



An extensive Electro-Voice sound system allows for numerous audio permutations throughout the venue

Southampton bar is in good Electro-Voice

VENUE AUDIO

A newly opened bar and restaurant in Southampton, UK, has been kitted out with an entertainment system that staff can control to vary the mood throughout the venue.

Located in an up-and-coming part of the area, 90 Degrees At Carltons is spread over two floors and offers restaurant dining upstairs, while a café bar is on the ground floor; this transforms into a DJ-driven bar in the evening.

Prosound Systems, also based in Southampton, was given a brief by venue owner Nikos Raftapoulos – operator of the La Margarita venue on the city's waterfront – to create a multi-zone system that could meet the needs of all areas in the bar/restaurant and the different types of customers that it would attract. The company designed and installed the system, which covers anything from low-key background music to a pounding dancefloor beat.

"[The system design] is all about control. Even within the zones, the volume level of each pair of loudspeakers is individually adjustable," said Prosound's Andy Croad, who oversaw the bespoke installation.

Prosound chose two pairs of Electro-Voice ZX5-60 loudspeakers, which were configured to run at full range. The cabinets are flown horizontally with acoustic isolators to prevent low frequencies from running into the structure of the building. Four single 12in sub-bass units are hidden from view under the small DJ stage, which overlooks the dancefloor.

"We chose a loudspeaker with a proper horn so that we could get the HF where we needed it. Because the nearfield is close to the audience – you're never further than 2.5–3m from the nearest speaker – we would keep the 'critical excitement' level on the dancefloor even at relatively low SPLs," said Croad.

Throughout the rest of the venue, Prosound used Electro-Voice's EVID 6.2 and 4.2 full-range loudspeakers in white. Electro-Voice's CP Series amplifiers power the system. "Downstairs, there are five CP1800s, two of which handle the EVIDs around the bar," Croad pointed out. Electro-Voice's new PA2450L amplifiers were used upstairs as Prosound decided they would be ideal for use in a restaurant.

www.electrovoice.com

Kaleidescape battles for survival

RESIDENTIAL SYSTEMS

An entertainment server manufacturer is fighting to remain in business, following the resurgence of an ongoing battle over copy protection and licensing.

The previous two stages of the proceedings have run in Kaleidescape's favour. In March of this year, Judge Leslie C. Nichols of the Santa Clara Superior Court in California ruled that the company was not in breach of the DVD Copy Control Association's licence for the Content Scramble System. This is the encryption system used to protect the content of DVD movie discs. This was followed in June by a proposal to amend the licence, which was not accepted by DVD CCA.

The company's flagship product, the Kaleidescape System, allows users to make a secure private copy of every DVD and CD that they own on to a hard disk, which can be played back in any room within their home.

In the latest development, representatives of three Hollywood movie studios have proposed two further amendments to the licence. According to Kaleidescape, the two amendments are broadly similar to the failed June amendment.

Michael Malcolm, chairman and CEO of Kaleidescape, has written to the members of the DVD CCA's Content Protection Advisory Council (CPAC), asking that they reject the proposed amendments. "Entertainment servers, such as the Kaleidescape System, are not a threat to any of the industries that the DVD CCA



Users can create an indexed archive of their DVD collection, which is stored in encrypted form on the hard drive

represents; instead, entertainment servers can act as the impetus to expand the overall market for DVDs and DVD-related products now that consumers have a simple and elegant way to collect, manage and store their media products," said Malcolm in his letter.

The Kaleidescape System, he pointed out, offers a greater level of content protection than what is currently available on DVDs. It is a completely closed system, which stores encrypted content on the disk that is only decrypted at the time of playing. It cannot be used to upload content to the internet, nor to burn illegal copies of movies.

"These proposed amendments are an attempt to put Kaleidescape out of business by excluding the Kaleidescape System from the DVD playback devices authorised by the CSS License Agreement," he added. Malcolm also warned CPAC that accepting the amendments could be seen as anticompetitive behaviour under antitrust legislation.

