux levels depending on the event requirements.

The Orbit voice alarm system installed at the NIA supports 27 slave amplifiers in 16 defined areas which correspond to the hazard zones of the fire detection system. In the event of a risk situation occurring, the Orbit interface will issue an 'evacuate' message to that zone, while also passing a parallel general alert. These configurations are fully programmable in software to allow for up to 20 different occurrences and the hazard zones can be adjusted in the same way to provide a wider buffer.

At the Arena the bi-directional data link which connects the remote 50W amplifiers to the central control console was 2.5km long yet it saved a further 4km of conventional speaker cable.

The fact that this highway is a Daytona loop means that if a fault or break is detected anywhere in the diagnostic system, the data can simply be sent round the other way which makes it very secure. Each slave unit acts as a repeater for all data and audio functions, so in the event of a short or open circuit, the faulty section will be isolated between two slaves, each receiving its information from alternative directions on the loop.

In that event, the isolated slave automatically switches its output to an auxiliary monitored loop and is capable of putting out its own spoken message or an alert tone to the speakers if such a break in communication occurs. The use of large numbers of small amps, each with a unique address, also enables the overlapping of zones so that speaker distribution is shared by many slave amps and programmed accordingly. Thus the system is flexible, allowing additions at any time.

Conveniently, the building design in Birmingham provided four large walk-in risers at each corner of the structure into which the steel racks containing most of the amplifiers were installed by Audix and this also greatly helped with economizing on cable runs to the speakers. Others are located in the roof or in the car parks. The amps have two audio channels, one having priority and activated by command only, and this can facilitate background music transmission, or one channel can be used for evacuate messages and the other alert signals to other zones. An All-Call request overrides all other functions.

In keeping with BS5839, to which such systems have to conform, levels well in excess of 80dB, which is based on 20% above ambient, are required. Six Canadian Instrument PD60T speakers with BIA/100 horns, each driven by a separate amplifier, and located in the roof of the hall, achieve 95dBA. As is typical of such venues, in these days when corporate entertainment and commercial sponsorship is a vital "financial"





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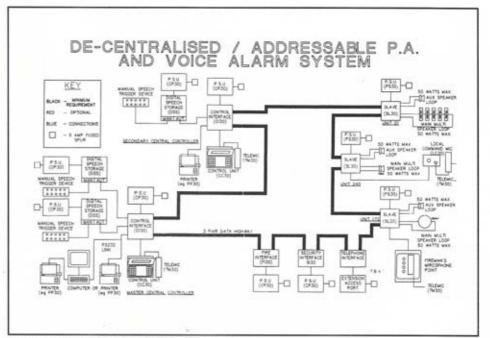
indegredient, the upper tier of the NIA is surrounded by glass-fronted hospitality suites, into which the external atmosphere is re-injected via strategically placed ambient microphones, which relay the crowd noise from the PA.

These suites have speakers dedicated to transmitting this external ambience, but they also have dual speakers for the alarm system so that background music can also be received and attenuated. The concourse area uses 29 projection speakers from which SPLs of 90dBA were measured in the area in pre-handover tests. In total, and including the car park, there are more than 500 speakers used in the entire Orbit security system.



The Orbit equipment package.

The battery-backed slave amps police their own condition and, in the event of incorrect data or in a variety of fault conditions, the status is reported to the central control unit appearing on an alpha numeric display and printed out via an RS232 port. In the event of a break in the main audio/data cable, the fault report will identify between which two units the problem exists and take appropriate action to secure the data to all other amps. This central unit addresses a monitored digital message store which allows



Schematic demonstrating all the 'Orbit' options.

recall of several different verbal messages from EPROM in any sequence.

The console, which looks not dissimilar to an office intercom station, uses a telemic handset which is polled for function and presence once per hour, in accordance with the BS standard. An input keyboard enables multi-zone paging announcements and a group of function keys operate various modes such as group set-up and time-set routines.

The system engineering and installation for the contract at the National Indoor Arena, which was given under the Laings and Crown House main contract, enabled Tannoy-Audix to prove their real worth very quickly following the denouement earlier last year on the adjoining Conference Centre site. With that well behind them, though the legal ramifications rumble on, they are now in a good position to capitalize on their undoubted capabilities and the Orbit system seems an ideal product to spearhead that campaign. Clearly Crown House agree, as last month's announcement of the awarding of a £5million contract (and not £500million as reported in this magazine, sorry), for Audix to supply PA, voice alarm and AV systems for the expansion at the National Exhibition Centre indicates.



AIDA in performance at the National Indoor Arena.

BOSE IN A COLD CLIMATE

Tim Frost packs his skis and heads for Albertville to learn more about the sound system in use for the Winter Olympics

The 16 days in February stamped 'best in the world' on 57 athletes and teams as the 16th Winter Olympics unfurled in the Savoy area of France.

The event was billed as Albertville '92. In fact only the ice skating, ice dancing and speed skating events, together with the main opening and closing ceremonies were held in the town.

The other competitions were spread over another ten towns, mainly in the mountains with several hours drive between them. One thing they all had in common, and this for the first time at any Olympics, was that the sound systems were all organised by a single company - Bose.

The Olympics has always prompted a new sports venue building programme, and the sound systems have tended to be supplied by different companies for the different venues with some good and some rather perfunctory results.

Flushed from their success at the Calgary games in 1988, where the Bose Canada team supplied sound systems in the most obscure and difficult outdoor conditions, Bose France immediately tackled the '92 committee to sell them on the idea of quality sound rather than just any sound.

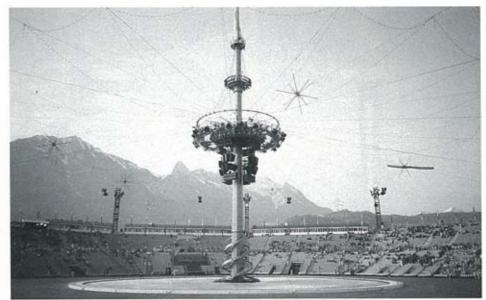
Something that is worth mentioning at this point, before the cynics really start getting their teeth into the project is that Bose became an 'official supplier' to the games, rather than an 'official sponsor'. The difference between the two is a simple one of cash flow. The sponsors' cash flows out to the committee as promotional money - Coke and Kodak were sponsors - but the supplier sells his product and gets cash from the committee.

To be realistic, it is unusual for a major supplier to make pots of money from an Olympic event, they are much more likely to work towards break-even or a nominal profit or loss on the job.

After all it is a major prestige contract, it has a healthy knock-on effect on business and allows the supplier to go into overdrive on corporate entertaining. In Bose's case they took a total of 500 customers, staff and press to the Games over the two weeks they were on.

But in the final analysis, like Calgary, the Albertville Games was a major commercial project undertaken primarily by the local subsidiary company, with an awful lot of product sold and a lot of unique design work undertaken to get it right.

David Bell, the plain speaking Australian (aren't they all?) that Bose employ as Pro



Ceremony stadium: central column with the sound system from US Sound.

Products general manager believes they got into the Olympics because their subsidiaries convinced the Olympic committees that they could do better than the 'poles on sticks' brigade and that the improvement was worth paying for.

"From our perspective the reason we really got the sound system in Calgary was that we could prove to the Olympic committee that there was a difference between the sound system that you would use normally for the Olympics and a quality sound system.

"Perhaps people have tried that before, but there is a price attached to doing it properly and it was a price that, until then, no-one wanted to

"The guys in Canada not only got that over but also charged them for it, and the guys in France picked up from that."

Since the project was a bid from the local subsidiary and executed entirely by local installation companies, the requirement for a high local content was also satisfied. "It was more of a situation in Canada," Dave noted, "where they were even more sensitive about this great big monster on their doorstep called the United States. However it is interesting that it wasn't really an issue here. Andy Smaga, the MD of Bose France, has done such a good job of establishing Bose as an entity in France and he approached it from the quality sound platform.

Also the contractor element was large. As it was all local contractors, the same as in Canada, but a lot more of them, all the money stayed here."

The project was to supply sound into 18 different sites in 11 towns and villages. There were outdoor events including Nordic combined cross county, a big course requiring voice PA at designated spectator points; and artistic skiing which needed to place high quality music over both the spectators area and the ski slopes - and loud enough to let the competitors hear it over the noise of their skis.

The indoor events included ice skating and ice dancing, where music had to be thrown onto the ice as well as the audience; and ice hockey, where the system was more straightforward, delivering PA to the audience and keeping it clear of the playing area.

And, not forgetting, a sound system for the temporary outdoor 35,000 seater stadium that was used just for opening and closing ceremonies.

The negotiations started at the close of the Calgary games and continued through 28 versions of the bid documents to the start of installation work in October '91. Paul O'Leon, general manager for Europe wanted to be certain that they had total control of audio before they went ahead.

