FEATURE:
Frequencies Frontline

LIVE:
G.E.M Seamlessly Switches Up with Carbonite Ultra 60

Phoenix Rising Beyond Frontiers

Animesh Mishra
Founder and Director, Phoenix Networks Global Pvt. Ltd

F o r   T h e   T e c h n i c a l   A n d   P r o d u c t i o n   P r o f e s s i o n a l s

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Unmuted Ambitions

Hold onto your headsets! July's major tech gatherings; and Forrester's APAC Summit in Sydney; brought into sharp focus the economic turbulence reverberating through global trade and supply chains in the post–July 1 tariff era. Yet, it was reports about the Indian WAVES Summit held in Mumbai in May 2025 that truly underscored the region's ambition: deals rumoured to exceed 1,300 crore (~USD 150 Million) set the tone for cross-border growth and collaboration. These developments are being viewed as the lifeblood of an industry evolving to meet rising demand for immersive, high-impact live experiences.

Speaking of bold moves and cross-border growth, few stories capture that spirit better than our Personality Feature this month. **Animesh Mishra of Phoenix Networks Global Pvt Ltd** gets candid about his company's recent rebrand that signals a bold international pivot; and a strategic inventory update that underscores the company's commitment to world-class service.

Our Feature Article entitled "**Frequencies Frontline**" profiles elite wireless systems: Sennheiser's SPECTERA, DPA's Nseries, and SHURE's Axient Digital. insightful commentary from **Kenan Phang** (Sennheiser APAC) and **Kalle Hvidt Nielsen** (CEO, DPA) reveals how their respective tools are rewriting live audio engineering normS.

Dive in — this ride is just getting started.

Elton Noronha
Editor
elton.s.noronha@hotmail.com

Thomas Richard Prakasam
Publisher / Editorial Director
thomas@spinworkz.com

BUSINESS DEVT. MANAGER
Rishi Varun R.
rishi@spinworkz.com

Julie Tan
Admin & Circulation
admin@spinworkz.com

Hazel Gundaya
Design / Layout

OUR COLLABORATORS

Rosalind Tan
Website Management Wizard

PV Anthony
Server and IT Security Guru

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AUSTRALIA

Show Technology Facilitates Ayrton Mamba's Dazzling Australian Debut with Showscreens

Showscreens stands proud as the first in Australia to add the Ayrton Mamba fixtures, with the purchase being facilitated by Show Technology.

Showscreens' newly acquired Ayrton Mambas shining bright at Lightscape Perth 2025.

Show Technology, Ayrton's authorised partner in Australia, has delivered the country's first batch of Ayrton Mamba luminaires to leading event production house **Showscreens** — marking a high-impact debut at one of the nation's most iconic venues.

Fresh off the truck, the Mamba units were immediately pressed into action at Perth's Optus Stadium, where over 57,000 fans watched the Australian Socceroos take a thrilling step closer to FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification. "It was a great win for the Socceroos and for Showscreens," quipped **Ryan Varley, Managing Director of Showscreens**. "The Mamba fixtures are brilliant. They're a really versatile unit with a big, powerful beam and an abundance of effects, all packed into an IP65-rated housing. That makes them perfect for our large-scale outdoor events, whether in a stadium or open parklands."

From stadium to spectacle, the Mamba's next outing saw it integrated into the luminous wonderland of Lightscape Perth 2025, currently illuminating Kings Park & Botanic Garden. "Designer of Lightscape Perth, Mike MacDonald, was chasing a powerful bright beam, destined to shoot far from Kings Park to the South Perth foreshore," explained **Showscreens' Production Manager Kale Tatam**. "The Mamba was the perfect choice for this application, with the beams of light being seen as far as 20 kilometres away while having the peace of mind they can sit outside until the end of July during rain, hail or shine."

The arrival of the Ayrton Mamba in Australia represents a bold step in Show Technology's commitment to equipping the market with world-class lighting tools. With the Mamba's creative muscle now in the field, the stage is set for a new wave of outdoor productions that demand intensity, precision, and resilience.

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GLOBAL

NEUTRIK Celebrates 50 Years and 2 Billion Connectors Sold

opticalCON®HYBRID MED: NEUTRIK's2-billionth connector

NP2XX-50 YEARS instrument jack plug

To further commemorate the brand's 50th year, NEUTRIK has also unveiled a limited-edition anniversary product line.

NEUTRIK has commemorated two major milestones — the production of its 2-billionth connector and its 50th anniversary — with a celebratory civic reception held at the Neutrik Group headquarters in Schaan, Liechtenstein. The event brought together 45 distinguished guests, including national and local government officials, media representatives, company leadership, and partner network members.

The reception featured opening remarks from **Robert Büchel, Liechtenstein's Minister of Economic Affairs,** and **Markus Beck, Deputy Mayor of Schaan, with Manfred Kaufmann, President of the Liechtenstein Parliament**, also in attendance. A special highlight of the programme was a retrospective presentation charting NEUTRIK's evolution over five decades as the world's leading connector brand, culminating in the ceremonial presentation of the company's 2-billionth connector to Geor**g Wohlwend, Delegate of the Board of Directors for the Neutrik Group**.

The 2-billionth unit, an opticalCON HYBRID MED connector, symbolises NEUTRIK's enduring focus on high-performance innovation and precision engineering. Produced in its advanced on-site manufacturing facility in Schaan, the opticalCON HYBRID MED is designed specifically for surgical and healthcare environments, transmitting high-resolution images and video in operating theatres. Its smooth, easy-to-clean form reduces trip hazards in surgical rooms while offering exceptional protection for the optical interface through integrated lenses and a sealing cover. The connector features 16 multimode fibre channels and 2 power pins, enabling robust, high-bandwidth signal transmission with minimal loss across all channels.

To further commemorate the brand's 50th year, NEUTRIK has also unveiled a limited-edition anniversary product line. This includes special versions of its iconic male and female XLR connectors and a ¼ inch instrument plug, each finished with a new conductive zinc-based dark grey metallic coating and engraved with the NEUTRIK 50 YEARS commemorative logo. Commenting for the Neutrik group, Georg Wohlwend stated, "For 50 years, NEUTRIK has set the standard in connectivity, enabling our customers to achieve incredible feats in audio, video, data and power applications. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to innovation and reliability, ensuring that NEUTRIK remains synonymous with excellence for generations to come."

THAILAND

Wharfedale Pro's XLA Series Takes Centre Stage in Bangkok Showcase

Thai rock icon Pu Blackhead delivered a standout performance to close the evening, following a detailed technical walkthrough of the XLA system by Wharfedale Pro's Remo Orsoni and Marci Sang-Olan

Wharfedale Pro's authorised distributor **Sound Republic** recently hosted an energetic and immersive event in Bangkok, spotlighting the brand's new flagship range of products. Bringing together a diverse mix of industry professionals and audio enthusiasts, the evening delivered a powerful combination of technical insight, product demonstration, and live performance.

Held in the heart of Bangkok, the event is believed to be among the first in the country to offer a dynamic real-world setting to experience the power, clarity, and precision of Wharfedale Pro's XLA Series in action, wherein the hands-on format allowed attendees to engage closely with the brand's latest audio innovations.

In a fitting crescendo, Thai rock icon Pu Blackhead delivered a standout performance to close the evening, following a detailed technical walkthrough of the XLA system by Wharfedale Pro's Remo Orsoni and Marci Sang-Olan.

Wharfedale Pro extended appreciation to technical partners and supporters of the event, stating: "Many thanks to Sound Republic for hosting the event, and to **JL Sound Project** for their vital support behind the scenes – from organising crew and equipment to ensuring we had everything needed for a successful show. We also extend our thanks to everyone who attended. We hope you had a fantastic experience!"

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SINGAPORE

Stage 4 AV Adds Astera QuikSpot to Elevate Mood Lighting for Premium Events

Stage 4 AV selected the Astera QuikSpot owing to the demand for neat, spill-free lighting that can be deployed quickly for applications such as gala dinner table lighting.

Singapore-based rental and technical production house **Stage 4 AV** has expanded its lighting inventory with the acquisition of 24 units of the **Astera** QuikSpot wireless LED spotlights. The purchase, facilitated through Singapore distributor **Total Solution Marketing** is part of Stage 4 AV's ongoing commitment to delivering elegant and high-performance lighting solutions for its corporate, social and lifestyle clientele.

Stage 4 AV's Managing Director S. Ramesh, who oversees equipment procurement and key client relationships, selected the QuikSpot fixtures specifically for their clean aesthetic, functional versatility, and precision-focused illumination. "They were the right product for our markets," he stated, highlighting the demand for neat, spill-free lighting that can be deployed

quickly for applications such as gala dinner table lighting. Ramesh noted the increasing need at upscale events to balance dramatic ambient lighting with comfortable, focused table illumination that enhances both the dining experience and overall atmosphere.

QuikSpot was designed by the Astera team as a highly adaptable, battery-powered fixture aimed at rental professionals and media production environments. The unit features a zoomable single-source spotlight in a compact, rapid-deployment housing inspired by the AX5 TriplePAR, and powered by Astera's Titan LED Engine—also found in the PlutoFresnel. At just 3.5kg, with IP65 certification, barndoor functionality, and excellent colour rendering, the fixture delivers impressive output while maintaining mobility and ease of use.

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"Size, weight, zoom, brightness and the barndoor feature were all winning factors for us," Ramesh affirmed, adding that the reliability and colour consistency of the fixtures were equally critical. With Stage 4 AV already well-equipped with Astera products—including AX9 PowerPARs, AX3 LightDrops, Helios and Titan Tubes, and PixelBricks—QuikSpot now enhances their ability to meet specific event lighting needs without pulling other key fixtures away from their usual roles.

Beyond the technical strengths of the product, the decision was also shaped by Stage 4 AV's strong partnership with Total Solution Marketing. "The kit gets worked hard, so it's vital to have good backup when needed," Ramesh noted.

Glenn Wong, Managing Director of Total Solution Marketing, acknowledged this long-standing collaboration: "Ramesh began with Titan Tubes and PixelBricks – and never looked back. He consistently checks Astera for the latest products to enhance his offerings and perhaps create new segments. We sincerely appreciate his trust and support and hope the newest additions will drive even greater success."

APAC & MEA

HH Audio Names Eddie Tan as Division Manager for APACMEA

HH Audio has announced the appointment of **Eddie Tan as its new Divisional Sales and Tech Support Manager for the APACMEA region**, effective from 1st July.

In his new role, Eddie will spearhead the brand's growth across the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, and Africa territories, while also providing partners with technical support, product training, and systems education. He will report directly to **Ian Wright, Director of HH Audio**.

Commenting on Eddie's appointment, **James Laney, CEO, HH Audio**, shares; "Eddie brings HH a wealth of knowledge and experience in both the commercial audio and professional audio/ live sound, and has a proven track record in sales, technical support and after-sales. Eddie also has extensive technical qualifications, which boost the standard of the HH team as the brand continues to expand into a larger range of system solutions. Eddie's input to future product development will also be invaluable."

The appointment signals HH Audio's continued commitment to bolstering its international partner support and scaling its presence in fast-growing global markets.

CENTRAL ASIA

Martin Audio Expands into Central Asia with AVAIL Distribution Partnership

"We are proud to be a member of the Martin Audio family and bring their industry-leading solutions to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan," said **Pavel Shemiakin, Business Development Manager at AVAIL Distribution**; "The demand for high-quality audio is surging across the region, from concert venues and theatres to corporate and hospitality installations. Martin Audio's rider-friendly systems and innovative technology perfectly align with our mission to deliver exceptional audio experiences."

Martin Audio has appointed **AVAIL Distribution** as its official distribution partner for key Central Asian territories. Initially this will include Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, with a later review further down the line; with this development marking a strategic move from the manufacturer to strengthen its presence in emerging professional audio markets.

Headquartered in Dubai, AVAIL Distribution operates with on-ground teams in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and boasts an expanding portfolio of premium AV solutions. The agreement grants AVAIL access to Martin Audio's full suite of portable, touring, and installed systems, offering resellers, system integrators, and rental partners in the region a direct pipeline to the British manufacturer's globally respected loudspeaker technologies.