The amendments were to be discussed at a CPAC meeting on 7 November, but no announcement of the outcome had been made as this issue went to press.

www.kaleidescape.com

Vienna arena goes iLive

VENUE AUDIO

One of Vienna's biggest entertainment venues recently had an overhaul of its audio systems, with two Allen & Heath iLive digital consoles being added to the new setup. The Arena Wien is home to four separate areas and it hosts a wide range of events, including film screenings, theatrical presentations and concerts, which in the past have featured artists such as James Brown, Crowded House and Gnarlz Barkley.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the venue's existence, a full audio upgrade took place in the main hall, which included the installation of a new Meyer Sound speaker setup. An iLive system that comprised an iDR10 mix rack and iLive-144 control surface at FOH and a second identical iLive

system to manage monitors replaced the existing analogue mixers.

Thomas Löffler, head of sound at the Arena, said: "We contacted a number of console manufacturers to evaluate several digital options. Top of the technical crew's priority list was the design of the desk and the ease of use."

The FOH stagerack acts as a digital splitter so that all the mic pre-amp signals are sent digitally via Ethersound over Cat5 to the iDR10 monitor mixrack. Löffler chose 40 inputs and 16 outputs for the FOH system, while the monitor has been loaded with eight inputs on the surface and 16 outputs.

"iLive offered a very flexible design due to its Ethersound-based modular concept, which our technicians could operate with



The iLive systems are delivered to their new home

ease and the system provides excellent sonic quality," said Löffler.

www.ilive-digital.com

www.allen-heath.com

New headquarters for Crestron UK

CONTROL & AUTOMATION

Crestron UK has moved to its new corporate headquarters at Munro House in Cobham, Surrey. The 12,500sq ft facility provides dealers, integrators and end users with the opportunity to get hands-on experience of the company's products and technology.

The manufacturer of advanced control and automation systems has pointed to a continuing growth strategy being one of the key reasons for the move, as it aims to strengthen its position in the market.

"The move to Munro House marks an important milestone in our development and will play an essential role in our



Crestron's new HQ boasts extensive training facilities

future," said Robin van Meeuwen, managing director of Crestron UK. "We are now in a position to leverage our considerable achievements to date and pursue our plans for the future and we look

forward to maximising the opportunities that this impressive resource will bring."

Munro House has a suite of meeting rooms and an executive boardroom, which will accommodate expanding sales, technical and administration teams. Open plan office space has been chosen and hot-desk facilities are available for mobile staff. A broad range of training facilities have been implemented into the setup, which allows for up to three courses to run simultaneously, meaning that Crestron UK can support its network of dealers and meet the demand for its courses.

www.crestron.co.uk

Appointments

▼ **George Meglio** has joined **AMX** as director of global account management. In the newly created role, Meglio will be



responsible for managing large customer accounts that have standardised on AMX products across multiple locations worldwide.

Debbie Franklin, AMX vice president of global account management, said: "George has the strategic management experience and technology expertise needed to provide our global accounts with the unparalleled problem solving capabilities and high level of customer service and support they expect from AMX."

www.amx.com

● **KV2 Audio** has announced the appointment of **Dave Ball** as the company's field sales manager, covering the Midlands and the southern part of the UK. Previously, Ball worked at LMC Audio, where he held a technical sales role for three years. Before this, Ball managed Bullet Sound, the PA hire company he established in 1993.

Andy Simmons, KV2 Audio's operations director, said: "We're delighted Dave has joined the Audio team. He understands the KV2 philosophy, the technology behind it and combines the right mix of personality with passion for the product."

www.kv2audio.com

InfoComm is fastest growing tradeshow

EVENTS

InfoComm International has the fastest growing association-owned trade show, according to *Tradeshow Week*.

The US-based publication highlighted the AV trade association in its 2007 TSW Fastest 50 Winners countdown, which honours the 50 fastest-growing shows in North America.

The award is based on total net square footage growth and the percentage growth from 2004 to 2006. In this time, InfoComm increased from 647 exhibitors in 319,680sq ft of exhibit space in 2004, to 770 exhibitors in over 432,602sq ft in 2006. This reflects a 35% increase in demand for space and 19% more exhibitors.

"InfoComm is honoured to be named the

fastest growing association tradeshow," said Randal A Lemke, executive director of InfoComm International. "It's rewarding to see the vigorous economic trends in the AV industry echoed in the strength of our show. InfoComm's robust educational offerings and strong partners have allowed InfoComm to deliver outstanding value to our exhibitors and attendees."