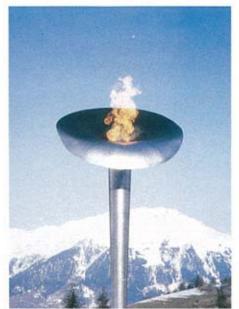
"We specified that Bose had complete control



The UK bobsleigh team directly beneath the distinctive black Bose 402.



The impressive bobsleigh course - enough to chill the bravest hearts.



The Olympic flame.

over the sound at all the venues and throughout the signal chain. It's our name on the line and as an official supplier Bose is very visible as a contractor - if it sounded bad because of other elements in the system beyond our control then people would still think it was down to our system."

On a three-day tour of the venues that took in the closing ceremony, it was possible to get some idea of the scale and range of the project, some of the problems and how close Bose came to their aim of providing 'quality sound' throughout the venues.

Outdoor events were in the majority and on day one I went to La Plagne for the four-man bobsleigh. The sky throughout the trip was absolutely cloudless, bright, and at 9.30 in the morning when the first bob hit the run, a somewhat brisk -12 degrees. The newly-built course wound around the site like a snake, with areas for spectators especially at the high banked corners.

At La Plagne the main function of the system was to provide announcements to the spectators and volunteers helping maintain the run.

'Bob on the run' was an essential warning as each team set off, as the chances of jumping out the way of a speeding bobsleigh is as close to zero as makes no odds.

Bruce Myers, Bose's best application engineer drew up the core plans for all the systems using



The silver-grey bob control tower.

the company's own Mac-based 'Modele'r program. For the bob run, he closely analysed a couple of the corners to establish an overall method of working.

Bruce described how he designed the system on the computer.

"What we did for modelling was take a section of the course rather than the entire course - what we needed to do was verify our design philosophy. If we properly modelled two of the corners, the design could basically be extended to the areas that the spectators would be in for the whole track. There were areas where they didn't allow spectators so we didn't need to put speakers there at all."

The main system used 36 402 loudspeakers, mostly built into the top of the track, three or four metres up, and placed 15m apart. Additional 102 speakers were used for fill-ins in specific sectors such as the judges and officials' areas.

The spacing between speakers was set at the maximum distance that they could be without producing an echo effect at any point in the spectator area. The speakers were driven as a constant 100V line from nine bridged Bose 1800 MkIV amplifiers (from their very first production run). The amplifiers and the relatively simple control system consisting of an 8x2 mixer, six mics, one radio mic, a CD and cassette player and a tuner, were all installed in the main control



HDTV in operation.

tower near the end of the run.

Since Bose was involved in the sound design from the outset, they were able to have the speakers set into the run rather than being put on poles. This pleased the Olympic committee and the TV companies, as it made the system much less visible. As well as the regular TV teams there was also a massive presence of High Definition TV cameras at La Plagne as at every other site. These gave continuous live coverage via satellite to those lucky few throughout the EC who have access to the experimental wide screen TVs.

Returning to the sound system, the 402s have a 120 degree horizontal coverage. This coupled with their relatively low mounting positions and the fact that spectator areas tended to be close to the runs, meant that the coverage, level and intelligibility remained measurably and audibly good over the total length of the run.

Other outdoor sites for the ski-related events were more open than the bobsleigh run. Again there were designated spectator areas which had to be properly covered. Seating areas were covered by 402s and as they went further up the pistes these became 802s placed on poles which had been set into concrete bases the previous summer. Powering for each of the ski sites was from 1800 MkIV amplifiers with fairly simple front-ends of a basic mixer, mics and tape/CD playback.

For most events, the requirement for the systems was simply to broadcast the results to the spectators. But as Bruce Myers had discovered from Calgary, when it comes to Olympics there are always the needs of the TV companies to be taken into consideration.

"We got beat up in Calgary because we thought what we had done in previous World Cup events was going to acceptable for the Olympics.

"The fundamental difference is that there is a much greater intensity from the broadcasters. In World Cup events they want the entire aura of the environment which includes all the crowd noise, the flag waving and the PA.

"However CBS paid \$214 million for the rights to broadcast the Olympics in the US, and as far as they were concerned there shouldn't be a spectator or a sound system in site. For them this is a broadcast event and they want the sound of the skis on the snow and nothing else. If they want clapping and cheering they can just fold it in as an effect from tape.

"We knew we had to minimise the amount of energy on the slopes themselves. So what we did was design a more distributed sound system



The ceremony site with fireworks and US Sound cluster centre stage.



THE HIGH END



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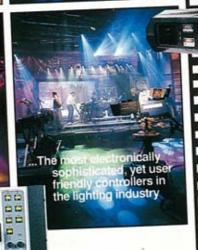


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Bruce Myers (right) applications manager and Andy Smaga MD of Bose France.

approach where we had loudspeakers mounted on poles on each side of the course, depending where the committee wanted spectators.

"We faced the speakers away from the slopes so we had 10 to 12dB lower levels on the course than in the audience area. If you were watching TV you wouldn't notice the PA at all, but the spectators could hear every word - intelligibility scored very high."

This year 'Artistic skiing' was added to the demonstration events, to become a full competitive event in two year's time.

This involves coming down the mountain side or flying through the air with an emphasis on elegance and style; and it is done to music. With the double demands of level and quality, the system has to be full-range, extending well beyond the speech bandwidth. It had to be loud enough for the competitors to hear the music over the sound of their skis, the wind noise and the blood rushing through their ears.

For these events, based around the slopes at Tignes, Bose brought in their larger self-powered AM-Pros, otherwise known as the Acoustimass, which have an integral sub-bass system. A total of 16 pole mounted AM-pros were used along the pistes and by the jumps to ensure coverage for the competitors and the 8000 strong audience.

So far, I had seen outdoor sites which worked well with the non-horn designs, but what about the ice stadiums with their high reverberation times? How did Bose fare in these very difficult venues?

There were two in particular, a 6000 seater hall in Meribel used for the ice hockey and the other, the 9000 seater Halle de Glace at Albertville, used for the ice skating. The requirements were quite different for the two. Mirabel was primarily a voice PA system covering the seating areas, but the Halle de Glace demanded full range high quality music to both the seating areas and the ice surface.

Mirabel was by far the easier of the two. It is relatively small and well controlled due to the judicious use of ordinary acoustic panels. Since the new hall goes into general use after the Olympics, it was suggested that a central cluster of 802s be installed with an additional distributed system of 402s.

As on the bobsleigh run, a 15m spacing was set for the 402s but it turned out that there were convenient flying points every 6m, so a 402 was fitted to alternate points with a 12m spacing. The clusters used four stacked pairs of 802s, and Bruce knew that they would be run at very low levels during the matches.

"The ice hockey players prefer to have a lower amount of sound energy on the ice so the cluster was not a problem, but we needed to be certain that we had enough level to deal with the crowd



Bose's John Dodson and the ubiquitous 402.

"I did some studies on crowd noise for similar venues at this facility. The French are a very polite people when it comes to watching hockey, the noise figures in Calgary were a good solid 8dB higher than here. We designed the system to provide 103dB continuous level with peaks of 107 to 108 dB. It is being run at a nominal 95 dB and although on a sleeper of a game that is a little too loud, it is very acceptable in a hotly controlled game where the crowd noise figures come above 86dB."

The room was fairly live (with a T60 reverberation time of around two seconds) which helped to smooth out already good coverage figures. These varied as little as +/-1dB up to 4 kHz, with good intelligibility in all areas.

The Halle de Glace was not so easy. Designed and built by Eiffel Construction, it was a completely un-adorned metal walled hall with four parallel minimal weight bearing catwalks running along the length of the roof.





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MULTI-LITE Lichttechnik Phone + 40/670 61 54 Telefax + 40/670 61 59 The T60 for the hall was 3 seconds empty and 2.5 seconds full and the choice of mounting points was limited to a central cluster position and the catwalks.

Since they wanted to place the amplifiers near the speakers, in other words on the catwalks, the Bose 1800s were ruled out because of weight, so the choice went to the lightweight Carver amps.

The cluster served the ice surface with six stacked pairs of 802s and a single separately EQ'd 802 pointing straight down. Bolted across the top of the cluster was a pair of Cannon sub-bass units. From previous experience Bose have found that they often need fewer sub-bass units than they expect. Even for this 9000 seater arena these two Cannons were running at only half power and providing ample, if marginally mono-tonal, bass end. But with so much reverberation and limited choice of speaker positioning, and using a non-horn speaker system, intelligibility was going to be the key problem.

"This project gave me more indigestion, more sleepless nights and more hand ringing than any other project I have been involved in the last two or three years," Bruce confided. "This is a very difficult room and I would have been very satisfied with 0.50 for STI (the Speech Transmission Index relating to 'fair' intelligibility).

"I was really concerned that this project was beyond our capabilities. So I got together with a consulting firm to design an appropriate centre cluster using conventional CD horns for comparison and the difference in intelligibility did not vary more than a couple of decimal points. What we determined out of that was that the room had taken over and the best you could do with horns we could do with Bose."