The distributor's seasoned technical team brings in-depth knowledge of Martin Audio's solutions, enabling them to support partners through all phases of project delivery—from system design to on-site commissioning and post-sale engagement.

Martin Audio's EMEA Account Manager Andy Duffield welcomed the partnership: "AVAIL have proven themselves to be a dynamic and proactive business. They have a keen understanding and experience of Martin Audio in the region and are ideally placed to demonstrate the benefits of Martin Audio's strongest ever line up to customers in the territories."

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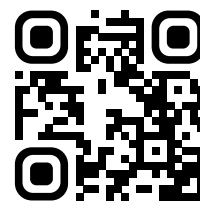
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MEET THE TRAINER

Alex studied Electro Acoustics at the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne, Germany. His close collaboration with Apogee Sound Inc. and Adamson Systems Engineering helped him develop a deep expertise in large-scale sound systems. From 2005 to 2010, he worked with Real Sound Lab, focused on measurement software and correction tools, where he served as Director of Pro Audio. With over 35 years of experience as a sound engineer for broadcast, live sound, and system engineering for multiple tours, Alex effectively bridges theory with real world applications. Since 2010, he has lived in Asia, developing his career and actively working across the APAC region.

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GLOBAL

Sales of KEENFINITY Group Completed Sale of Bosch's security and communication technology product business to Triton completed as of June 30th, 2025

The sale of **Bosch Group's security and communications** technology product business to European investment firm **Triton** has been successfully completed. With all necessary clearances secured, **KEENFINITY Group** will operate as an independent company within the Triton portfolio, effective today.

"We are excited about our future as a standalone company and convinced that the partnership with Triton brings us the opportunity to realize our full potential," says **Peter Loeffler, CEO of Keenfinity**. "Our renowned brands exemplify our dedication to quality, reliability, and innovation, laying a solid foundation for future growth. With a global presence, excellent products, and a dedicated team we will continue to focus on customer expectations and evolving market requirements".

According to the company, Keenfinity is ready to harness their legacy of quality, reliability, and technological excellence to explore new opportunities in the global security and communications technology markets. The company's offerings include cutting-edge intelligent video systems, advanced access control and intrusion alarm technology, as well as communication systems from the prestigious Bosch, Electro-Voice, Dynacord, RTS, and Telex brands.

All products will continue to be developed and manufactured by Keenfinity; with the four manufacturing facilities and adjacent distribution centers in Straubing in Germany, Ovar in Portugal, Hermosillo in Mexico, and Zhuhai in China providing global production flexibility across Europe, the Americas, and China.

"Keenfinity is at the core of our investment strategy to further develop market leading companies. We see significant untapped potential and want to support by investing in the company's brands, technology, sales force, and go-to-market strategies, providing our know-how from having owned and successfully developed other businesses in the security and broader building technologies space", says **Sachin Jivanji, Investment Advisory Professional at Triton**.

Some of the international legal entities of the company will initiate the renaming process to Keenfinity after July 1st, 2025. This is said to be a change in name only, not affecting ownership or operations in the respective country.

MALAYSIA

Acoustic & Lighting System Deepens Regional Engagement in Sarawak with Yamaha

Team Creative Vision with A&L Sarwak Team and their newly acquired Yamaha RIVAGE system.

A&L Sarwak also organized a knowledge-sharing session at their premises that was held in collaboration with Yamaha Music Malaysia's team.

The pro audio landscape in Sarwak, Malaysia, has been bustling with **Yamaha Professional Audio** in the recent past, mainly thanks to the efforts of **Acoustic & Lighting System Sarawak Sdn Bhd** which is the regional business arm of reputed professional AV solutions provider **Acoustic & Lighting System**

First up, Acoustic & Lighting System Sarawak Sdn Bhd successfully delivered a major Yamaha RIVAGE system to regional client **Creative Vision** which includes two units of the CS-R3 RIVAGE PM3 consoles, a unit each of the DSP-RX and DSP-RX-EX audio engines, multiple units of the Rio3224-D3 and D2 I/O racks, and three units of the HY144-D-SRC interface cards.

Creative Vision is widely recognised for its commitment to delivering exceptional audio-visual solutions, backed by cutting-edge equipment and a seasoned technical crew. And this latest acquisition aligns with the company's mission to continually raise the bar in live production standards across the region.

More notably though, this marks the first-ever purchase of the powerful DSP-RX-EX engine in Sarawak, making the system acquisition a historic step in the region's live sound capabilities. Team Creative Vision affirms that this robust configuration offers them increased redundancy, flexible audio networking, and premium sound quality – all of which are hailed as hallmarks of Yamaha's flagship RIVAGE ecosystem.

In tow, Acoustic & Lighting System Sarawak Sdn Bhd also organized a knowledge-sharing session that was held in collaboration with Yamaha Music Malaysia's team. Hosted at the A&L Sarawak's premises, the event welcomed audio professionals from across the region, providing them with an opportunity to explore the capabilities of Yamaha's latest digital mixing technologies (including live demonstrations of the RIVAGE PM3 and DM7 consoles) in a practical, real-world setting.

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AUSTRALIA & INDIA

DiGiCo's Quantum 852 Gains Ground in Australia and India

IJS has been methodically growing its DiGiCo inventory over the past decade, which now includes three Quantum 338 desks, two SD11i systems, an SD10, and, most recently, the Quantum 852.

DiGiCo's flagship Quantum 852 mixing console continues to make waves across global rental markets, with recent landmark purchases in both India and Australia reinforcing the brand's market leadership in high-end touring and event production.

In Australia, Brisbane-based long-standing production powerhouse **IJS** has embraced the Quantum 852 as the newest and most powerful console in its audio arsenal. The company—renowned for delivering end-to-end production services for concerts, festivals, corporate shows and special events—has been methodically growing its DiGiCo inventory over the past decade, which now includes three Quantum 338 desks, two SD11i systems, an SD10, and, most recently, the Quantum 852.

"The addition highlights our focus on future-ready solutions that support a variety of production scenarios," said **Jay van Lieshout, General Manager at IJS**. "It made sense to have a large format, high-input-count console such as the 852 in our growing console fleet."

For IJS, the decision was also driven by the console's compatibility with international rider requirements and its intuitive design for operators. "It's important that our consoles are rider-friendly, reliable, and remain current with market trends," van Lieshout continued. "DiGiCo consoles are highly sought after, thanks in part to the workflow advantages of the DiGiCo ecosystem. In short—engineers love them, so it just makes sense for us to stock them in our hire inventory."

Sound and Light Professionals (SNL Pro) has become the first company in India to invest in the Quantum 852.

The IJS acquisition was supported by **Group Technologies** DiGiCo's official distribution partner in Australia, further reinforcing DiGiCo's robust channel network across the APAC region.

Meanwhile, across the Ocean in Mumbai, India, **Sound and Light Professionals (SNL Pro)** widely regarded as one of the country's leading comprehensive live event tech service provider – has become the first company in the country to invest in the Quantum 852.

A move that further deepens SNL Pro's longstanding commitment to the DiGiCo ecosystem – the purchase was made during PALM Expo Mumbai and facilitated by **Hi-Tech Audio & Image** DiGiCo's official distribution partner in India.

For **SNL Pro Director Manish Mavani,** the decision reflects both loyalty and foresight.

"We've been working with Hi-Tech for almost 18 years," he said. "I remember buying my first large format console with them – they are the best in the business. We decided it was time for a new addition to the Quantum family and opted for the flagship Quantum 852 desk."

The Quantum 852 now joins an impressive SNL Pro inventory that already includes several Quantum 338 desks. And according to Mavani, the introduction of the 852 is set to raise the bar for technical production across the Indian market, with team SNL Pro determined to ensure that the Q852 features on all the riders in the country. With both SNL Pro and IJS placing their confidence in the Quantum 852, DiGiCo's flagship platform is well-positioned to lead the next wave of large-scale productions across two of the most dynamic markets in Asia-Pacific.

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JAPAN

Nexo Delivers Smiles for 'Ashita Hiroba' in the Yoshimoto Waraii Myraii Pavilion At Expo 2025
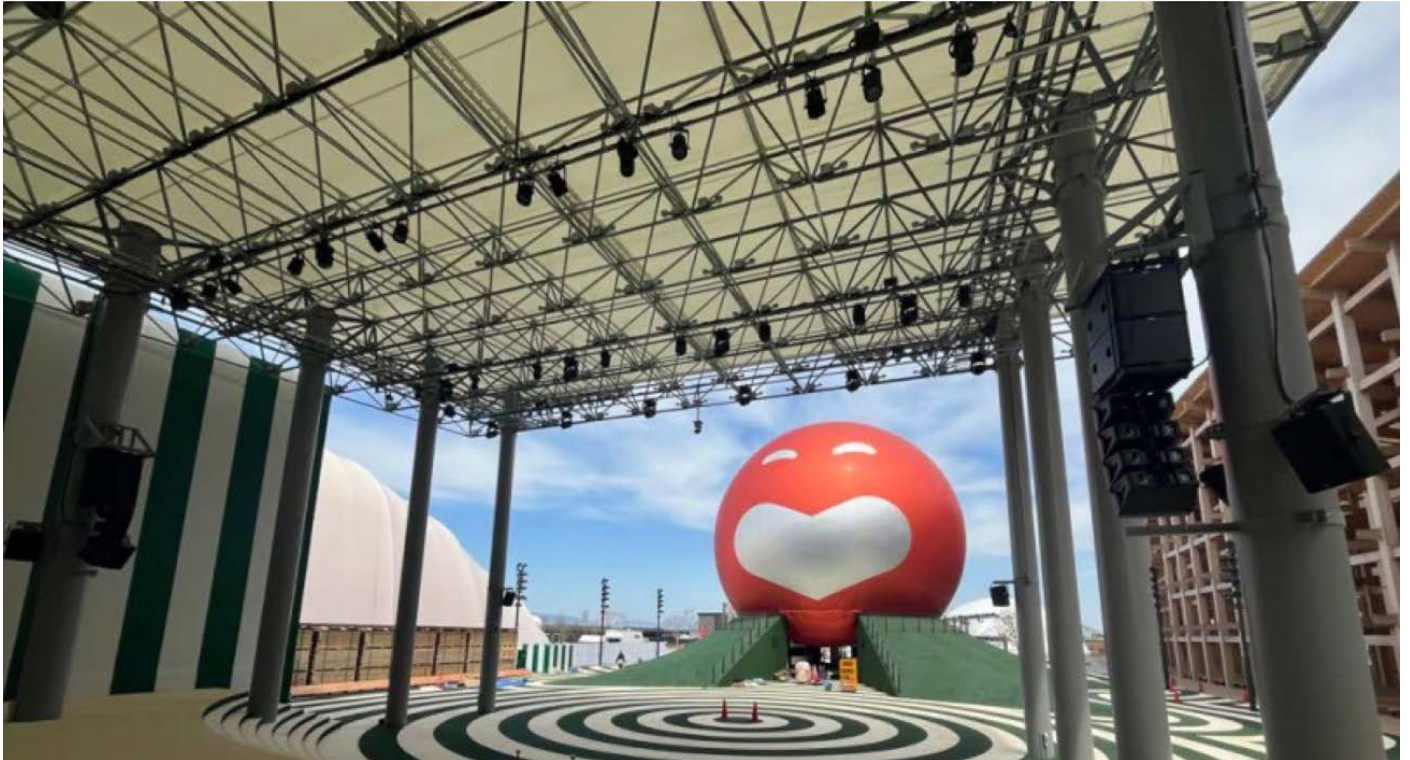
Expected to welcome more than 20,000 visitors daily until mid-October, **World Expo 2025** opened in Osaka on April 13th with 160 countries showcasing their cultures, crafts, technologies and visions of the future in a series of exhibits.

In addition to more than 250 of its speakers installed in a spectacular visitor experience at the France Pavilion, GEO M10 and P12 systems from French sound innovators **NEXO** are also installed at 'Ashita Hiroba' in the Osaka-based **Yoshimoto Kogyo Holdings Co., Ltd.'s** "Yoshimoto waraii myraii pavilion,", one of thirteen exhibits by private companies and organisations at the Expo.