InfoComm 07, held in Anaheim, California, was the biggest tradeshow in the history of the industry, with 861 exhibitors occupying 496,000 net sq ft of paid exhibits, demo meeting space and special events.

■ www.infocomm.org

DYNACORD scores in Denmark

STADIUM AUDIO

Danish integrator Ascon Trading, in association with DYNACORD, has installed a sound system for one of Denmark's oldest football clubs. Vejle BK, currently at the top of the Danish 1st Division, is building a new 10,000-seater stadium to replace its existing ground. Since being relegated last season, the club has promotion back to the Superliga as one of its priorities; another is the completion of its new stadium by Spring 2008.

The new stadium boasts 56 DYNACORD D-12 speakers, a ProMatrix distributed sound and voice alarm system, and a variety of DYNACORD ceiling (DL69) and wall (WL90) loudspeakers complemented by ceiling loudspeakers (Evid 6.2C and Media 4.2) from DYNACORD's sister company Electro-Voice.

Another major Danish project that Ascon is currently involved in is the Forum in Horsens. This large complex combines a sports and cultural centre with a football stadium. Ascon has installed DYNACORD security and sound systems in the indoor sports arena and culture centre.

The next task is the football stadium, where the installation of 16 DYNACORD D-12 and 16 DYNACORD D12-3 enclosures, as well as a DYNACORD ProMatrix system, is already underway, while DYNACORD DL69 and WL90 enclosures have been chosen for the stadium's interior.

Morten Larsen, Ascon's marketing manager MI, is pleased with the company's high-profile commissions, and sees them as good publicity: "Word of who's handling what quickly gets around, which is why we have every reason to be optimistic about the future."



Vejle BK's new football stadium, which comes complete with audio from DYNACORD and Electro-Voice

■ www.dynacord.com

■ www.ascon.dk

New partners



▲ **dbx Professional Products** has announced the appointment of **A&T Trade** as its new Russian distributor. The company, based in Salt Lake City, USA, manufactures professional signal processing products and is a division of Harman International.

Glen Harris, dbx Professional sales director for Europe (R, with A&T Trade's Evgeni Ilnitski), said: "This is an excellent strategic move, which brings dbx into line with the remainder of the Harman Pro portfolio, which A&T Trade distributes." www.dbxpro.com

● German rental company **Megaforce** has announced a partnership with Dutch-based **Alcons Audio**. Megaforce, which focuses on corporate events, has joined the international Ribbon Network of companies that work with Alcons' audio equipment, in particular the pro-ribbon line-array systems.

Mark Liese, managing director of Megaforce, said: "Alcons offers us a compact, high-resolution 'full-range' capable system, which we can use for almost, if not all, applications we encounter. It is absolutely convincing in terms of sound, handling and overall built quality."

www.megaforce.de

PerformTech blossoms from new partnership

EVENTS

Three organisations have announced their collaboration on a new exhibition of sound, light and stage technologies to take place in Scotland. Northern Light, Black Light and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama (RSAMD) have joined forces to create PerformTech, which will showcase the latest technologies available for the performance, presentation and events industries.

The event will incorporate RSAMD's Technical and Production Arts Graduate Show and the annual Black Light Show. Gavin Stewart, managing director of Black

Light, said: "When we were in discussion with RSAMD about merging our two events, we felt it was only fair to approach Northern Light to assist with the workload! As the two leading providers of entertainment technology in Scotland, Northern Light and Black Light are ideally placed to bring our suppliers and customers together under one roof."

Colin Cuthbert, managing director of Northern Light, responded: "I'm very much looking forward to working together on this project, and I'm sure that it will become an annual event."

PLASA had a positive response too. "PerformTech is an exciting new event organised by the industry, for the industry, and PLASA is pleased to offer its support to the three PLASA member companies behind the concept and organisation," said Jon Petts, PLASA commercial manager. The inaugural event will take place on 28 and 29 May 2008 and will be hosted at the RSAMD in Glasgow.

- www.black-light.com
- www.northernlight.co.uk
- www.rsamd.ac.uk

Martin provides Balkan venue ambiance

VENUE LIGHTING

A nightclub in Prijepolje, Serbia, that offers disco and live music, has VIP and DJ areas, and also has a raised bridge for showgirls, was recently refurbished. This included a revamp of the lighting and fog setup. Belgrade-based company Audio Light Concept designed, delivered and installed a complete Martin lighting rig for Cotton Club.