The end result was a centre cluster with two

rings of 802s set in seven separate speaker zones. Each zone was delayed relative to the central cluster by 15mS. The delay speakers were run so that at any seat their level could be as much as 10dB greater than the cluster, but the 15mS delay ensured that the sound still appeared to come from the cluster.

Intelligibility hit well over 0.6 STI, a 'good' rating, this was all the more impressive because it was a pretty difficult hall, and just the sort of venue in which accepted wisdom decrees the 802s won't work. I listened to it carefully and the performance more than matched the predictions.

The limiting factor to the sound reproduction was the source material. Bose had installed DAT players in the control room and helped with the transfer of competitors tapes to DAT. They used a myriad of devices to squeeze the last bit of quality out of what were often knackered cassettes.

The rusty razor-blade awards for rotten music editing went to tapes from the two most technologically equipped nations - the US and Japan - whilst many of the more 'backward' countries provided tapes of outstanding quality.

Dave, Bruce and his colleagues admit that not everything can be fixed with an 802 or a 402, and for the opening and closing ceremony these were just not going to fit the application.

The stadium was effectively a circle of raked scaffolding, holding 35,000 seats. In the centre of the circular performing area was a single tower which held, amongst other things, the main speaker cluster. It was the long distances involved that defeated them said Dave,

"In a stacked pair or a column of four, the 802 is good anywhere up to 150ft away from the listener. Once you get beyond that we have a problem particularly outdoors. For the ceremonies the primary cluster was to be 300ft

away and we took a look at that and said 'Agggh, wrong answer!'

"We won the contract on quality sound, so we felt obliged to supply the best sounding system we could for the opening and closing ceremony whether it was our product or not. So what happened then was an interesting quest for us.

"We started a bit of a witch hunt for a product and a design scenario that would work and found a company based in Philadelphia who have some attractive technology and an innovative way of arraying their product"

The company was US Sound, which provided their own unique compact horn-based systems in co-operation with the Bose engineers. Bose themselves are known to be looking at alternative strategies for 'long throw' applications and if this experiment is going to lead onto something new from Bose, then they kept tight-lipped about it. All Dave would say was: "It's the way they array these systems, they are really onto something. We had a lot of fun working with them, we've learnt a lot from them, they've learnt a lot from us and it was a very pleasant experience. We will probably do something again with these guys."

There was, in fact, a lot of Bose used for effects at the shows and as the amps were all 1800s, honour was maintained.

And the next Winter Olympics in Norway are they going for the hat-trick? The answer according to Dave Bell, is probably not.

"In Norway they have a partnership between the government and the committee. Everything is going out to a bid, and price is becoming terribly important. And after two Olympic games we know that while we have to have cost effective solutions; quality sound and the lowest bidder do not typically work together.

"It can be done, but at this stage we don't know how to do it. "

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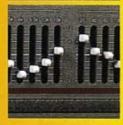
















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ON TOUR

Catriona Forcer

10 Om Te Zien Special Sportpaleis, Antwerp. L.Ds: Arf & Yes

Arf & Yes are a unique design company with three main divisions - product design, lighting/set design and corporate identity. The company is based around one subject creativity. It comprises seven people working from a loft in Ghent, Belgium and between them they produce a vast range of designs covering

lighting plots to fishing rods!

In Belgium, Arf & Yes have had immense experience in presenting rock music on television and their reputation as highly creative professionals is second to none. Unfortunately, being from Belgium, they tend to be overlooked by the larger companies in the UK and USA. Now Arf & Yes are fighting back, determined to export their knowledge of presenting rock and roll on television to the international rock scene.

"For us it is an industry rather than just a game," explained Giovani de Schampheleire, managing director of Arf & Yes. "We believe in a collective handling of creativity because nobody can do everything at the same time or you just lower your quality. The rock business today appears to be dominated by just a handful of lighting designers. We want to operate as a company rather than an individual. We think that we're capable of doing things very few people can do in this business. We can be an intermediate - we can handle rock and roll and present it on television the way it should be presented."

Arf & Yes admit that they are not so naive as to aim for the top bands yet, and they consider that to a certain extent, to be a no-go area. However, there is a layer of bands beneath that who they consider perform well musically but

with inadequate lighting.

As a company, Arf & Yes earn money from many different areas of design and as a consequence they're able to commit themselves financially to more projects than an individual designer can. They can afford to carry the cost of a 'try out'. They've discovered that the best way to secure a large budget on important projects is to present a complete concept to the client as he is invariably motivated to go for what he has just seen. They compare themselves to Fisher Park in this area of extremely well-presented ideas.

Whilst in London, Giovani de Schampheleire and lighting designer Ignace d'Haese visited Samuelsons to show them their capabilities and, by all accounts, the latter were duly impressed. Past projects are extremely well documented as the company also has its own photographic

studio.

Last month Arf & Yes were responsible for lighting the '10 Om Te Zien Special '92' at the massive Sportpaleis in Antwerp. Belgian television has two channels, one state-owned and one commercial. Arf & Yes are responsible for lighting five shows a week for the commercial channel as well as the occasional 'spectacular' like 10 OTZ. This particular project is very important to the television channel as they use it as a vehicle to show advertisers that they are capable of producing such a show. The programme is comparable to the BBC's Top of

the Pops but there are 26 bands, only from Belgium, performing in front of an audience of 17,000 and the show goes out completely live. The key to success in executing the lighting for this show is speed.

"We read in Lighting+Sound International about shows that have six weeks of rehearsals and rig changes," said a surprised Giovanni. "I can tell you that on these things we never change anything as there'd never be time. Tina Turner had four weeks of rehearsals at the Sportpaleis before her last tour! We have one day of rehearsal and one dress rehearsal for a live, on tape show. We programme during the rehearsal-including the Vari*Lites. It's amazing what we do for 17,000 people live on tape with nine television cameras."

In December Arf & Yes were presented with the first draft of the set which was designed by Paul de Gueldere. The final design was ready by January 1st and then there was one month to design the lighting rig and get all the gear together within the allotted budget. The main bulk of the equipment for this show was supplied by Belgian company EML, who in turn subcontracted a certain amount of gear from Samuelsons including, of course, the Vari*Lites. Five days before the show, the load in began. This proved a problem because at the Sportpaleis in Antwerp the entrance is where the stage is. As a result they had to keep the middle part of the stage open, only closing it when everything was inside.

The show cost a lot of money to stage so the more days the preparation is spread over, the smaller the budget. Although Arf & Yes would ideally like more time, they agree that it is much better to compact the time and hence have a larger budget. It was not until the day after the load in that the designers got the go ahead, at a budget meeting, to use Telescans.

The lighting was a joint design between Ignace d'Haese, Dirk de Clerq and Michiel Milbou with Ignace running the main control board. Ignace d'Haese started out in life studying architecture but gave this up to work for EML. He stayed there for many years, touring with

several bands as well as working with Showco, occasionally using his architectural skills to draw up stages.

"This show goes unbelievably quickly," said Ignace. "Unfortunately I was very ill at the time but with our company, if we do something big, there is always a back-up. There are several people in the company with the same style who can help out. For the client's sake you have to secure the whole thing. I was too ill to do the focusing but my co-designers Dirk and Michiel were there to take over.

"You have to work very fast with this show and you don't get much sleep! Also, like Top of the Pops, we don't know what songs are going to be included until the last moment. I work a lot with Rob Beerten, Vari*Lite operator, on TV shows and when we look at each other we can understand each other. With such short timing

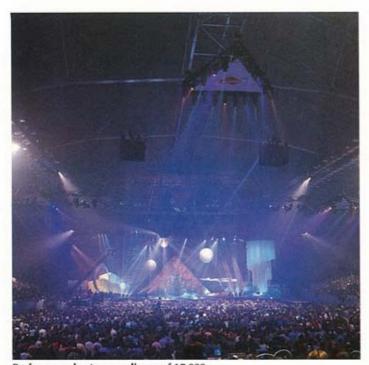
on a show that's important."

The set is comprised of five different 'areas' which are linked to make one complete stage. Ignace is careful to make sure that the panels between the five areas are always lit with the same colour to keep the continuity and give the impression of one long set. Basically, the lighting designers have 'mirrored' what is happening on the floor within the rig. The central point of the design is a pyramid of 90 Par cans, 81 with colour changers. Either side of the pyramid are two sets of six VL2Bs that go to the same perspective point. On one side of the set the scenery builds up quite high so the rig is not as heavy as on the other side where the set is much lower. The rig is impressive with about 600 Par cans and 150 Vari*Lites, including the audience lighting. Effects include megastrobes, light curtains and a giant mirrorball.