Comprising of the smiling sphere 'Tamar' and the event space 'Ashita Hiroba' the Pavilion hosts a variety of laughter-themed events daily with precision, immersive sound central to the visitor experience.

"The main speakers are NEXO GEO M10 with 2/4 facing speakers on each side, and NEXO P12 speakers are also installed as monitor and delay speakers" reported **Yuya Nishikawa of YOSHIMOTO BROAD TECH Co., Ltd**, who was responsible for selecting the audio system.

"The amplifiers are NXAMP4x2MK2, and the connections are analog. At first, we were thinking of using point sources for the main speakers, but since there is a pavilion of another company right next door, we thought it would be better to use speakers that could control the sound, so we decided to install a line array."

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Yoichi Tatsumi, Director of MITOMO Co., Ltd., Shiro Yotsufuji, General Manager of YOSHIMOTO BROAD TECH Co., Ltd. and Yuya Nishikawa of YOSHIMOTO BROAD TECH Co.

"Ashita Hiroba is an event space where visitors can come and go freely to enjoy a variety of events and shows" explained **Shiro Yotsufuji, General Manager of YOSHIMOTO BROAD TECH Co., Ltd.,** who was in charge of planning the audio system.

"We have a wide variety of entertainment on offer, including a variety of comedy shows by entertainers, non-verbal performances that can be enjoyed even without speaking the same language, and a participatory event called 'Bon Odori no Ashita' which adds karaoke and dance arrangements to the traditional Japanese art of Bon Odori. We also use a smile detection tool to measure how many smiles visitors have gathered. I've been using NEXO speakers for a long time, and I've demoed the GEO M10 a few times, and I was really impressed," said Nishikawa.

"We do a lot of comedy, and I think these speakers make the human voice sound clear. They work well with the standard coverage, and they also provide solid off-mic amplification. We used them in the semi-finals of the 2022 M1 Grand Prix, and the words were really clear, and

it seemed like the audience was laughing more than usual! Another big factor was that they fit the budget for this Expo" he summed up.

Commenting on behalf of **MITOMO Co., Ltd, Director Yoichi Tatsumi** concluded: "Normally, we would get quotes from two or three companies for this kind of project but this time we decided on the GEO M10 from the beginning. Yoshimoto fully understood that the GEO M10 was the line array with the best performance within the budget."
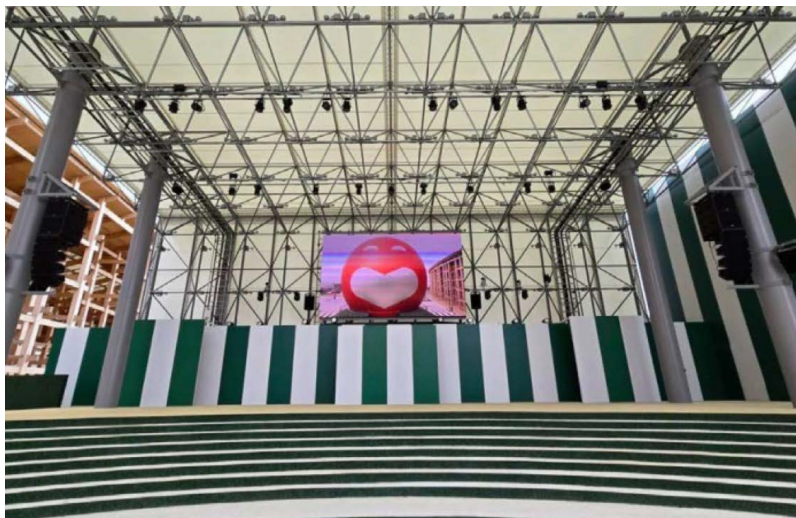
CHINA

Optocore Formalises Distribution Agreement with Rightway Audio Consultants (RAC) for Chinese Market
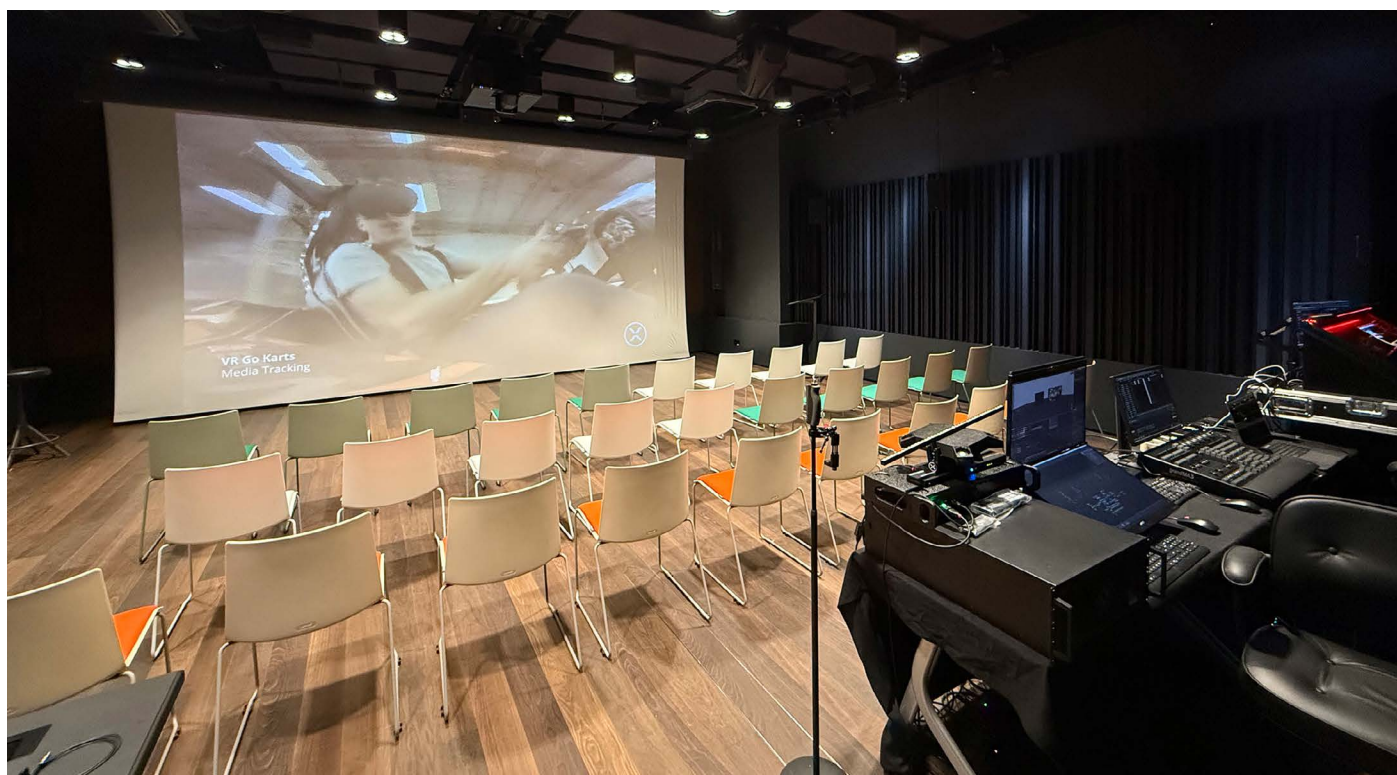
RAC Hong Kong Demo Room.

Rightway Audio Consultants (RAC) have been officially named as **Optocore's** official distribution partner for China, Hong Kong and Macau —an appointment that marks a significant evolution of the two companies' long-standing relationship. What was once a successful reseller partnership has now matured into a strategic alliance with a clear focus on long-term mutual growth.

"It was a mutual decision to deepen cooperation, which aligns with the long-term mutual benefits sought by both parties," **stated RAC's Marketing Director, Nan Hu**. "This will create broader synergies in the future."

Headquartered in Hong Kong, RAC wasted no time in launching an extensive programme of demos and training initiatives, designed to introduce and familiarise partners and end-users across the region with Optocore's powerful fibre-based networking technologies. Yet, for RAC, Optocore is far from new territory. **Eric Liew, RAC's Product Director**, explains, "We have successfully deployed Optocore in large-scale projects in the past, such as the Tianjin Grand Theatre—as far back as 2018/2019. The reliability and performance of the brand has always spoken for itself."

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A key factor that enhances this partnership is RAC's deep-rooted relationship with DiGiCo—whose consoles have integrated Optocore networking as a native feature for years. Liew states, "We hope that with this new partnership, our users and customers will naturally accept Optocore as part of their ecosystem, which will help us establish a more solid Optocore-DiGiCo user base in China."

What makes Optocore particularly attractive, according to Liew, is its ability to bring advanced flexibility and efficiency to large-scale system designs. "Firstly, Optocore's AutoRouter enables star topology in our optic fiber network, which is something that we've long been seeking. This not only provides redundancy for the Optocore network but also significantly simplifies DiGiCo audio routing, effectively reducing labour and material costs. It creates efficiencies where a venue has multiple theatres and halls with long distances in between" informs Liew.

In addition to AutoRouter, Liew highlights the potential of Optocore's M12 MADI devices. "It's a more affordable solution that we're able to offer to convert necessary protocols such as Optocore to BNC MADI, a feature which we value when it comes to making immersive systems like L-ISA work with our DiGiCo system."

Optocore's versatility and robust architecture, with automatic routing, long-distance transmission, and multi-format conversion capabilities, also blend seamlessly with RAC's broader ecosystem. "Given that we represent DiGiCo, L-Acoustics, L-ISA Immersive, KLANG, and Fourier Audio, Optocore devices are sufficiently flexible to create even greater compatibility between them, forming a formidable one-stop system solution."

Looking ahead, RAC is also exploring greater involvement with BroaMan—Optocore's sister brand focused on broadcast fibre solutions. "This is a brand which we have been in touch with since 2016. With our involvement in the broadcast market—with CCTV, Hunan TV, Sichuan TV, Guangdong TV and more—we hope to have an even deeper involvement in the Optocore-BroaMan partnership in the near future."

Summing up the company's excitement about this new chapter, Liew added, "Having been part of the DiGiCo family for 15 years, we know that Optocore is a key part of that ecosystem. But by becoming an Optocore distributor, we are now excited to be promoting and building the brand in a more independent and robust way. At the same time, we're not only anticipating seeing more Optocore in future venues and events, but also looking forward to further diversification—not only in traditional applications like theatres and festivals, but also expanding into all types of other applications in the industry and region."

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Prolight + Sound 2026 Repositions Itself

Prolight + Sound is entering 2026 with a refined concept. And at the heart of this realignment is a streamlined three-day format and a sharpened focus on the European market.

Following a comprehensive survey of exhibitors, Prolight + Sound 2026 will take place from Tuesday 24 to Thursday 26 March. The streamlined duration was also endorsed by the show's advisory board, which comprises industry experts and representatives of renowned companies and professional associations. As a key driving force, this body plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the event.

The goal of the new three-day format is to deliver a more focused and high-quality trade fair experience for both exhibitors and visitors. At the same time, the increased concentration on Europe aims to reinforce Prolight + Sound's position as the central industry platform at the heart of the continent.

This year's anniversary edition has already laid the foundation for this future-oriented path: 36 percent of the 23,003 visitors came from 108 countries – a clear signal of the international relevance of Prolight + Sound. The high degree

of audience alignment, with a strong focus on event and entertainment technologies, further underlines the quality of the event's profile.

"The intense exchange with our industry partners and exhibitors is an essential compass for us. Together, we have developed – and will continue to develop – the concept of Prolight + Sound, always with the aim of optimally aligning current needs with emerging opportunities. We are thereby responding to the many voices in the industry that continue to affirm their support for this show. With this repositioning, we want to send a clear message: We are listening, we are shaping – side by side with the people this trade fair is made for," says **Kerstin Horaczek, Vice President Technology Shows at Messe Frankfurt**.

With its new direction, Prolight + Sound is systematically building on its strengths – as the European hub for the live event and entertainment community, with a core focus on lighting, audio, and theatre and stage technology. This is complemented by a first-class, expertly curated supporting programme with strong thematic depth.