Lighting designer Sandro Krstic was given a simple brief: to create a good ambiance for the guests. This was fulfilled with a selection of Martin fixtures, including four MAC 250 Krypton moving heads, eight Mania SCX600 scanner effects, two Wizard Extreme effect lights and two Atomic 3000



strobes. One Mania PR image projector with two Magnum 1500 foggers for the atmospheric fog and mid-air projection canopy were used too.

The Martin fixtures are located on two

circular trusses, which are 3.5m in diameter, and are 4.5m above the floor. The lighting is controlled with a Martin Xciter, which the club said it finds "easy to use for non-trained lighting personnel".

Krstic chose the Martin fixtures after having a positive experience in the past with them. Mania SCX500 and Mania EFX500 effects were used at a cafe in Prijepolje for which Audio Light Concept designed, supplied and installed the lighting.

The company also designed and installed the sound system at Cotton Club, which comprises JBL, Crown, dbx and Denon equipment.

- www.martin.com

Proel acquires stake in Eurosell



Gabriele Lazzari (L), chairman of Eurosell and Fabrizio Sorbi, chairman of Proel, announcing the deal

By David Davies

AV and lighting system manufacturer and distributor Proel SpA has announced that it has acquired a stake in leading Italian visual products distributor Eurosell SpA. According to Proel, the move

both consolidates its presence in the video market segment and paves the way to the further integration of audio, video and lighting products and services.

Forecasted to register a whole-year turnover above €12million, Eurosell SpA boasts a catalogue of more than 8,000 high-tech items, including products from brands such as Panasonic, Canon and Extron. With the capacity to provide to more than 2,500 dealers and customers in the Italian and European markets, Eurosell offers an extensive range of products, professional advice, and design and engineering services.

"This operation will lead us to the development of a business with a

great potential, oriented towards several reference markets with an organic, innovative and technologically advanced offer of products, services and solutions in audio/video and lighting," commented Proel founder and chairman Fabrizio Sorbi. "We have taken another step forward towards establishing a really integrated international group, able to satisfy any market requirements and become the one source supplier in our sectors."

Proel's Mauro Di Pietro added: "The stake that Proel has in Eurosell is both significant and strategic. This investment is a significant dual-purpose operation: on one hand

strategic, consolidating the presence of Proel in the rapidly expanding video market segment; on the other hand, it leads to an integration of audio, video and lighting products and services, thus covering the whole supply chain."

"Only by developing synergies is it possible to keep abreast of the times and overcome the difficulties of an increasingly global market," said Eurosell chairman Gabriele Lazzari. "The integration between different operators will enable a more immediate reply to growing customer needs."

■ www.proelgroup.com

New partners

● **G-LEC** is aiming to increase its market share in Portugal by forming a joint venture with **Leocádia Maria Baioa da Silva**, which is part of its existing Portuguese partner Fx Road Lights. G-LEC Portugal LDA, as the venture is known, will be based in Lisbon.

Lars Wolf, managing director of G-LEC Europe, said: "Setting up the joint venture makes it possible for us to provide more support to Fx Road Lights and increases our options in the area. We have worked with Leocádia Maria Baioa da Silva for many years and now look forward to even more success in Portugal."

■ www.g-lec.com



▲ **True Colours Distribution**, the UK distributor of technical AV solutions, has announced a new partnership with **DEXON Systems**. Based in Hungary, DEXON is the developer and manufacturer of multi-screen graphics and video wall controllers for Microsoft Windows and Linux X Window platforms.

"The demand for multiple images over a single screen has grown significantly in the past 12 months due to an increase in the use of large format displays," said David Raymen, technical director at True Colours. "However, since launch we have also been inundated with enquiries for traditional style video wall processors. DEXON has both options in its portfolio."

■ www.true-colours.net



▲ **RGB Communications** has been appointed the exclusive UK and Ireland AV distributor of **Minicom Advanced Systems**, whose business involves the manufacture of KVM server management solutions and digital signage distribution systems for sectors including retail, corporate and education.