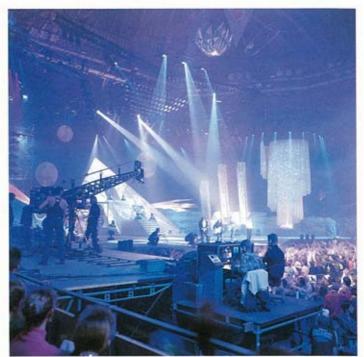
"Normally, in television, fresnels are used for key lighting," explained Ignace. "The problem with this is that if you want to hang 10k fresnels from the front truss they have to be at quite a low angle and then they tend to get in the way of the shots. So we did all the key lighting with followspots, except for one number when all the artistes gather together on stage. Obviously, we couldn't do it all with followspots so we used



The lighting control nerve-centre during the one and only dress rehearsal.



Performers play to an audience of 17,000.



The special is taped for Belgium's only commercial television station.

two 6k and one 12k HMI just for that song."

Arf & Yes produced an excellent light show, under difficult circumstances, for the 10 Om Te Zien Special '92. The Belgians have a reputation in the UK for being boring but Arf & Yes certainly dispel that idea. After all, this is the company that once dared to fly ACLs from a series of kites at an outdoor show!

A more detailed review of the company Arf & Yes will appear in a future issue of L+SI.

Equipment List

- 413 x Par 64s
 60 x Par 64 floorcans
 112 x Par 64 ACL
 16 x Par 46 ACL
 5 x 5ks plus colour scroller
 20 x 2Ks
 7 x 1Ks
 4 x light curtain + scroller
 4 x 2Ks CCT Profile
 9 x Par 16 light battens
- Par 16 light battens
- 8-Lite ColourMag 20 x 95 x

- 9
- ColourMag Molemag Celco Gold linked 6Ks HMI + shutter 12K HMI + shutter Pani 1200W HMI long throw (truss underhang)
- 3K Xenon followspot
- VL2b spot luminaires VL4 wash luminaires 36
- Artisan control board Telescan MkII 1200w
- 12 HMI

- HMI Megastrobe 72-way Avo racks 48-way Digilight 8' truss section TTR 4' truss section TTR 2' truss section TTR Oil Cracker ZR 20





Above and below: Scenes from the Om Te Zien Special '92





Eric ClaptonAlbert Hall, London

L.D: Tom Kenny Sound: Buford Jones

Eric Clapton recently returned to London to take up his habitual February residence at the Albert Hall and, as with last year, his lighting designer was Tom Kenny. Although Vari*Lite operator Andy Gibbs insists that the show was designed 'on the back of the proverbial fag packet in Preston', the results were up to Tom's usual standard.

Since the end of last year's tour with Eric Clapton, Tom has been busily steering his career towards film lighting. Nik Jackson of Light & Sound Design asked him to be their house film lighting director and to assist lighting designers such as Allen Branton and Patrick Woodroffe on the large film shoots. Tom gladly took up the role and his first task was a two week shoot assisting Allen Branton on a Gloria Estefan show that was shown on Disney Channel and HBO in America.

He continued working with Allen Branton as well as aiding Patrick Woodroffe at Donnington. In September he designed the Chesney Hawkes show which toured theatres in the UK. Although the budget was small, the lighting system looked good and received favourable reviews.

The last two months of the year were spent in Japan with George Harrison and Eric Clapton performing shows together. There were 13 shows culminating in three performances at the 50,000 seater Tokyo Dome. A larger lighting rig, which Tom Kenny and Andy Gibbs had to produce in 40 hours, was installed for these shows.



Eric Clapton - doing what he does best.

Rehearsals for the Eric Clapton tour began in January at Bray Studios. At the same time MTV filmed an acoustic set by Eric called 'Unplugged'. It was an interesting situation for Tom as he was relegated to assisting Allen Branton, who takes care of all of MTV's lighting, once more.

After a few shows in the UK, Eric and his entourage installed themselves in the Albert Hall. The show will shortly travel to the USA before joining up with Elton John for some spectacular summer stadium shows. These will be double headliners with each artiste taking it in turn to take the stage first. Tom will work closely with whoever is chosen as Elton John's lighting designer to produce a lighting system that works well for both bands.



This year's lighting rig comprises a series of 'stacked 'single truss layers.

At a time of the year when tours are few and far between, Tom Kenny admits that he is fortunate to work with Eric Clapton who has already stated his intentions to return to the same venue next year. He also admits that it is difficult to come up with fresh ideas for songs that he knows so well.

"Obviously you have the same basics to each song but Andy and I are thinking about it all the time," said Tom. "It's such a good show that with Eric you could turn on two house lights and it would be great anyway."

The lighting rig this year is a series of 'stacked' layers of single truss complete with an array of Par cans, ColourMags, eight cell Moles, groundrows, six truss followspots and two front of house followspots. There are a few more Vari*Lites this year which are used particularly well on their own during the 20 minute acoustic set.

A special effort has been made in this show to black off the stage to keep it tidy. In anticipation of the USA gigs which are played in the round, the lighting system has also been kept very tidy with all cables concealed.

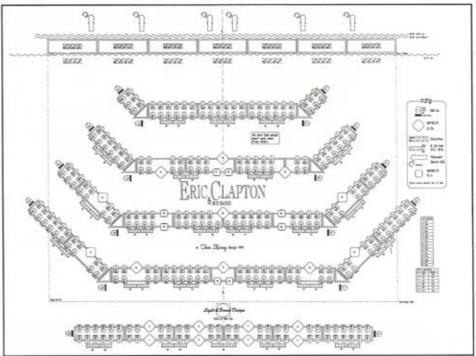
The sound is taken care of by Showco Inc.

who have contracted Buford Jones of Dallas as the sound mixer. Normally an independent sound mixer hired direct by the artistes, Buford Jones has worked on many prestigious tours including David Bowie's 'Sound & Vision' and Pink Floyd's 'Momentary Loss of Reason'.

Sound equipment consists of a Showco Prism system and a Harrison console with 32 inputs plus 20 expanders totalling 52 inputs. Added to that is a typical array of sound effects.

"It's a very straightforward show," said Buford Jones. "Placing the mix and finding the mix is not as difficult as some I've worked with. I don't particularly care for the Albert Hall although it's not as bad as I was led to believe before I came here. The low end is hard to control and define, kick drums and bass guitars are a little difficult. Some of the mid frequencies swim around a bit but it's not out of hand, it just requires a lot of attention."

In last month's On Tour we referred to the lighting designer for Joe Cocker as Robbie Morror. This should have read Robbie Morrow.



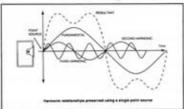
Tom Kenny's lighting design for Eric Clapton's recent Albert Hall appearance.

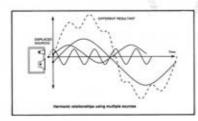
SOUND IN FOCUS

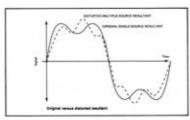


Every sound we hear contains a fundamental frequency with a number of harmonics. The harmonic structure differentiates one sound from another, one musical instrument from another, one voice from another. To reproduce a sound with realism the harmonic structure must be accurately preserved, or the human ear will recognise the sound for what it is ... a voice coming through a PA loudspeaker.

The harmonic structure of sound spans the crossover frequency of loudspeakers. Some harmonics are produced by the bass unit, others by the treble. Preserving the harmonic structure means preserving the time differences between harmonics. Only the Tannoy Dual Concentric with coincident acoustic sources will achieve this, heard from any point in the audience.







The top graph shows the harmonic structure preserved by the Tannoy Dual Concentric. All harmonics start off at the same time just as the original sound.

The middle graph shows how a normal speaker distorts the harmonic structure. Harmonics split between bass and treble start off at different times.

The bottom graph shows the difference. Tannoy Contractors Series — or just another PA sound. It's up to you.

TANOY. CONTRACTOR SERIES

Main UK Distributor Avitec Electronics (UK) Ltd., 80/81 Walsworth Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9SX Tel: 0462 458961 Fax: 0462 431019



Tannoy Ltd., Rosehall Industrial Estate, Coatbridge, Strathclyde ML5 4TF, Scotland. Tel: (0236) 20199 Fax (0236) 28230

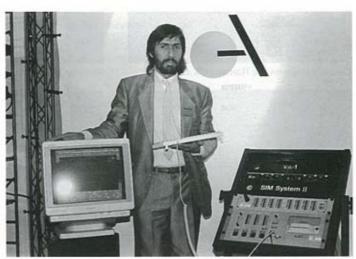
Attended of the TGI plo Group of Companies

SOUND 92 AT THE HEATHROW PENTA

Tim Frost Reports on the First Showing of New Sound Products This Year



Neil Voce of Carter-Voce and Anthony Smith of AVX Systems with the AVX VxLAN total computer control system.



Independent consultant Jim Cousins with Sim II which is now available for sale as opposed to rental only.

Sound '92 at the Penta Hotel was surprising not for how much new product was being shown, but more for the number of companies who have managed to better than survive the last year. Although industry growth has hardly been the order of the day, Sound '92 as an exhibition has continued to build up beyond its UK dominated roots. Where the PLASA Light & Sound Show generates the bigger crowds, and attracts the music related reinforcement business, Sound '92 is becoming the showcase for companies or divisions involved in speech and safety systems.