In the ProAudio section, the spotlight is on live sound, AoIP solutions, microphones, and recording equipment. The outdoor Live Sound Arena will once again serve as a platform for high-performance PA systems, offering exhibitors two complimentary demo slots each. The opportunity to present top-tier sound systems in such a spacious, festival-like trade fair setting is unparalleled across Europe.

The ProLight area benefits from new partnerships and close cooperation with leading players in the

lighting segment. A curated special exhibition, hands-on experiences, showcases, and keynote presentations will make the latest developments in professional lighting technology accessible and tangible.

The ProStage section focuses on theatre and stage technology, scenography, lighting, and automation. In close collaboration with educational institutions and industry partners, the section features specialist panels, case studies, and workshops that address topics such as safety and sustainability in the stage context.

These offerings are complemented by numerous product innovations and new formats in the fields of AV and security technology. A truly hands-on trade show experience.

The supporting programme and Prolight + Sound Colleges will once again in 2026 spotlight key industry topics. Sustainability will take centre stage, alongside emerging trends and developments in the use of artificial intelligence in event technology – including the integration of AI agents, new tools, and discussions on ethics and data privacy. Security will also be a prominent theme, with content addressing event safety, data protection, and crisis management.

A particular focus will be placed on applications for theatres and performing arts venues, with tailored offerings that directly address the specific needs of this target group.

At the core of the Prolight + Sound experience is direct interaction with technology and its application. A multitude of complex live demonstrations will make cutting-edge technical solutions immediately accessible. Visitors are also invited to take part in hands-on formats, where they can test products, try things out, and engage directly with manufacturer experts.

Educational formats will be further refined in both content and structure in 2026, offering an optimal platform for both young professionals and seasoned experts to expand their knowledge – from bilingual panels and introductory lectures to detailed hands-on workshops led by renowned specialists. Concentrated industry knowledge awaits attendees at the Prolight + Sound Colleges.

Environmental concepts will also come into sharper focus through a partnership with EVVC (European Association of Event Centres), with formats covering green touring and climate-friendly design. An expansion of educational offerings in the lighting sector is also planned.

The show will also intensify its focus on event character and community building. In 2026, the Live Sound Arena will not only showcase innovative PA technology from leading manufacturers, but for the first time will also serve as a stage for a curated, professionally managed live act programme – bringing a vibrant festival atmosphere to the showgrounds.

A wide range of networking opportunities will offer attractive ways to exchange expertise and forge new business connections. At the centre of this: the major Community Night, held right on the trade fair grounds. All attendees are warmly invited to celebrate the industry together at this "class reunion" – with drinks, music, entertaining anecdotes, and inspiring conversations.

For planners and decision-makers from Europe's theatre, theme park, and rental markets, attractive VIP visitor offerings will be available through the 'Messe Frankfurt Business Club' and the 'Hosted Buyer Programme'.

SINGAPORE

Claypaky Open Day Returns to Singapore with Cutting-Edge Showcases

After a six-year hiatus, Acoustic & Lighting System Singapore successfully reignited industry excitement by hosting the long-awaited Claypaky Open Day.

After a six-year hiatus, **Acoustic & Lighting System Singapore** successfully reignited industry excitement by hosting the long-awaited **Claypaky** Open Day—marking the brand's first such event in the city-state since 2019. Held at the distinctive arts venue 72-13, home to The Curators Academy and TheatreWorks, the event brought together approximately 100 professionals, including lighting designers, technical directors, consultants, rental companies, and event specialists.

This edition of the Open Day served as both a platform for technological showcase and a celebration of Claypaky's ongoing commitment to innovation. Claypaky's Sales Director, Alberico D'Amato, and Area Manager for South East Asia, Pankil Ahuja, led live demonstrations of several key products, highlighting the evolution of intelligent lighting tools for diverse applications. Among the standout fixtures was the Arolla Aqua, an IP66-rated profile unit built for both indoor and outdoor environments. With its 900W LED engine delivering 40,000 lumens at 7000K, a wide 4°–52° zoom range, a large 170mm front lens for long-throw projection, advanced colour mixing, sun-safe protection, and a robust four-

plane shutter system for complete blackout, it impressed attendees with its versatility and performance. The fixture also supports CloudIO remote diagnostics and has a follow spot version with digital camera integration.

Also turning heads was the Sharpy X Frame, a hybrid 550W arc lamp fixture offering a flexible zoom (down to 0.5°), dual gobo wheels, CMY/CTO colour mixing, dual rotating prisms, and framing capabilities—all in a compact, budget-conscious unit. Other highlights included the VoleroTwins, UltimoHybrid, Tambora Linear and Tambora Flash strobe/wash fixtures, as well as the Mini-B Aqua, a rugged IP66 version of the popular compact beam light.

Reflecting on the event's significance, **Eugene Yeo, General Manager of Acoustic & Lighting System Singapore**, commented, "We are delighted to be back arranging Claypaky Open Day. It's been more than six years, and it is important to show our presence and also introduce all the new Claypaky fixtures to the market, especially in this current market dynamic."

He also pointed out a moment of serendipity: "It's also unique as our open day coincided with the date when Claypaky announced globally their acquisition by a new owner—EK Lighting from China—so in a way, we became one of the first countries to announce it on stage globally." The evening concluded with a relaxed networking session at Skybar, where participants exchanged ideas and shared feedback on the day's demonstrations—marking a successful and symbolic return for both Claypaky and A&L in the Singaporean lighting scene.

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German Company to Acquire Christie Pandoras Box Product Line

From left: Daniel Schäfer, Daniel Kaminski, and Andre Maier will acquire the Pandoras Box product line.

Christie Digital Systems Germany GmbH has announced that it has entered into a letter of intent to negotiate a binding agreement for the sale of its Pandoras Box product line, which includes media servers, software, accessories as well as Widget Designer and AirScan, to **Daniel Schäfer, one of the founders of Coolux, consultant Daniel Kaminski, and long-time user Andre Maier**.

The transaction will allow the three individuals, who have an extensive understanding of the product line and the market, to continue to grow the award-winning Pandoras Box real-time rendering engine and control system solution. Both companies are enthusiastic about the potential of this acquisition and are working toward finalizing a purchase agreement.

"Our passion for Pandoras Box runs deep – more than 50 years combined. As a team, we bring knowledge and experience as end users, customers, consultants, and in technical operations. We're eager to explore and expand its capabilities, providing the best real-time rendering engine and control system on the market for our customers," says Schäfer.

Michael Phipps, President and COO of Christie, adds, "Pandoras Box users worldwide will benefit greatly from these three individuals' ingenuity and expertise in software and hardware design and operations. I'm pleased with our strategic decision to sell the product line to this dedicated team."

This impending purchase agreement will allow Christie to streamline and re-focus on its core strengths, driving innovation and growth in its primary markets.

INDIA

Electrocraft Scales Up Audio Arsenal with Waves eMotion LV1 Consoles

V Electrocraft's Dave Drego with the newly acquired LV1 consoles from Waves Audio.

Marking yet another major milestone in its journey as one of India's most prominent full-spectrum live event technical service providers, Mumbai-based **Electrocraft** has fortified its inventory with the addition of three units of the eMotion LV1 64-channel mixing console from **Waves Audio**

Renowned across India's entertainment and event production landscape for its meticulous engineering and commitment to excellence, Electrocraft's latest investment underscores its forward-thinking approach to audio innovation and its unwavering focus on delivering precision-driven sound experiences at scale.

The acquisition was enabled and fulfilled by Bengaluru-based **Ansata** the authorised distribution partner for Waves Audio in India, further cementing the long-standing professional synergy between two of the country's most trusted names in pro audio technology.

About the reasons that prompted this investment, **Electrocraft's Dave Drego** explains that the eMotion LV1's modular, software-based design and pristine audio quality make it a sought-after solution for live mixing scenarios demanding compact form factors without compromising on sonic integrity. He further affirms that the LV1's ultra-low latency, intuitive touch workflow, and seamless integration with Waves' powerful suite of plugins, offers Electrocraft an agile yet potent platform well-suited to high-stakes concert productions and premium live events.

The move reflects Electrocraft's ongoing mission to stay ahead of the curve in the competitive Indian events market—backed by a robust infrastructure and a commitment to deploying next-gen solutions that keep clients, artists, and audiences coming back for more.

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GLOBAL

Varun Mahesh Jagger Promoted to Regional Manager for Distribution in Europe, Middle East, India and Africa

Powersoft has announced the promotion of **Varun Mahesh Jagger to the newly created role of Regional Manager (distribution) for the EMEIA region**.

Jagger joined Powersoft in 2018 and had served as the Italian company's sales manager for EMEIA (Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa) since 2021, where he played a pivotal role in growing Powersoft's presence across the region. In his new position, he will be responsible for overseeing Powersoft's EMEIA distribution network and directly manage area sales managers Cosimo Cecchi and Simone Scaramuzza. He will continue to report to **Powersoft's Global Sales Manager (distribution), Fabrizio Romano Bolzoni**.

In his new role, Jagger takes on a broader strategic remit for the region, explaining that he sees the promotion as an opportunity to optimise the Powersoft's regional distribution strategy, expand into new verticals, and scale the sales team in line with local growth potential.

"Powersoft is already seen as an innovative leader for amplifiers across the world. But the perception of the brand, and the knowledge of our products, is not uniform across markets and verticals," he says. "Over the mid- to long-term I aim to streamline the distribution network to leverage us for growth across verticals and markets – preparing the sales team for better growth in the region and supporting our distributors and partners to translate Powersoft's global vision at a local level."

Jagger also expresses his gratitude for the support of Powersoft's leadership team and his sales colleagues. "Fabrizio and [sales director] Luca Giorgi are both leaders who lead from the front, and I am thankful to them in laying a strong foundation for me on which to grow," he comments. "They have constantly helped push the envelope, and will continue to do so.

"Simone and Cosimo are wonderful people, great team players and excellent sales managers with deep knowledge of their markets. I will also be learning from their experience in each market. In the end, it is a team effort – and without Simone and Cosimo, there is no team."

Welcoming Jagger to his new role, **Bolzoni adds**: "This organisational change reflects our continued commitment to strengthening our presence in key markets and enhancing the support we provide to our distribution partners. With his experience and dedication, we are confident that Varun will play a crucial role in helping our distribution partners grow their businesses while further developing Powersoft's brand in these strategically important territories." "I look forward to implementing new ideas, building efficiencies and working closely with our partners to deliver sustainable growth across the entire EMEIA region," concludes Jagger.

GLOBAL

Elation Unveils New Vision, Mission, and Values to Shape the Future of Entertainment Lighting

Elation has unveiled its refreshed vision, mission, and core values, designed to guide the organization's evolution and align global operations around innovation and customer experience.

The new strategic framework lays a foundation for excellence and reaffirms Elation's commitment to drive industry development and lead through example, making a positive impact on the industry.

"This isn't just about changing words or statements," said **Toby Velazquez, CEO of Elation and President of the ADJ Group**. "This is about aligning our business with guiding principles that will move both Elation and the industry forward."

The brand affirms a clear vision—to transform lighting in entertainment and beyond by leading in design, versatility and sustainability.

"As we look to the future, we are reshaping our vision to better reflect our commitment to be the leading innovator in the entertainment technology industry," Velazquez stated. "Our vision involves working to unlock new opportunities in design and product adaptability while fostering positive change. We take our role

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Elation has a clear vision—to transform lighting in entertainment and beyond by leading in design, versatility and sustainability.

as a responsible global partner seriously and are committed to creating sustainable solutions that empower our customers."

Elation's mission has also evolved to inspire show creators and audiences by consistently pushing boundaries to deliver stunning experiences through superior engineering and reliable service.

"Since our founding, we've always believed in the power of impactful experiences, powerful, lasting impressions that you don't soon forget," Velazquez stated. "At Elation, we work to provide extraordinary products that make a real impact on the lives of our customers and their audiences. There's a strong human element to it and our mission reflects that."

According to the company, its refreshed values represent not only what Elation stands for today, but also an ongoing commitment to integrity, quality, efficiency, empathy, and collaboration.

"These values will guide every decision, product, and customer interaction," says Velazquez, "ensuring that we remain committed to our mission and vision in all that we do."