Caroline Britt, managing director for RGB, said: "By partnering with Minicom, we continue to demonstrate our ethos of working with industry leading manufacturers."

Ronni Guggenheim, president of Minicom Europe, commented: "With this appointment, we have secured the most possible professional access to the strong growth of digital signage."

■ www.rgbcomms.co.uk

For your diary

WINTER NAMM

17–20 January 2008: Anaheim, USA
www.thenammshow.com

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS EUROPE

29–31 January: RAI, Amsterdam
www.iseurope.org

SCREEN EXPO EUROPE

5–6 February: London, UK
www.screenevents.co.uk

AV IN THE CITY

14 February: London, UK
www.avinthecity.com

EVENTECH SCOTLAND

20–21 February: Glasgow, UK
www.eventech-scotland.com

SHOW WAY

24–26 February: Bergamo, Italy
www.showway.com

DIGITAL SIGNAGE EXPO

27–28 February: Las Vegas, USA
www.digitalsignageexpo.net

PROLIGHT + SOUND

12–15 March: Frankfurt, Germany
www.pls.messefrankfurt.com

SIB

5–8 April: Rimini, Italy
www.sibinternational.com

NAB

11–17 April: Las Vegas, USA
www.nabshow.com

PALME MIDDLE EAST

27–29 April: Dubai, UAE
www.palmeonline.com

CEDIA SPRING EXPO

29 April – 2 May: Dallas, USA
www.cedia.net

Dolby 3D gets boost from Beowulf

CINEMA VIDEO

Dolby Laboratories rolled out its 3D Digital Cinema systems in 12 countries worldwide to coincide with the November release of adventure epic *Beowulf*. Initially, 75 screens showed the film using Dolby's system, and this figure increased during the movie's two-week global opening.

Dolby secured deals with exhibitors in Asia, Europe and the USA to show the film using its digital 3D solution. John Iles, vice president, cinema for Dolby Laboratories, said: "In a short time frame, the team executed an aggressive deployment plan to install Dolby 3D systems in theatres around the world for *Beowulf*, as we

wanted to fulfil as many requests as possible from our valued customers."

Dolby's digital solution allows exhibitors to play back 3D content on a standard white screen. Using Dolby's 3D full-spectrum, colour-filter technology, the company says that "amazing colour fidelity" is possible, alongside "delivering clear 3D images with realistic colour". The filter wheel is inserted into the light path before the image is formed, which delivers a sharp picture with crystal clear images and vivid colours.

Joost Bert, CEO of the Kinopolis Group – the owner of 23 cinema complexes throughout Europe – said: "Kinopolis recently debuted Dolby 3D Digital Cinema at



our newest cinema complex in Ostend, Belgium, and our patrons were very impressed with the sharp, clear and bright images that seem to jump off the screen."

Other movies that have been shown using Dolby 3D technology include *Meet the Robinsons* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas 3D*; expected future presentations include *Fly Me to the Moon*, *Hannah Montana* and *Journey 3D*.

■ www.dolby.com

Showroom lit up with imagination



COMMERCIAL LIGHTING

A Helvar Imagine Lighting Router is at the heart of a new lighting application centre in an electrical supplier's showroom. Rexel Senate's Eastern Region outlet in Brentwood, UK has recently been fitted with

a display feature, which allows developers and electricians to see exactly how the lighting products on offer can be used in a variety of different installation settings.

The Router's automated control of low-energy fluorescent, LED, low-voltage and mains-dimmable fittings has allowed the different areas of the lighting application centre to recreate various commercial, retail and residential environments. It has over 3,000 dimming channels available and it offers the possibility to create over 4,000 pre-programmed lighting scenes by 480 input devices.

The Router can be programmed wirelessly over its TCP/IP connections, enabling it to be commissioned and

adjusted over a local PC network on site or remotely, via the internet.

Roza Shirazi, a lighting engineer for Rexel Senate, explained the benefits of the installation: "To be able to demonstrate the full potential of lighting control systems required more than just a simple product display wall. Our customers want to be able to visualise the end result – to see exactly the variety of atmospheres that can be created. Helvar's Imagine Router, coupled with the smart touchpanel controllers, opened up the possibility to create all manner of real-life settings."

■ www.helvar.co.uk