This area is adding a new dimension to the installation market. The sophistication and integration of system control is developing at exactly the same time that the users - the larger halls, exhibition spaces and sports facilities - are beginning to think about better safety and evacuation systems. In some cases they are being forced to think about it by legislation, but either way the technology and need are developing in parallel.

One of the more evident examples of this sort of system was the UK-developed VxLAN system from AVX systems, which got its debut at the show.

VxLAN is a software/hardware system that can route audio complex zones defined within a building using PC-based electronics. The audio can be manipulated in many ways - routing and zoning, full system monitoring, manual and automated level changes, delay, tone control and full equalisation. It can then be sent around the venue on a twin ring of two-pair cables (one for use and one for back-up). The audio is transmitted using bitstream technology, the same as used on the better CD players. This converts the signal at a sampling frequency of 48kHz which gives a slightly better bandwidth than a CD.

Neil Voce, of the system's distributors, reckons that running the software under Windows and using a touch screen considerably adds to the system's ease of use. "It routes signals to zones just by touching the zone on the paging screen. The touch screen is very simple to operate and the advantage of Windows is that it has so much control power."

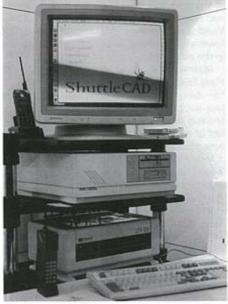
Running custom audio software under Windows, as VxLAN does, is something that we will see a great deal more of in the next year. The advantage of VxLAN and systems like it, is that the differing zoning requirements of paging, music and safety can all be handled with a single sound system from a single console. It integrates the emergency systems and the system monitoring and records all of the system activity, from the microphone to the speaker, so the user knows, and can prove in court if necessary, that the system is working correctly.

Shuttlesound, who have been involved in many major UK installations made their system design software commercially available for the first time at the show. Two things make this software welcome, first it shows that installers and distributors are willing, and able, to develop their own design software and not hoard it to themselves. Secondly, unlike the software from JBL which is for overall system design, ShuttleCAD, as Brian May explained, is there to deal with the schematic and mechanical design of the system.

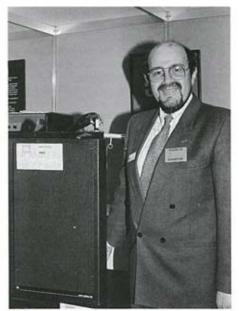
"The software can draw up the rack layouts including the amplifier and processor front panels, and it can also produce engraving layouts. The system will produce fully detailed



Phil Barrett with the AVX induction loop system on the Wigwam stand.



ShuttleCAD: installer's expertise now commercially available as a software package.



Bruno Wayte with JBL's new, compact, high power, arrayable speaker.



C-Audio amps on the Harman UK stand.



DAS Amplifiers from Spain.

schematics and allow you to build up a parts list, which can be exported to other programs such as databases and spreadsheets*.

PC processors made another appearance, albeit buried inside a completely self-contained unit, on Autograph's stand.

Quite a few years ago Meyer started work on SIM, a system designed to aid the setting up of Meyer systems. SIM gained in power being able to analyse the sound system in real-time using music signals as well as the more traditional test tones. But although it was very clever it was also complex, expensive and could only be rented in with an operator. A new version, SIM II which seems to change most of that, had its European launch at the show. On the stand, Jim Cousins summed up the difference between old and new.

"It is less expensive, it is easier to use and it is available to anyone who wants to buy it. We don't think that it being a Meyer product will cause any problems with engineers using other speaker systems, because it is such an effective tool."

Autograph were also displaying a new flying system for small speakers produced by ATM. It is very neat and just clips together and was also to be seen on Harman UK's stand in the guise of JBL's S.A.F.E. flying system. What was attached to the flying hardware was more interesting though, a new JBL compact two-way reinforcement PA speaker.

With the Array series, JBL are getting into the small box/high power market pioneered by Meyer. The 4892 is the first of the series with more to come in the summer. It has been designed, as its name implies, for creating clusters. It has a set of completely new drivers and a new 45° horn, to allow arraying without too many interference effects between cabinets. Harman's Richard Moore pointed out their new piece of microprocessor electronics, the \$52000 - "a completely digital controller which carries out the crossover equalisation and phase functions." The unit comes with factory settings to get the best out of the Array system.

D&B, the German reinforcement system manufacturer, which has built its name on integrating speakers and processors, showed the P600, a new processor/amplifier system specifically for their E1 speaker.

Yet more new processing on the Marquee stand, the BSS FCS-926 digitally-controlled equaliser. The unit has 12 'Varicurve' parametric



Reddifusion's Admaster.



First of many new products from Metro Audio.

bands, a real time analyser and a processor to link the two for automated equalisation. The system can be set up manually or it can do it all on its own, setting the system to a flat response or user determined response without any human intervention. A useful feature of processor-based equalisers such as the BSS is that they have no knobs to twiddle, so once set-up in an installation, it is difficult for anyone else to come along and upset the system alignment.

At Sound '92, Rediffusion, were primarily selling their background music all on their Star Sound 4 bit long play CDs. But the company has found in these recession-hit days that shops are looking to make money out of their background music by selling advertising space on it. Rediffusion's new hardware offering therefore was a dual cassette unit with one drive for music tapes and the other for ad spots that can be dropped in at dozen different predetermined intervals.

In a completely different area, LMC's Radio Station got its first exhibition showing in its new stylish format. The Radio Station offers the reverse function of a radio mic. It is a belt pack receiver that takes foldback directly to the performer's ears. The high quality stereo playback that gives the performer total freedom of the stage has already attracted Cliff Richard and Sinead O'Connor as users, and LMC's Paul Ward is also planning on being able to supply a lower cost/quality unit for communications use in the near future.

Metro Audio, recently re-established with Hans Frietag, had on show its first new product for some time - the CBP low cost comms belt-packs. These came in dual and single channel versions starting at under £130 and the first of what Frietag promises to be a "stream of new products".

Very much out of their traditional guise of PA system supplier and hire company, Wigwam were promoting a new induction loop system for the hard of hearing.

It shouldn't be so surprising given Wigwam's close involvement with the church notes Phil Barrett. "We have been supplying induction loops for churches for many years, and because we install these things, we know what is needed." The system is defined by Wigwam and manufactured by AVX, previously detailed as the makers of the VxLAN system.

Japanese radio mics are on the increase with



One down the BSS Varicurve with LCD panel.



Phil Price with RCF's electronics line-up.

both Toa and AT showing new units.

AT have been working towards MT approval, honourable fellows that they are, and have at last got it for their ATW 125/6 mic systems.

Toa, who more than any other exhibitor have shown the way to full system integration - audio - safety and video security systems, also had three new radio mic systems. These took in the full spread of handheld, lapel, diversity and non-diversity systems. Toa's list of new products ranged from background music systems, a CCTV camera, megaphones and ceiling speakers.

Both HW/Shure and Beyer had new microphones for similar applications. Beyer's MEM86 is aimed for conference and lectern usage and has the amplifier section separated from the capsule. Steve Bilford sees this type of mic as a useful addition to the range, especially with, "the conference and church installation market being one that we are moving into as there is a fair amount of building work going on, especially with churches."

Shure's response to the same market was the SM102, a microphone designed to be suspended above lecterns, therefore removing the possibility of floor and structure borne noise.

New mixers were less in evidence this year, with a console from Sennheiser and Klark-Teknik sneaking onto their stand the new Interface desk from sister company, DDA. By the look and feel of this new mixer, DDA are following the lead set by Soundcraft in compact mixers with high style. As Chris Gibbs on the stand put it: "the new desk adds style, and although it is relatively cheap it is still a professional desk designed by Dave Dearden."

Style also played an important part in RCF's current electronics line-up. Added to their range were more in the 2000 series, including a digital announcement unit which can handle up to 20 eight-second messages.

Although there was no new product on the stand, it was good to see Hill in attendance, now in more stable condition under the Millbank umbrella. And Millbank themselves were showing more computers and a solid state messaging system.

European and pan-European companies were also in evidence in increasing numbers at the show.

From Spain, Lightfactor Sales showed a new D.A.S 'bi-driver horn' a high power horn system for evacuation, signalling and speech uses, and an amplifier range which Lightfactor's Mike

TOUR DE FORCE ONO ONO WO

- Sheer Sonic Excellence
- High Power Handling
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These are just some of the qualities that have installed Wharfedale's Force Series sound reinforcement as the preferred choice of audio professionals world-wide. And now there's Force 9P with its tough polymer enclosure bringing the power and accuracy of the 'compact with impact' to touring, concert and mobile applications too.