Building on this foundation, the company's refreshed values also look to serve as actionable principles that shape daily work and long-term vision alike. Employees are encouraged to 'Never Settle' —to go the extra mile, take pride in their craft, and never compromise on excellence. Plus, with a belief in the adage of 'Details Rule', the brand looks to ensure that every nuance of its business process is carefully considered through the eyes of the end user, fuelling both innovation and quality. Simplicity continues to remains a key virtue for Elation, as the team is driven by a commitment to 'Keep it Simple' in order to making experiences intuitive and clear. At the heart of it all though, is a 'People First' mindset — nurturing relationships with humility, honesty, and support. And with a firm emphasis on 'Trusting the Team', Elation looks to continue fostering a culture of unity, equity, and mutual respect in everything they do.

"By embracing these principles, we aim to better serve our customers, inspire our employees, and create a lasting positive impact on our industry. They align with every aspect of our business and reinforce our brand promise to deliver the extraordinary" Velazquez concludes, assuring that Elation's renewed vision, mission and values are designed to unite the entire organization around a shared set of goals, providing focus to common business efforts.

INDIA

KLANG Immersive Monitoring Powers Ballimaaraan's Theatrical Sonic Journey
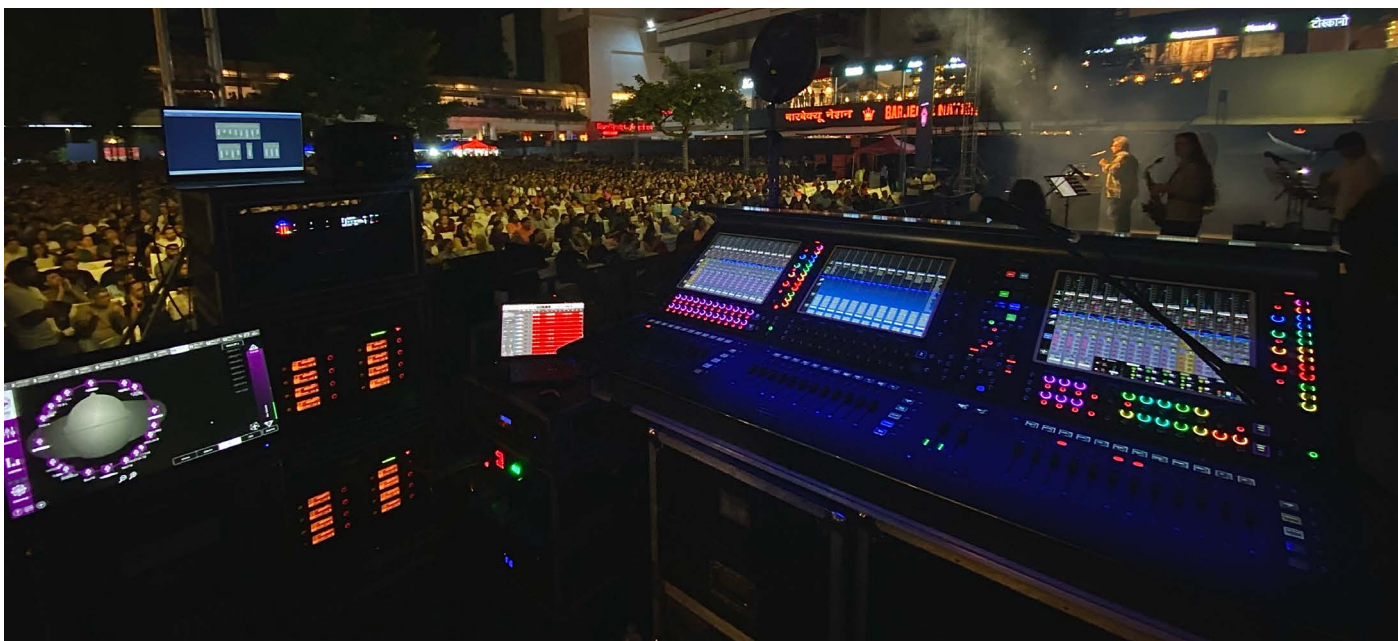
When the theatrical and musically eclectic Ballimaaraan—helmed by the inimitable Piyush Mishra—took to stages across India for the Udankhatola Tour, the storytelling wasn't confined to words or notes alone. It extended into the very fabric of the band's sonic environment, shaped masterfully by FOH and monitor engineer Piyush Joshi, with the aid of the **DiGiCo** Quantum 338 console and **DMI-KLANG's** immersive monitoring technology.

"For acts like Ballimaaraan, where every sonic detail matters, KLANG is more than a technical solution—it's a creative tool," says Joshi. "It allows me to build a space for the musicians that feels alive and inspiring."

Joshi deployed the DMI-KLANG card to handle in-ear mixes, taking full advantage of its seamless integration with the Quantum 338 console. "The workflow is incredibly intuitive; everything from assigning mixes to spatial placement feels natural. Immersive panning and level controls are fully accessible from the console surface itself—no need to jump between devices or software. I control all monitor mixes directly from the console, so the artists don't have to interact with their mixes during the show." he adds.

Ballimaaraan's performances—rooted in poetic homage to Urdu legend Mirza Ghalib—demand a monitoring environment that captures theatrical nuance, lyrical intricacies, and layered instrumental emotion. Joshi knew from past experience that stereo IEMs couldn't do justice to the sonic textures, as he recalls an example of how reverbs used to cloud the mix in stereo.

Ever since he switched to KLANG at the start of the Udankhatola tour, however, Joshi states that he could let the reverbs sit exactly where they need to be in the mix, preserving emotional depth, without compromising intelligibility – something that's turned out to be a huge

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benefit for the artist's experience. "Mixes are cleaner, more spacious and drastically help reduce listening fatigue for the musicians. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, the first thing they mentioned was how much more open and natural everything sounds. This makes it easier for each musician to focus on their own performance without getting overwhelmed. They've also noticed a big reduction in hearing fatigue during long sets and rehearsals, which has been a game changer. It's definitely elevated their comfort and confidence on stage!" he exclaims, pointing out to how the shift to immersive monitoring has been transformational.

Furthermore, Joshi informs that he used the KLANG:app during soundchecks to walk the stage and work intimately with each musician. "I think it's a great way to get more personal with the monitoring process and ensure every artist is truly comfortable with their mix before showtime. It's fast, reliable and enables me to make detailed adjustments on the fly, which is especially helpful during tight change-overs or quick sound checks" he notes.

Beyond the impact on stage, the experience has redefined Joshi's approach to mixing as an artform. "KLANG handles complexity beautifully. The immersive space lets me place elements more naturally, giving each instrument room to breathe without clashing" he explains, stating that using KLANG on a tour with such dynamic complexity has sharpened his immersive skills and given him the confidence to explore more creative options as he strives to support the artists in every way he can.

He also credits KLANG's support team for making the transition smooth: "They're always there—whether I need technical help or just want to bounce ideas. Their support has played a huge role in how confidently I've been able to deploy KLANG on demanding tours."

Throughout the tour, which visited cities including Kolkata, Thane and Lucknow, DMI-KLANG was supplied by **HiTech Audio & Image** the brand's official distributors in India.

NEPAL

Meyer Sound Appoints VIE TEC as Official Distributor in Nepal

As Nepal's live entertainment and performance sectors continue to evolve, **Meyer Sound** has announced the appointment of **VIE TEC Private Limited** as its official distributor in the country. The partnership is set to expand access to Meyer Sound's acclaimed loudspeaker solutions, reinforcing the brand's presence in a rapidly growing market with increasing demand for high-performance audio.

Spearheading this initiative is **Saloni Sethia, Managing Director of VIE TEC**, who identified a clear need for world-class audio solutions that

prioritise clarity, consistency, and reliability. With an increasing number of international artists performing in Nepal and a rapidly growing local events scene, she recognised the importance of introducing a brand trusted by top venues and professionals worldwide. And under her leadership, VIE TEC aspires to make globally respected technologies accessible in Nepal — aiming not just to raise the volume, but to elevate the overall standard of sonic experience for both event professionals and audiences alike.

MIDDLE EAST

Creative Technology Middle East Doubles Down on Robe with Major Lighting Investment

At the Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix, iFORTE LTX fixtures played a starring role during Maroon 5's headline set at Lusail International Circuit.
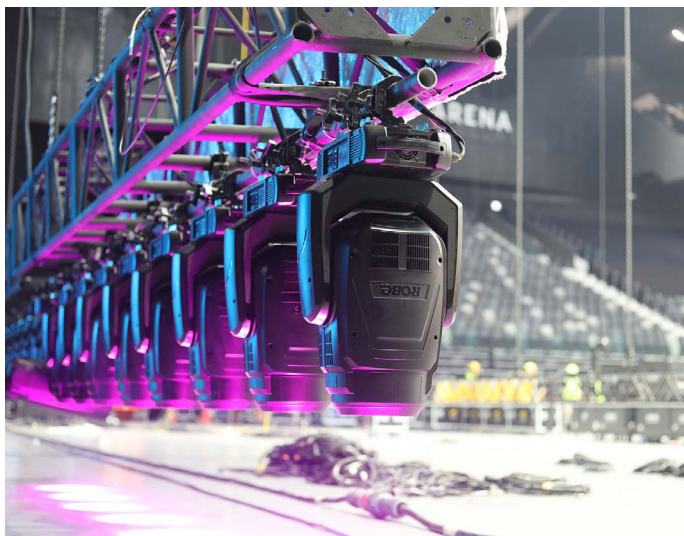
Creative Technology Middle East (CTME) has significantly expanded its lighting inventory with a major new investment in **ROBE** equipment, following a substantial purchase earlier in 2024. The latest acquisition includes 60 units of the iFORTES, 60 units of the iFORTE LTXs, 8 units of the iFORTE LTX FS Cameras, 80 units of the iTetra2 battens, 100 units of the LEDBeam 350s, 12 units of the iBOLTS, and 4 units of the RoboSpot BaseStations (adding to the four RoboSpots already in CTME's stock, bringing the total to eight).

With facilities across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, CTME continues to reinforce its reputation as a leading provider of technical design, planning, and production for some of the region's most ambitious live events and system integration projects. This latest Robe investment marks a clear statement of readiness to meet the growing demands of the Middle East's entertainment industry.

The recent batch of ROBE additions joins the 24 units of the FORTES and 80 units of the

LEDBeam 350s delivered earlier in the year – rounding out what is now one of the region's most comprehensive ROBE-based lighting fleets. According to **Sam Connolly, CTME's Head of Lighting & Power**, the equipment is already hard at work across a full slate of events, shows, concerts, and special projects throughout the region.

Sam noted the flexibility of the FORTES series as a key investment consideration; citing the near-identical appearance and performance of the IP-rated and standard units, which allows seamless mixing and matching across productions. On the other hand, the iTetra2s were chosen after extensive market comparisons. "We did plenty of comparisons for this type of fixture, and iTetra2 came out on top. It simply ticked all our boxes for light output, effects, and general ergonomics," he explained.
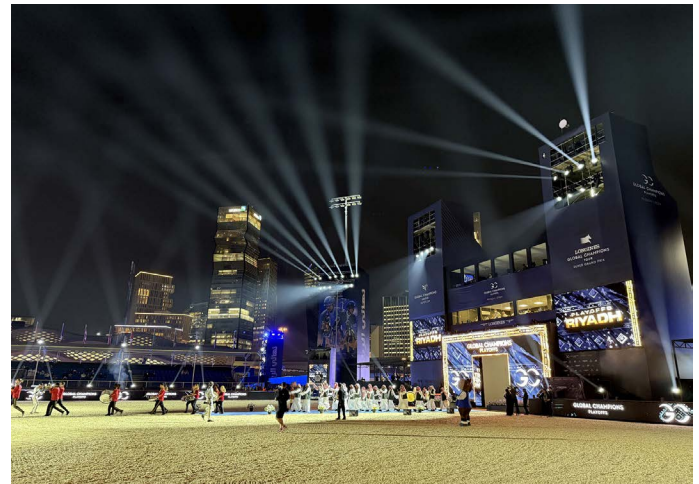
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iTetra2 fixtures delivered stunning visuals at the Hans Zimmer Live concert at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena.

At the Longines Global Champions Tour in Saudi Arabia, lighting designer Roland Greil and his team utilised the iFORTE and iFORTE LTX ranges to provide powerful, uniform coverage across the arena.

The iBOLTS, described as "new and innovative" by Sam, cater to the frequent demand for searchlight-style effects. The initial batch of 12 has already featured at high-profile productions such as Sir Bani Yas 2024, the VIP Reception in Al Ain, and the Richard Mille Awards at The Louvre, where they lit the entranceway for the annual art event.

Meanwhile, iTetra2 fixtures delivered stunning visuals at the Hans Zimmer Live concert at Dubai's Coca-Cola Arena, enhancing the orchestral performance with vibrant colour and dynamic movement. These fixtures have also featured extensively at cultural and entertainment events throughout the season.

At the Formula 1 Qatar Grand Prix, iFORTE LTX fixtures played a starring role during Maroon 5's headline set at Lusail International Circuit, providing the necessary punch and precision for both the live audience and broadcast coverage. The iFORTE and iFORTE LTX ranges also proved their mettle at the Longines Global Champions Tour in Saudi Arabia, where lighting designer Roland Greil and his team utilised them to provide powerful, uniform coverage across the arena.

"The initial FORTE and LEDBeam 350s were so popular and frequently requested that we needed more," said Sam, adding that they chose the IP route with the iFORTE, as much of the work across the region is outdoors. He also noted that the LEDBeam 350s "are out all the time" and are among the most used fixtures moving in and out of CTME's new warehouse and headquarters in Dubai.

Boosting the number of RoboSpot BaseStations to eight reflects increasing demand for this versatile remote follow-spotting system, which remains a regular request on technical riders. "We felt confident in making a big commitment to Robe as it's an in-demand and available cross rental item," Sam added.

Reliability and ruggedness remain critical to CTME's investment strategy. "We so rarely have any issues with the Robe products," Sam stated, highlighting the "outstanding" 24-hour technical support and after-sales service from Elie Battah, Patrick Haddad, and the Robe Middle East team. The CTME crew also values the time saved by not needing a vacuum kit to check sealings when fitting custom gobos in the iFORTES.

## The 1975 Headline Glastonbury with Largest Deployment Ever of GLP JDC2 IP

The 1975's long-standing production designer Tobias Rylander chose to deploy over 400 GLP fixtures which included the single-largest ever JDC2 IP deployment of 211 units, to bring something special out of the iconic Pyramid stage at the Glastonbury Festival

Exploring Powersoft's Return to Touring with UNICA T

The UNICA T series marks Powersoft's return to the touring market, featuring a new generation of amplifiers that come in both 4-channel and 8-channel configurations to address diverse application needs, from driving bass and modern line array systems to providing flexibility for monitoring applications.

Lighting Up the Iconic Eurovision Song Contest 2025 in Switzerland
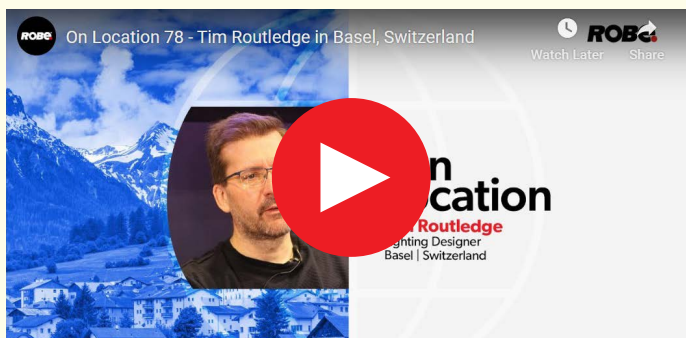
Lighting designer Tim Routledge discusses his experience designing the lighting for the 2025 Eurovision Song Contest in Basel, Switzerland, with ROBE. Tim reflects on the creative process involved in designing for a smaller venue, and the collaborative effort required to fulfill the demands of different delegations.

Delving into EAW's Revolutionary ADAPTive Technology
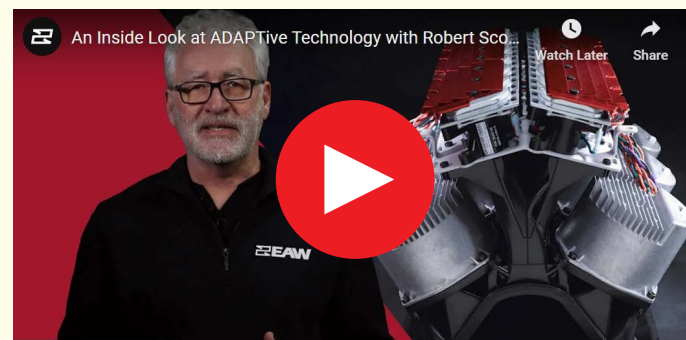
An in-depth look at EAW's ADAPTive technology and how EAW's adherence to historical engineering principles combined with innovative software enables ADAPTive systems to uniquely establish a single acoustic source for high-performance applications, enabling precise vertical coverage optimization without complex setup.

Elation Launches FUZE PFX Profile and FX Lighting

Elation's newest addition to the FUZE series is the FUZE PFX, which brings all the power and versatility of a multi-purpose automated fixture — now in an incredibly compact footprint. Designed to deliver serious output and feature-rich flexibility in a smaller package, the FUZE PFX is ideal for both production and installation environments where space and performance matter.

Ideal for applications that demand a high-output, multifunctional light, the FUZE PFX combines the precision of a profile fixture with the creative potential of an effects light. It delivers over 15000 lumens of output and can handle everything from tight beams and precise framing to expansive washes.

Despite its feature-packed design and powerful 400W white LED engine, the FUZE PFX maintains a compact and lightweight form factor, making it an ideal choice for venues where rigging space is limited or portability is essential. It's a true workhorse that punches well above its size —

perfectly suited for fast-paced productions, touring rigs, and discreet installations alike. The FUZE PFX includes 18 finely crafted gobos (7 rotating and 11 fixed) and a versatile zoom range from 3° to 53°, enabling stunning mid-air effects and crisp image projections. Its two variable frost filters (Light and Wash) allow for beautifully even stage washes, while the seamless CMY color mixing with linear CTO correction provides a broad and vibrant color palette. An 8-position color wheel features high CRI filters (80, 90) and a UV filter for additional flexibility.

The rotatable full-blackout framing blades offer precise beam shaping, making it easy to isolate areas on stage, highlight scenic elements, or produce dynamic mid-air visuals. Dual independent rotating prisms (6-facet linear and 6-facet round) can be used together for layered effects, while a fast iris and the unique split CMY SFX wheel expand the creative toolkit. Additional features include a high-speed electronic shutter, strobe, and multiple 16-bit dimming curve modes for smooth programming.

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Yamaha DM3 Series & Roland V-80HD Bring Sound and Video Operation Closer Together

Yamaha Professional Audio has announced a new collaboration with **Roland Corporation** allowing seamless integration between Yamaha's DM3 series compact digital audio mixing consoles and Roland's V-80HD direct streaming video switcher.

High quality sound and vision are equally important for live streamed and location video productions. The compact Yamaha DM3 series is the perfect solution for delivering the best sound, thanks to its exceptional audio quality, pro-level features, fast setup and straightforward operation. Meanwhile, the Roland V-80HD is a portable, easy to set up video switcher, with flexible I/O features including 3G-SDI, HDMI, USB 3.0 and LAN (RTMP/SRT) connections, plus integrated control for PTZ cameras and remote operation with video monitoring via dedicated control apps.

The new integration allows the Roland V-80HD to recall the Yamaha DM3 console's scene memory and the DM3 to control the fader levels and mute buttons of the V-80HD's audio mixer. Together, these features make streaming production faster and easier, consolidating high quality audio and visuals in one compact system which is easily controlled by one operator.

The integration is straightforward to set up, simply by connecting the DM3 to the V-80HD with an Ethernet cable, setting the DM3's IP address on the V-80HD and switching on Yamaha Mixer Control. For scene control, the user assigns the DM3's scene to the V-80HD's assignable pad. For audio level and mute control, the DM3's channel is assigned to the audio channel of the V-80HD.

"We are thrilled to announce this collaboration with Yamaha," says **Kohei Hattori, General Manager, Roland Live Production Business Department.** "Control integration of the popular V-80HD and highly valued DM3 will help elevate production quality and operator efficiency."

"We are pleased to announce this new collaboration with Roland, which significantly enhances the workflow for live and streamed content, where high quality sound and video are equally important," says **Thomas Hemery, Senior General Manager, Yamaha Professional Solutions division**. "The integration between the DM3 series and V-80HD video switcher delivers efficient, straightforward operation for one operator, making superior streaming productions very accessible."

DEFENDER Introduces Maintenance Spray for Cable Protector Care

DEFENDER, the cable protection brand under the **Adam Hall Group** has launched a dedicated Maintenance Spray designed to preserve and extend the life of cable protectors and other rubber-based components used across the events, industrial and infrastructure sectors. Tailored for the specific wear and tear experienced in these demanding environments, the 400 ml silicone spray combats ageing, prevents embrittlement, and ensures reliable performance by protecting against moisture, UV radiation, dust and temperature fluctuations.

Ideal for use on DEFENDER cable protectors, the spray is easy to apply and acts quickly, helping to keep hinges and catches operating smoothly. This allows users to open and close the cable protector lids with ease, even under challenging conditions. The spray also helps maintain the integrity of rubber, plastic and metal elements, reinforcing DEFENDER's position as a full-solution provider in the cable protection space. With the introduction of this maintenance solution, DEFENDER underlines its commitment to offering not just robust physical protection but also the tools necessary to ensure long-term reliability and simplified servicing.

ETC Releases RigPOV, New Camera Accessory for Automated Luminaires

ETC has launched the new RigPOV camera accessory option, compatible with multiple automated luminaires from ETC. The RigPOV camera attaches directly to a fixture, streaming live video from the rig to Eos consoles and other third-party control solutions.

Automated Lighting Product Manager Matt Stoner says, "With RigPOV, users get a new point of view from their rig. This view of the stage helps inform the design process, while reducing the need to operate heavy machinery in the rafters or constantly run up and down stairs to see the stage from the balcony."

RigPOV uses NDI technology for reliable video streaming and low latency. Compatibility with Eos consoles with Eos v3.3 as well as third-party manufacturers makes RigPOV an ideal tool for programming as well as remote followspot operation. Customers can now place a fixture order for High End Systems Lonestar, Hyperstar, Halcyon Gold, Halcyon Titanium, or Halcyon Platinum with the RigPOV add-on.

"Spaces like theatres, concert venues, schools, and film sets would all benefit from having a more accessible, heightened view of the stage with the help of RigPOV. It makes the design process both safer and more convenient," says **Tania Lesage, ETC Market Manager**.

RigPOV is easy to install and matches the standard automated luminaire warranty when installed on a new fixture.

Clear-Com Expands Arcadia Central Station with Updates Including Panel Support

Clear-Com has announced a significant expansion of the award-winning Arcadia Central Station with new software updates. Together, these releases dramatically enhance Arcadia's functionality, as it now supports the full Clear-Com product ecosystem, enabling connectivity across Clear-Com products as well as third-party Dante/AES67 devices. Arcadia Central Station as a scalable, IP-based intercom seamlessly integrates wired and wireless systems across digital, analog, Dante/AES67, and Clear-Com's I.V. Direct.

The latest enhancements include support for V-Series IrisX Panels & flexible port allocation. Users can now connect up to 32 V-Series IrisX panels directly to Arcadia, enabling high-density keypanel workflows traditionally reserved for expensive and complex matrix systems, making this a true game changer. Port allocation flexibility also lets operators balance HelixNet digital partyline and I.V. Direct connections as needed, for the flexibility to suit almost any workflow.

"With this release, Arcadia moves beyond party line communications into a true communications hub," said **Dave MacKinnon, VP of Product Management of Clear-Com**. "It's a complete communications solution that grows with customer needs, integrates easily into existing infrastructures, and supports everything from partyline to IP matrix keypanels, all in a 1RU device."