With its unique, interlocking cabinet design, the revolutionary new Force 9P ensures that, free standing or in trapezoidal arrays, it always stacks up to great sound. Outstanding Value

Force 9 can be used full-range or interfaced with its own special Sub-Bass via the unique Bass Extender



for performance that brings audiences to their feet and the competition to its knees.

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Hannaford reckoned gave the advantage, "of bi-polar quality at a reasonable cost, similar to that of MOSFETs.'

The Swiss Uniton organisation took quite a large stand to show their full range of integrated paging, public address and background music systems, with an eye on attracting business at the show not only from UK clients but also, they said, from the middle and far east.

At the opposite end of the scale, the French Merlaud stand was one of the smallest, but looks were obviously deceptive. The company, established nearly 70 years ago produce a range of paging systems including the 'long line' PA system used for announcements on the Metro and now also being installed at Euro-Disney. Using digital coding and FM modulation Merlaud can send better than average audio quality to any one or a combination of 250 destinations on the line.

"Normally these long-line systems have a



Showing the Merlaud PA system, now breaking into the UK from France.

bandwidth of only 3kHz " said Merlaud's Gilbert Saliba. "By using frequency modulation we are the only company who can produce long-line systems that have a bandwidth of 8kHz"

And the message from Sound 92?

Computing and complex processing is beginning to make its mark. A large number of exhibitors have seen that sound systems are no longer fore, mid or background music or message carriers or paging systems or an element of the evacuation system - they have to do

Clients are looking to meet evacuation and alarm system standards with as little cost as possible, which means integrating sound, security and alarms within the one system. There are exhibitors like Philips who have worked this way for years, and now companies who historically have concentrated on the music side of sound reinforcement and PA are beginning to see the light as well.

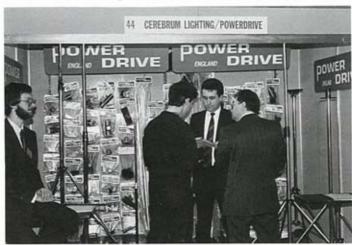


The Toa sound emporium.

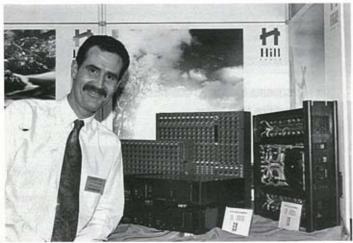




DDA's Chris Gibbs with their new Interface on its first UK showing.



Cerebrum and Powerdrive in combination.



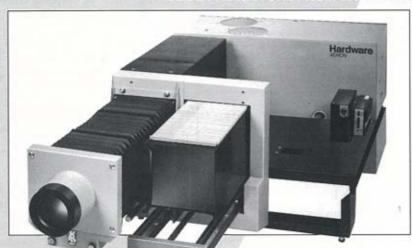
Derek West with Hill Audio's power amplifiers.



Marquee Audio's Spencer Brooks with the 'knobless' BSS Varicurve sandwiched amongst EMO and Yamaha racks.

Hardware Xenon High power projection

SLIDE PROJECTORS FROM 600 TO 5000 WATTS



All Hardware Xenon projectors are portable and entirely automatic. The DHX models are also compatible with multi-image dissolve systems.

■ 5000 Watts Xenon - 75000 lumens 18 x 18,5 cm slides Image up to 40 metres wide. Designed for glant image projection in large auditoriums, onto monuments, châteaux, inflatable structures or any background created for special events.



▲ 600 Watts Xenon - 4000 lumens 24 x 36 mm slides

Image up to 7 metres wide with this compact projector. Black-out not required, allowing ambient light to be used for note-taking during seminars.



▲ 1000 Watts Xenon - 8000 lumens 24 x 36 mm and 6 x 6 cm slides Image up to 10 metres wide, with a popular 24 x 36 mm version for multi-image use in conferences, sales conventions, etc...



▲ XENON FOLLOW SPOTLIGHTS

- high quality definition, thanks to 5-element lenses.
- optimized cooling of coloured filters, iris and gobos.

2000 Watts Xenon

Use range from 15 to 150 metres.

5000 Watts Xenon Use range from 15 to 300 metres.

■ SKY LIGHTS

Hardware Xenon Sky Lights are either fitted to mobile mountings slaved to microprocessors, with obturator and colour change commands from 0 - 10 volts, or to a DMX 512, or fixed to adjustable supports.

2000 Watts Xenon 5000 Watts Xenon





PLASA NEWS

Barcode for Safety . . .

A full day seminar has been organised by the PLASA office to discuss the use of portable applicance testers, computerised bar coded recording and labelling all electrical stock to

inform on quality checks.

A comprehensive recording system, showing when each product passed safety checks is necessary under the new HSE rules. The system discussed will prevent unsafe equipment being used by staff and customers, will satisfy the HSE and ensure the latest BS5750 Quality Control standards are met. The day will commence with a debate on the current situation led by members from PLASA companies who are already establishing suitable systems. Following the debate there will be a demonstration from a leading computer company who will describe their system and explain futher requirements and finally, Le Mark will show you bar coding and other labelling systems in action.

To register your place fill in the booking form below and return to the PLASA office.

Welcome In . . .

At the February meeting of the Executive Committee, approval was given for Canon Audio to join the Association as a full member. In the newly introduced International Membership Group Strong International, Inc. of the USA was provisionally approved. Samuelson Communications, Samuelson Concert Productions and Vari-Lite Europe were all granted corporate status under the Theatre Projects membership and United Kingdom Distributors became corporate members, being part of Leamington Sight and Sound.

Show Up!

Philbeach report that the PLASA Light and Sound Show '92 is already 500sq.m larger than last year and no less than 18 first-time exhibitors will be at the Show. Philbeach recommend that if you haven't already done so, then you should book now to avoid disappoinment. Telephone 071-370 8215.

ANOTHER PLASA SEMINAR!

To All Employers And Hirers

COME AND SEE PAT

at the Forte Posthouse, South Mimms, Potters Bar, (at junction of M25 and A1M)

on 6th APRIL 1992

PAT IS PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING USING BAR-CODING

Under the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) the Electricity at Work Regulations (1989) and the forthcoming Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations (199-), employers and hirers have a duty to ensure that all equipment supplied by them for the use of others is safe to use - which means it must be tested, properly maintained and records kept. This seminar will show you how to do all this at once by the use of a computer-based system which reads bar codes on all your appliances, carries out safety tests, and records the results.

PROGRAMME 10.30 Coffee and Registration Welcome and Introduction to Appliance Safety Ceorge Thompson (PLASA Standards Officer) 11.00 Facing up to the Problems 11.05 Peter Coleman (Midland Theatre Servi John Watson (Theatre Projects Sound) nan (Midland Theatre Services) 11.30 The Need for PAT Val Dawson (Seaward Electronics) Demonstration of System Peter Nelson (Barron-McCann) 12.00 12.30 followed by opportunity to examine system Bar Coding Stuart Gibbons (Le Mark TVS) 14.00

	Followed by Summa	ary and Open Forum
Members £30.00 + V	AT + Non Members £4	15.00 + VAT + Two Delegates from same company £50.00 + VAI
Please reserve	tickets at	for the PLASA 'PAT' Seminar, April 6th, 1992
I enclose a cheque	made payable to 'P	LASA Ltd' for £ (NOTE: charges include lunch)
Name		Position
Company		Address
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Р	lease return this slip with yo	our remittance to the PLASA office as soon as possible

ASA OFFICE: 7 HIGHLIGHT HOUSE, ST. LEONARDS ROAD, EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX BN21 0323 410335 FAX: 0323 646905 L+SI: 0323 642639

EXHIBITION DIARY

USITT Conference & Stage Expo 92 March 4-7, 1992 - Seattle - USITT, Suite 5a, 10 West 19th Street, New York NY 10011-4206, USA. Telephone (212) 924 9088

Frankfurt Musik Messe

March 11-15, 1992 - Frankfurt, Germany Collins & Endres, Morley House, 314/322 Regent St, London W1R 5AB. Telephone 071-323 6570

SIB/MAGIS

March 22-25, 1992 - Rimini, Italy - PLASA, 7 Highlight House, St Leonards Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3UH/Knights Management Services, 1 Knights Garden, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JR. Telephone (0323) 442747

ABTT 92

April 2-3 - Royal Horticultural Halls, - London Theatrical Trading Ltd, 4 Great Pulteney Street, London, W1R 3DF. Tel 071-434 3901.

Pub Club Leisure Show 92

April 7-9, 1992 - London - Angex ltd, Times House, Station Approach, Ruislip, Middx, HA4 8NB. Telephone (0895) 677677.