Arcadia's robust architecture supports nearly any operating environment, on analog XLR, IP networks, or fiber, and accommodates wireless across 1.9 GHz, 2.4 GHz, and 5 GHz spectrums. Many different industries including broadcast studios, houses of worship, live theaters and sports arena users can deploy sophisticated, multi-channel communications without the need for traditional matrix frames. As with all of Clear-Com's products, it integrates seamlessly with other equipment to facilitate seamless productions with an easy setup and intuitive controls.

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LDA NEO and NEO+ Systems Officially Integrated with Genetec Security Center Thanks to San2 Sustainable Innovation

Three experts. One integrated solution.

PA/VA integration with Genetec, powered by San2

The new official plugin developed by **San2 Innovación Sostenible** allows **LDA Audio Tech's** NEO and NEO+ public address and voice evacuation systems to be directly integrated into the **Genetec Security Center platform**, one of the most powerful solutions on the market for unified security management.

This integration expands the possibilities for LDA partners, distributors and integrators working on projects with advanced and larger needs, where centralized management of video, access control, intrusion detection and now also public address and evacuation is required, all from a single interface: **Genetec Security Desk**

Thanks to this development, operators can monitor and act on LDA systems directly from Genetec's graphical environment, without external tools. The integration allows real-time monitoring of NEO and NEO+ systems status; reception of automated events in critical environments that include emergency, failure, disconnection or status change; alarm generation and response automation through Genetec's "Event to Action" system; remote volume control, signal routing, zone muting or sending customized commands; and design of dynamic menus customizable for each installation or client, within the Genetec environment.

The plugin is certified and available under the part number GSC-1SDK-SAN2-LDA. For its activation it is necessary to have a license and a code linked to Genetec's System ID, which can be requested directly to San2 by sending an email to **info@san2.es**

The plugin is installed using a guided installer that deploys client and server in a simple way. Once operational, the plug-in works in "Operator" mode, connecting to LDA's NEO and NEO+ devices without modifying their factory settings, in a non-intrusive way.

From Genetec's configuration tool (Config Tool), it is possible to define the check frequency, associate events to status changes and customize the visual indicators on the interface. It also supports hierarchical menus (parent and child) to better structure the available actions.

The San2 plug-in is now available to the entire LDA Audio Tech distribution network; and is already in operation in real-world environments, projects where it has demonstrated stability, efficiency and compatibility with unified security installations. It allows a more agile response in emergencies, continuous monitoring of the public address and voice alarm system and a native integration into Genetec workflows.

This joint project demonstrates San2 and LDA Audio Tech's commitment to deliver more value, efficiency and control to dealers and integrators, in pursuit of true interoperability between critical security systems.

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Green Hippo Ships TEKA MX Hippotizer Media Server
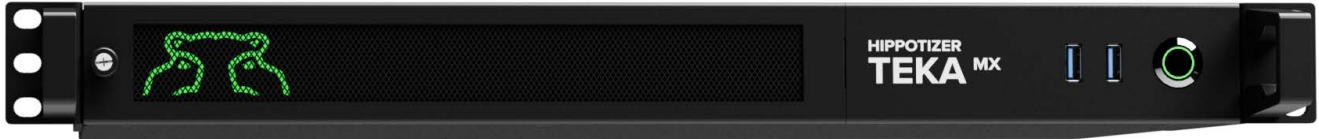
Green Hippo have announced the shipment of its new, award-winning 1U Hippotizer MX Series Media Server, TEKA MX.

TEKA MX is a compact and cost-effective powerhouse designed for smaller live productions. With the ability to drive up to 4K worth of pixels without restrictions on output splitting, this single-output system delivers exceptional performance in a streamlined form factor.

TEKA is enhanced with a library of stock content, including vibrant new 10-bit NotchLC clips, while 2TB of internal media storage ensures ample space for high-resolution assets. Fully customizable, the TEKA can be configured with optional capture cards, network cards, or GPU upgrades, offering maximum flexibility to meet the demands of any production.

The full Hippotizer MX Series is now shipping, offering five new customizable, dependable, and future-proofed Media Server solutions that enhance workflow efficiency with the best in high-quality playback and purpose-built design.

Building off 20 years of robust and dependable hardware, the Hippotizer MX Series provides 10-bit video playback for accurate color reproduction, supporting SMPTE 2110 and IPMX workflows, as well as easy system customization, and seamless delivery of large media and quality playback. Crafted for designers, touring professionals and integrators, the new solutions offer rear-chassis illumination, upgradeable and swappable media drives, customizable output configurations, and an OLED display.

"The shipment of the TEKA 1U marks a major milestone — the complete rollout of our award-winning Hippotizer MX Series Media Servers," **says Nick Spencer, Technical Product Manager at Green Hippo**. "Now in the hands of Live Event and Pro AV professionals, we are excited to see how our MX Series of Media Servers ignite fresh creativity and redefine what's possible in visual storytelling across the industry."

Martin Audio announces BlacklineQ Series

Martin Audio have announced the new BlacklineQ which provides a comprehensive reimagining of the iconic Blackline series. The nine-strong product range comprises improved passive two-way point source loudspeakers, all-new column speakers and a suite of subwoofers. The entire series features intelligent design details, making it equally at home in portable or install applications, such as portable sound reinforcement for live sound, theatre, DJs and corporate events; unobtrusive stage monitoring; and permanent installation in clubs, hospitality venues, conference rooms and houses of worship.

In sync with Martin Audio's design philosophy, BlacklineQ extolls the virtue of meticulous driver design to deliver improved coverage, consistency and control. For the first time in its class, both full-range two-way point source systems and column speakers feature Differential Dispersion horns, which enable wider, more consistent coverage with less energy directed to the ceiling.

For the four point source speakers (designated Q8, Q10, Q12 and Q15), each symmetrical, multi-angle full-range passive wooden enclosure can be easily deployed in horizontal or vertical format, with comprehensive mounting options—including wall brackets, yokes, eyebolt suspension and pole-mounts. A pole-mount cover provides a clean, streamlined appearance when the mount is not in use.

BlacklineQ also marks Martin Audio's debut in column speaker design with the two-way passive QC44 and QC26 offering elegant, discreet solutions for both portable and fixed use, and perfectly suited to speech and musical content. Finished with hard wearing black or white paint, and complemented by comprehensive mounting options, these new column speakers will substantially increase the available applications on offer to the Martin Audio line-up.

Finally, BlacklineQ includes a trio of passive subwoofers, comprising the Q210 (2x10"), Q118 (1x18") and Q218 (2x18"), which extend low-frequency performance across the series. The enclosures are constructed from durable plywood and feature slot ports for efficiency in design while reducing noise turbulence. Each enclosure includes an M20 35mm (1.4") pole-mount fitting for seamless integration with all loudspeakers in the series. In addition, the link out socket is positioned at the top of the cabinet, providing a convenient and discreet solution for connecting the cable for a BlacklineQ loudspeaker on a pole. Finished in hard wearing black paint as standard, the Q210 is also available in white to match the white BlacklineQ column loudspeakers.

Dom Harter, Managing Director, commented, "BlacklineQ is our most ambitious series in Blackline's storied history, and with the introduction of both Differential Dispersion technology and column speakers it's destined to be our most successful."

BlacklineQ will start shipping from late August and will be first shown and heard at InfoComm Asia on Generation AV booth

CHAUVET Professional Introduces Maverick Force X Profile

CHAUVET Professional has taken its reimagination of moving fixtures a step further with the introduction of the Maverick Force X Profile.

Like its popular predecessors, the new 520-watt profile delivers unprecedented output (19,640 lumens) for a fixture its size (14.21 x 9.40 x 25.43 inches/361 x 239 x 646 mm). Another way to appreciate this fixture's intensity: its illuminance ranges from 1207 lux to 102,764 lux, depending on the beam angle. The secret is in its LED source, which does not require a large optical path or extensive cooling system.

The pioneering combination of output and size, gives designers unparalleled freedom to position the Maverick Force X Profile in tight spaces, while also making it simpler, faster and less physically demanding to set up and take down rigs. Going beyond its impressive power-to-size ratio, the new ruggedly designed profile is loaded with performance features that will take lighting designs to the next level. The Maverick Force X Profile has a larger front lens (145 mm diameter) than its predecessors. Its beam angle is an impressive 3.3° to 52.1°, while its Field Angle goes from 3.7° to 56.3°, and its zoom range is a broad 3.3° to 58.5.

The Maverick Force X Profile is also a color mixing marvel, with a CRI of 72.2 (87.6 with filter). Its variable CMY colour wheel includes CRI, CTO and CTB filters + white, and split colors–and it offers continuous scroll at variable speeds.

Adding to the fixture's versatility are its zoom optics, framing shutters with rotation, and two gobo wheels (one rotating, and one static), as well as 16-bit dimming of master dimmer for smooth control of fades, and 5-facet prism and frost, plus 4-blade framing shutters with dual axis movements. Thanks to its compact design, the Maverick Force X Profile, which has a Pan and Tilt of 540° /270° , can create dramatic, mind-blowingly rapid movements, to generate breathtaking excitement on the stage, dancefloor, or throughout a venue.

This compact high-performance lighting tool is also engineered for reliability, as it features a battery backup display with auto-rotate depending on fixture orientation, and a failsafe Ethernet connectivity that allows data to pass even if fixture power is lost. It selectable PWM of 600Hz, 1500Hz, 2000Hz 65000Hz Hz also ensures flicker free operation.

Passion versus Profit
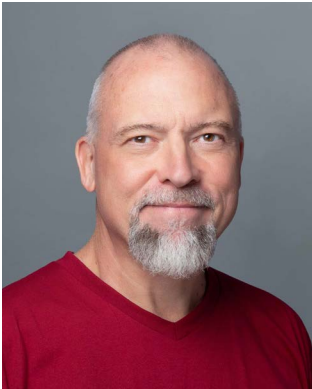
Passion versus Profit - this is a weird thing to say, and for the longest time during my working period as a sound engineer, this was not necessarily a conflict or contradiction. Over the past few years, I have observed quite a few dramatic changes within our industry. For the first two decades that I have worked in this wonderful industry, the biggest announcements to read about in the press have been technical advancements of companies and new technology developments. In the past decade, the biggest press releases have been about the pricing of companies being sold, when acquired by a competitor or by a hedge fund. This has led to the belief that the more expensive a company is, the better it is. From a profit valuing mindset perspective this is true, but this is not necessarily a mindset that people from within this industry have historically associated with. We are, after all, a technology-driven industry, and this is what drives innovation.

I need to lay out my view to avoid misunderstandings for you. Engineers are often not best equipped to run a financially successful business, since their focus will be on technology and not on profits. Running a professional and financially successful business is also not part of an engineering skillset. For people entering our industry from the capital industry (financial markets, VC (venture capital) people, we must look like a joke, since everything is so comparatively cheap here. You can buy a well-known and recognised pro audio company for well under 50 million Dollars, but you could barely buy a decent-sized single building for the same amount. So, to people from the financial sector, we must look cheap.

Now, here is the deal: No one enters this industry to become rich, even if we wouldn't mind it. I dare say that people are drawn to this industry because of their passion for what we do and the attention to detail in how we do it. As a conclusion, if you want to judge the success of any given company in the entertainment industry simply by their P&L sheets, you might be off by quite a bit, since this does not tell you anything about their true capital and value, which might by their intellectual property and their ability to distinguish and separate themselves from the competition. Second, if anyone ever entered this industry to become rich, they made one of the worst mistakes of their life, since becoming rich is not among the top ten things to be proud of in our industry. On quite a few occasions, I called this a "stupid" decision, if this is what you did.

At the same time, profit is not a dirty word, and making a decent living is not criminal either. Therefore, we should not be ashamed of our financial success if we are passionate about our work. However, success in an engineering environment is typically not measured in Dollars, but rather in technical accomplishments. As I walk the halls of trade shows in our industry worldwide, I look for technical advancements and try not to be intimidated by the big, shiny presentations from mega companies.

So, where does this lead, and what will happen in the future in our beloved industry? I think that we are in a period, where the capital markets have found our industry to be attractive to them, because of potentially nice profit ranges, however

at some point those desired profit ranges are not sustainable within this industry, simply because our markets do not scale up to that level every year and the COVID period should be a potent reminder of this. We have been the first ones "thrown under the bus" since entertainment and the arts have not been considered core needs of humanity, and hence have not been adequately supported all along.