Expo Musica 92

April 22-26, 1992 - Madrid - IFEMA, Recinto Ferial, Casa de Campo, Avda. de Portugal, s/n., 28011 Madrid, Spain. Telephone (91) 470 10 14

Pro Light & Sound Expo 92

May 14-16 1992 - Sydney - PO Box 913, Adelaide, South Australia 5001. Telephone (08) 296 4189

Showtec 92

June 2-4, 1992 - Berlin - Overseas Trade Show Agencies Ltd, 11 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AB. Telephone 071-486 1951

APRS 92

June 3-5, 1992 - London - APRS Ltd, 2 Windsor Square, Silver Street, Reading, RG1 2TH. Telephone (0724) 756218

Sound and Light 92

June 20-22, 1992 - Martigny - Boston Production, Case postale 30, CH-1880 Bex. Telephone 025 633 752.

World Lighting Fair Tokyo 92

June 24-26, 1992 - Tokyo - Zenshyokyo, Kombaba Neo-Palace-501, 3- 1-1 Ikejiri Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo 154, Japan. Telephone 03-3706-2001

Pro Sound & Light Asia 92 July 8-10, 1992 - Singapore - Business & Industrial Trade Fairs Ltd, 28/F Harbour Centre, 25 Harbour Rd, Wanchai, Hong Kong, Tel (852) 575 6333.

PLASA Light & Sound Show 92

September 6-9, 1992 - Earls Court 2, London - Philbeach Events Ltd, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 9TA. Telephone 071-370 8215.

Photokina

September16-22,1992 - Cologne KolnMesse, Messe-und, Ausstellungs, Ges.m.b.H.Koln, Messeplatz 1, Postfach 21 07 60, D-5000 Koln 21

Lighting Dimensions International 92

November 20-22, 1992 - Dallas - PLASA, 7 Highlight House, St Leonards Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3UH. Tel (0323) 410335.

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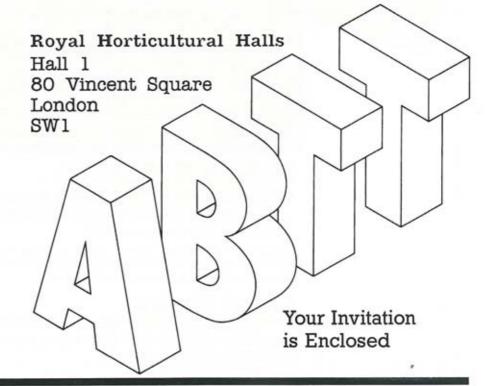
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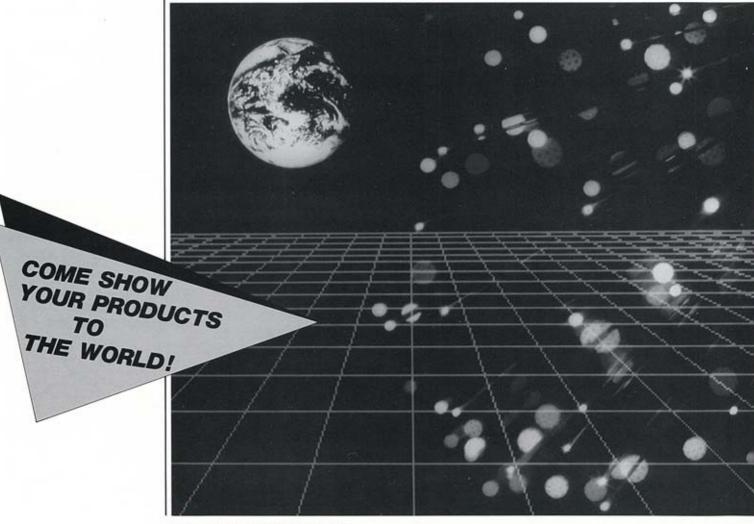
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Hot Solutions

As fire safety regulations become stricter, the use of flame retardant materials in both public and work environments is of paramount importance. Rosco has developed a flame retardant primer, which enables the scenic artist to prime all textiles or wood surfaces to maintain safety regulations for fire protection. Base materials treated with Rosco F.R. White Primer prevent fire spread and conform to BS476 parts 6 and 7. The Primer, which comes ready for use from the bucket, is a matt emulsion paint which can be thinned with water if necessary.

Rosco Flamex C30 is a versatile flame retardant solution for fire protection of man-made and natural textiles and fabrics. Water-based it is odourless and non-crystalline and forms a continuous leves to treat the fabric.

continuous layer to treat the fabric.

Full technical data sheets are available from Roscolab Ltd in London, telephone 081-659 2300.

Electronic Ballast



Enersave is a range of energy-saving electronic ballasts that has recently been introduced by Acma Marketing, and manufactured by their parent company in Singapore. The units are fully approved for use in the UK and designed to run on both argon and krypton linear and PL lamps, say Acma.

For further details contact Acma Marketing in Petersfield, telephone (0730) 894455.

Strand Launch Theatrical Luminaires

New stage lighting luminaires have been added to Strand's range, and old favourites have been revived and upgraded for 1992. The popular Cantata range has been expanded by the addition of two new condenser-optic profiles. Named Cantata Optique Profiles, the spotlights cover a wide range of beam angles in just two versions: the 8/17 degrees and the 15/44 degrees.

A compact floodlight, the Mini Flood, has been launched, aimed at both the architectural and stage lighting markets. This uses a 78mm double-ended linear lamp, available in 100W, 150W and 250W ratings. The floodlight comes complete with wire mesh, safety glass and a colour filter frame, but the

lamp is not included.

Strand's Minim F and PC, withdrawn from production last year, are now back with an up-to-date specification. A new rear handle incorporates the cable entry and clamp, and wiring has been upgraded to meet the latest European safety standard.

The Prelude has been significantly improved by upgrading the specification of the lenses, by adding lens-cleaning access, improving the durability of the power socket and adding a new design of tilt and lock. The new lenses used in Prelude give a whiter light and improved focusing. Fresnel and PC versions also benefit from improved performance and are being upgraded with the new power socket and tilt clamp.

For further information contact Strand in Isleworth, telephone 081-560 3171.

Peavey Launch Unity SM Series

Peavey have recently launched the Unity Series 1000SM and 2000SM mixers. The SM 2000 offers channel expansion capability in the form of eight additional unbalanced line level inputs that may be assigned and mixed into the master stage as eight additional channels. Each input features a 1/4 inch phone jack, limit LED, mute switch, pan control, and a level control. There are also master levels for left, right and monitor for the overall level of the eight additional inputs. The SM 1000 offers the same features with a six channel line mixer expansion.

Effects returns may be mixed back into the monitors via the 'effects to monitor' control in the master section, and effects return panning is provided for the mains. The mixers are also equipped with tape outputs and tape inputs with level control, and these patch points are accomplished with RCA jacks. The Unity Series 1000SM is available in 8 and 12 channel versions amd the 2000SM is offered in 12 and 16 channels.

For further details contact Peavey in Northants, telephone (0536) 205520.

Supermick Twin Head

Supermick has developed a twin head version of its Serious Mark 1 mist machine. The cracked oil machine, launched last year in a single head version produces an even amount of mist over the stage set. Supermick told L+SI that the mist is 'environmentally friendly' because it doesn't involve burning or heating elements to produce the smoke.

Both the single and twin head versions are available for hire from the company, with an optical remote control. For more information contact the company in London on 071-221 2322.

Kremesa Upgrade

Kremesa's CR1AL pinspot has been upgraded in its new Mark 2 form to incorporate Kremesa's own Spotlux sealed reflector unit coupled with an M32 12v 50 watt lamp, and a captive mains lead is now fitted as standard.

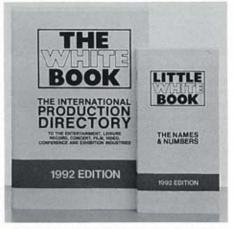


Claimed advantages include a low lamp replacement cost, a 2,000 hour rated lamp life and a higher light output than from a normal sealed beam Par 36 30 watt lamp but with similar beam pattern.

Further information is available from Avitec, Kremesa's UK distributors, telephone Hitchin (0462) 458961.

1992 White Book

The 1992 edition of The White Book has recently been published. The ninth annual compilation of this international production directory has more than 35,528 entries and includes several new categories. In the midst of all that lot, on page 566, you'll discover all you need to know about PLASA and Lighting and Sound International. It's also complemented, once again, by The Little White Book, a comprehensive pocket-sized reference of every UK entry's telephone number.



The publication is available from The White Book, P O Box 55, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4UG. For further infomation contact the editor on (0784) 464441.

Yamaha Launch at AES

With the launch of the DEQ5 digital equalizer at this year's AES Show in Vienna, Yamaha have added to their line of digital pro-audio products.

The 2u rack is operable either as a dual channel, one-third octave graphic equalizer or a six band parametric equalizer, and has a 1,300 millisecond delay, adjustable in 20 microsecond increments.

For the processing of analog signal, the wide dynamic range (more than 10dB) is maintained by the use of 19-bit delta-sigma A/D convertors with reduced low level distortion, as compared to PCM techniques. The output stage employs 20-bit D/A conversion, with a peak level of +24dBm. Analog inputs and outputs are all XLR, electronically balanced, while digital ins and outs conform to both AES/EBU and Yamaha Y2 formats. Programming is via an LED screen that graphically displays the eq curve, together with a text display of utility menus. Up to 40 user memories are available for storing eq settings and these may also be transferred to another DEQ5 or stored to a computer via Midi or RS-485.

Yamaha also launched the MC0411 live reinforcement consoles, to replace the MC04 series. The consoles offer four primary mix-groups plus stereo, and four auxiliary send busses. The 4-band eq section is sweepable on both mid-band pots and features a switchable 80Hz high pass filter. All channels are equipped with XLR and 1/4" phono inputs and phantom power. Two stereo auxiliary returns and two stereo tape inputs accommodate inputs from effects processors. Two mix-matrices have been included, normally the preserve of Yamaha's high end consoles.

Further new products launched at AES include the Q1131,31 band single channel graphic equalizer, and the D2040 digital channel divider.

For further details on all these products contact Yamaha in Milton Keynes, telephone (0908) 366700.

Strand Resource Pack

An 'all you need to know about lighting' resource pack aimed at school teachers and students has been launched by Strand Lighting. It follows the move by education authorities in Britain to put lighting on the exam syllabus, as part of drama and theatre arts courses. Up to 8,000 schools throughout the UK are being targeted initially, with plans to extend the scheme to Canada, Australia and other countries later. It is also felt that amateur theatrical companies will find the pack of value.



Strand's Education Resource Pack contains a series of 15 posters providing graphic illustrations for separate subjects which are covered in a detailed booklet. Subjects range from the development of stage lighting over the years, to descriptions and functions of modern luminaires, control and dimming systems, through to creation of light plots.

In addition a lighting design kit provides a step-by-step guide to creating lighting plans. The resource pack also includes a professional-quality lighting stencil with the main symbols needed for a 1:25 scale lighting plan and a quality 0.25mm Staedtler 710 stencil pen.

Further detail on the pack are available from Strand Lighting in Isleworth, telephone 081-560

Professional Sound Corporation

California-based Professional Sound Corporation recently introduced a number of new products.

The MilliMic lavalier microphone is a high output mic with a low inherent noise floor and shielding against magnetic interference. The company's RF Booster Amp has been designed to allow RF transmission of audio over greater distances. It operates over a wide frequency range from 1MHz-250MHz. A 300mW output is supplied from any standard 50mW input. An LED functions as a low voltage indicator.

The PSC DigiSlate offers three high intensity, sunlight-readable seven segment displays. The counter display can be controlled in either automatic or manual mode. The unit includes an internal reference oscillator and slate microphone in situations where a DAT machine is used, the DigiSlate allows interrupting audio without sacrificing one of the DAT inputs for this purpose.

Further information on these and other products is available from Professional Sound Corporation in California, telephone (818) 760 6544.

G E Kolorarc MBI-T

G E Thorn have extended their Kolorarc family of metal halide discharge lamps with the introduction of the MBI-T 250W.

Kolorarc was developed out of Arcstream technology and operates on standard SON control gear. It has a clear tubular outer envelope and a small arc which facilitates accurate optical control. With high lumen output, it has a colour rendering index of Ra70 and a neutral white appearance (4200K). It is available in 250W (and 400W by April) and has a rated life of 6,000 hours, according to the company.

For further information contact G E Thorn in Mitcham, telephone 081-640 1221.

E.S.P. with R.V.E.

Herts-based Events, Services & Productions (E.S.P.) have recently been appointed the sole UK distributors for the R.V.E. range of dimming equipment which has recently been extended with the addition of new products (see SIEL report).

The E.S.P. Mini Pack is a small portable dimmer available in 6 x 3kW, 6 x 2kW or 3 x 5kW versions. A small rack-mounted dimmer, the E.S.P. Compact is available in 12 x 3kW, 12 x 2kW or 6 x 5kW versions. E.S.P. Touring Racks are 12 pluggable HDS double dimmer modules, flight-cased and giving 24 x 3kW of power. Access Pro is a compact console with 96 control channels and completing the line-up is the range of Diafora colour changers.

Further details are available from E.S.P. in Letchworth, telephone (0462) 482411.

PICBOX Real-Time Videowall Control

Electrosonic has released a new addition to the PICBLOC videowall display range. PICBOX is a real-time intelligent hand control, which offers a wide range of pre-programmed videowall effects. In addition to its range of standard stand-alone effects, each with independent speed settings, PICBOX is also supplied with a pre-defined random show of effects that can be reconfigured by the user and saved to loop continuously - again on a single command.



Designed principally to work with Electrosonic's PICBLOC videowalls, the unit can be configured to control all or part of a videowall, and can also be used to provide synchronised effects control. Acting as a simple tone generator and reader, cues can be recorded onto the audio track of even the simplest low-cost VHS or SVHS video tape and read back into PICBOX for cue sync.

For more information contact Electrosonic in Dartford, telephone (0322) 222211.

Microstar Metal Halide

The Microstar surface-mounted flood is suitable for use when high ambient light levels need to be overcome, wide areas need illuminating from a distance or when an even flood of powerful white light is needed, according to Microstar's manufacturers, Microlights.

The unit is lamped with single-ended metal halide capsule lamps of either 70W or 150W output, with a choice of colour temperatures.

For more information contact Microlights in Marlborough, telephone (0672) 515611.

Sachtler On-Board Lamps

As a follow-on to the Reporter Open-Faced Handlamp series, Sachtler have turned their attention to the cameraman who needs an on-board camera or 'eye light' and come up with two even smaller profiles than those previously offered, and which are now available from OpTex. The Reporter 20H and 50H are ultra-lightweight at 315g/11.1oz complete. The integrated reflector is designed to produce a high output and even light distribution through the combined diffuser/safety glass, and is continuously focusable.

Further details are available from OpTex in New Barnet, telephone 081-441 2199.

Uptown System 600M

New from Uptown Automation, System 600M is a MIDI-based moving fader controller that interfaces with screen-orientated mixers to create an additional hands-on facility for digital mixing and editing systems. System 600M is self-contained and consists of eight moving faders with associated electronics in a desk-top enclosure. Each system has MIDI in, out and through ports. Two systems connected together will provide the user with 16 controllers in all.

For further in formation contact Audiomation in Co. Durham, telephone (0207) 282880.

Belazaire Lamplighter

Belazaire Trading, the Milton Keynes lighting control specialists, have launched a totally new programmable lighting control which is both designed and made in the UK. The basic concept behind the Lamplighter control was that it had to be simple to install, and when installed it should blend with traditional interior fittings. To this end, all the programming controls which do not need frequent attention are located behind the front plate, available in patterns to match most switchplate designs.

Four fully programmable scenes are provided along with full on and off. With the exception of full on, all other settings have adjustable fade rates.

Remote dimmers are utilized and no local power point is required for the control panel, which is powered via the control line from the dimmers.

For further details contact Belazaire in Milton Keynes, telephone (0908) 564464.

Radio Mics from Toa

Fully-approved by the Department of Trade and Industry, a range of VHF high-band radio microphones have been introduced into the UK by Toa Electronics.

The choice of either a high performance Toa head or a Shure SM58 head for the new WM-280 vocal-use, hand-held model is a major feature of the range. According to Toa, performers will benefit from a system that has been designed with no external aerials, allows up to 12 hours use from a single battery and has a 'robust' metal casing.



Products included within the range are the WM-370 compact lavalier bodypack transmitter, the 19" WT-870 rack-mountable diversity tuner module, the WT-770 non-diversity two channel system and the WT-780 single channel receiver. Microphones include the WM-280 dynamic model (with original Toa head), the WM-290 dynamic model (with Shure SM58 head) or the WM-270 electret condenser microphone. A range of optional accessories include tuner panels, antennas and rack-mount adapters.

For further details contact Toa in Brentwood, telephone (0277) 233882.

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World-wide contact information for import/export, concert touring, exhibitions, etc.

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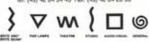
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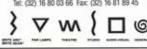
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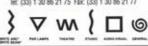
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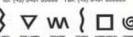
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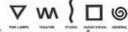
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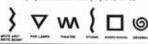
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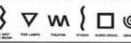
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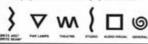
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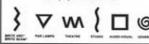
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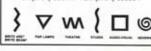
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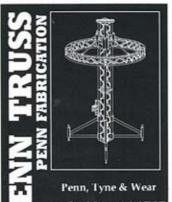
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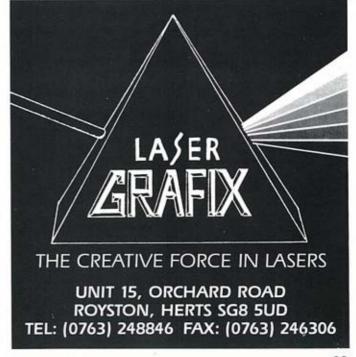
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