I have no clear idea where in this cycle we are. Still, I am pretty sure that once the capital market recognises this, they will distance themselves, as if we were carrying the plague, since there is a lack of deep understanding and possibly no care about why people have done what we do for decades in their lives. At the same time if you look at any other industry with similar basic environments, the concentration of power and money to a few selected companies, has always led to more and more smaller ventures to flourish and enterprises to come out with innovative and exciting solutions, which can only be made, if the company is agile, quick and able to react quickly. So, the development of megalomaniacal companies automatically leads to more smaller operations coming in, simply because the large entities are unable to satisfy or even do those things that the smaller businesses are capable of.

Since no one knows if and when this bubble will burst, we have to stay tuned, alert and watch out constantly for exciting new developments on the technology side. I admit that I might be wrong, but my belief that the expected growth rates for external investment are not sustainable is confirmed every month by the news that I read. I find myself more and more attracted to those rogue companies standing out and not selling out, because there is an offer on the table, simply because these people do not want to give up what they love to do, I also find that i am more happy to part with my hard earned dollars to buy gear from people with whom i can easily associate, rather than from people, who look at the P&L sheet to value a company, I do understand that this requires a particular mindset. It needs this strange curiosity, which at times can ask the rational mind to step aside, to let the emotion and passion take over and enjoy itself going crazy. It is similar to what most musicians would do. If they have a few dollars to spare, they typically don't put them into a savings account; instead, they buy another guitar, another cymbal, or the latest synth model.

I want to apologise for this long rant. I needed to get this off my chest and share my view that the big shiny object shouldn't blind us; instead, we should stay focused on why we do what we do. With this in mind, I wish that you do not forget why you entered this great industry and that when asked critical questions, you decide by what drove you here in the first place. You might not be able to create 500% profit rates, but you put on a great show and dedicate your heart and mind to making this special event for your audiences every night. I am in awe of all of you and wish that, as an industry, we stand by those great principles which attracted us all in the first place.

Join the conversation and share your thoughts with Alex. Alex can be reached at
alex@asaudio.de

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Frequencies Frontline

Inside the Wireless Vanguard of Live Audio Engineering

by Elton Noronha

Photo courtesy of Sennheiser.

How do you make a show heard without ever being seen—or rather, without being felt? In the world of live sound, wireless systems are the invisible workhorses that carry every vocal, every note, and every cue across a complex arena of radio frequencies. What was once a frontier of analog compromise has transformed into a battleground of bandwidth, where milliseconds matter and megahertz are sacred.

Yet, as we edge into the second half of the decade, the game has changed once again. New spectral regulations across APAC and the Middle East, shrinking RF real estate, and the rapid rise of IP-based ecosystems have pushed manufacturers to rethink wireless entirely — from transmission protocol and audio fidelity to software control and system scalability. And leading the charge are three very distinct forces in the field: **SENNHEISER, SHURE**, and **DPA Microphones**.

SENNHEISER brings both legacy and innovation not just with the rugged Digital 6000 series, but also its newly launched Spectera platform, which has made significant noise in 2025 thanks to its WMAS (Wireless Multichannel Audio Systems) readiness. On the other hand, there's DPA — a pro audio stalwart that aims to be the latest disruptor in the wireless-systems realm with the debut of its N-Series Wireless System that offers a fresh engineering perspective rooted in sonic precision. And then of course, there's SHURE – with its powerhouse Axient Digital system that has remained a benchmark in spectral efficiency, redundancy, and digital flexibility; owing to which it stands as one of the most widely adopted systems in global touring and broadcast setups. This article explores six core pillars defining modern wireless systems — spectrum strategy, audio performance, interoperability, remote

control, regional design, and future-readiness. And through these lenses, we unpack how today's systems are redefining what it means to be "cutting the cord" in pro audio.

Spectrum Pressure and Regulatory Evolution: Meeting Dense RF Realities

Across APAC and the Middle East, the RF spectrum allocated to professional audio has steadily tightened due to 5G expansions, shifting telecom interests, and evolving local regulations. Events in Dubai, Mumbai, Jakarta, and even mid-tier cities like Dammam or Colombo now face intense RF congestion; forcing production teams to either scale down or upscale their tools.

First up, the Digital 6000 system from SENNHEISER has, for several years now, been providing intermodulation-free operation for users in the region, owing to the fact that its frequency planning is dramatically simpler and more efficient than legacy setups. With the release of the brand new Spectera system, however, the brand has stepped confidently into WMAS territory.

"Based on Sennheiser's ground-breaking WMAS wideband technology, the Spectera is the world's first bidirectional wideband digital ecosystem. The bidirectionality of the ecosystem means that it can handle audio signals and control data simultaneously at the same time, in one single RF carrier. It also offers bidirectional bodypack which handles mic and IEM in just one pack. With our newly launched software Linkdesk, it allows full remote control

and monitoring of all connected systems, which allows users to control latency, audio settings, channel count, RF health and battery status. Spectera is also able to scan the RF spectrum while the system is in operation. The operator can see what is on air without the need of additional equipment" comments **Kenan Phang, Sennheiser's Technical Application Engineering Manager, APAC**.

Spectera operates using wideband transmission (6 or 8 MHz per channel) capable of carrying multiple audio signals over a single carrier, radically increasing spectral efficiency. This aligns with ETSI's TS 103 450 standard and is already approved for use in several APAC and ME markets.

On the other hand, DPA's all-new **N-Series Wireless System** — launched in 2025 — doesn't just ride the wideband wave; it's designed for it. And while it's their first foray into wireless transmission, it appears that DPA has clearly baked in a modern understanding of RF real-world conditions, particularly those seen in the urban sprawl of South Asia and the Gulf. **Kalle Hvidt Nielsen, CEO, DPA** Microphones elaborates on this as he shares, "Based on robust RF technology that enables a safe, stable and uninterrupted connection between transmitter and receiver – the new N-Series system is designed with an exceptional radio frequency range of 400MHz, available in both the receivers and transmitters. It includes true diversity receiver technology where each transmitted signal is constantly received by two separate radios connected to separate antennas. This ensures a real-time back-up in case one radio receiver loses the signal. The switch happens seamlessly with no data loss and will therefore not be detectable.

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In busy RF environments, the user will have a very wide set of frequences to choose from when identifying the free RF space needed. The entire frequency range will be available in all transmitter and receiver units, limited only by the legal restrictions for the area. No need to bring multiple variants to cover a wide frequency range."

Kalle informs that the N-Series was developed by DPA's experienced RF experts and validated by RF experts from Wisycom, a brand well-known for exceptional RF competence. This move has, in turn, ensured that DPA's N-Series works perfectly with Wisycom's state-of-the-art RF distribution products. "By combining N-Series wireless microphone systems with Wisycom RF distribution solutions, customers can enable RF-over-fiber for wide area coverage, multiple zones and strong, configurable RF filtering to ensure optimal RF reception in difficult RF environments" he explains.

Meanwhile, **SHURE's Axient Digital** system responds with a multi-layered approach to spectral agility. Operating across an expanded tuning bandwidth (up to 184 MHz depending on the model variant), it offers high channel density with predictive frequency coordination through Wireless Workbench software. The system's Quadversity antenna technology and frequency diversity modes enable robust performance even in the most spectrum-constrained environments—ensuring redundancy and signal stability.

Audio Fidelity, Latency and Encryption: Engineers' New Must-Haves

In today's high-stakes productions, it's not enough to go wireless—the audio has to be pristine, secure, and fast. Performers expect studio-grade clarity in IEMs. Broadcast engineers demand zero-

audible-delay signal chains. Security-conscious events require uncompromised encryption.

Sennheiser Spectera.

In this regard, the **Spectera** is, no doubt, SENNHEISER's most ambitious play yet — supporting ultra-low latency audio with future-ready wideband digital codecs and lossless performance. It's engineered for IP-based delivery pipelines and latency-critical applications such as live news, esports, and synchronised light+sound shows.

Kenan explains, "The industry has made significant strides in digital audio processing, with enhanced codecs delivering higher fidelity, lower latency, and stronger encryption for secure transmission. These have raised the bar for wireless audio systems. Sennheiser's Spectera meets and exceeds these demands with unrivalled simplicity and reliability. Its wide band, bidirectional digital transmission tackles common challenges like complex frequency coordination, bulky cabling, and large system footprints. Ideal for large-scale productions, Spectera reduces hardware, simplifies setup, and offers built-in redundancy and scalability. AES 256-bit encryption ensures secure transmission of both audio and control data."

On the other hand, **SHURE's Axient Digital** offers 24-bit/48kHz audio, a wide 146 dB dynamic range, and selectable digital audio encryption (AES-256).

Most impressive is its sub-2 millisecond latency —a performance metric that makes it ideal for real-time monitoring and musical performances. Its "High-Density Mode" increases the number of simultaneous channels in a given bandwidth without sacrificing sound quality — a feature critical for music festivals and awards shows with large mic counts.

As for **DPA's N-Series**, the system distinguishes itself by leveraging DPA's heritage in capsule design and mic preamp circuitry. The transmission chain prioritises transparency, with an ultra-flat frequency response and an estimated latency of <2 ms.

"A key focus of the design of N-Series is to ensure optimal sound quality in the entire system. DPA's long experience in designing ultra-sensitive, high-precision electronics has helped create the digital mic preamp with a sound quality level that stands out compared to other systems on the market. We believe this is a good match to the high-quality DPA microphones but will of course benefit all other brands of microphones as well. With N-Series, the digital transmission has been optimized towards optimal sound quality and, together with the digital mic pre-amp, it ensures an impressive true dynamic range. This makes certain that the N-Series transmitters capture the entire dynamic range of any DPA microphone and that therefore no gain adjustment is necessary (mis-adjustment of gain is often seen as a source of less-than-optimal sound quality on other systems)" reveals Kalle, as he notes that DPA recommends keeping the signal in the digital domain all the way through the mixer, to ensure that the high-quality sound is not deteriorated later in the signal chain. "Conversion between analog/digital will inevitably impact the quality of the signal. By default, N-Series is delivered with a digital signal out, but a high-quality analog output can be purchased as an option" he informs.

Interoperability: Systems that Play Well Together

Production teams today demand tools that integrate—seamlessly—with existing gear. The need isn't just to work within a brand's ecosystem but to bridge across multiple platforms: consoles, matrices, audio networks, and even show control systems.

Describing his personal thoughts on the matter, Kenan shares, "I would describe it more accurately as co-existence – the ability for different equipment, technologies and applications to operate within the same frequency range without interfering with one another. Wireless microphones and IEMs have coexisted with analog TV broadcast transmissions for decades, and this continues even after the Analogue Switch-Off (ASO). Since the launch of Digital 9000 in 2012, Sennheiser has been committed to developing spectrum-efficient wireless audio systems in response to increasingly limited frequency availability."

Sennheiser's Digital 9000 introduced intermodulation-free transmission, allowing equidistance channel spacing and enabling more audio channels within a narrower frequency range – a tech capability that has since been carried forward into Digital 6000 and the EW-D family. And noting how this aspect has evolved within the all-new Spectera system, Kenan asserts, "Spectera builds on this legacy with a fundamentally different technological approach, using TDMA, TDD and OFDM to achieve even greater spectrum efficiency with no intermodulation (supporting 16,32 or more within a 6 or 8MHz TV channel), while enabling bi-directional transmission. Its low spectral density and low transmission power are key to ensuring excellent co-existence, making Spectera a 'good neighbor' in crowded RF environments.

Spectera makes frequency coordination easier and faster, and its base station also features redundant Dante and optional redundant MADI connectivity, ensuring seamless integration into audio networks"

DPA N-Series.

DPA's N-Series, though new, is equally 'on the ball' when it comes to 'playing nice' with other systems; sporting the inclusion of a Dante-ready receiver rack, with full-device control via a browser-based interface that's platform-agnostic. Kalle dives into the details, as he informs "The DPA N-Series is designed as an open system that can easily be used with any microphone and integrated into any environment. N-Series comes with market standard microphone connectors (LEMO and MicroLock/MicroDot) and the widely used SL1 thread for the vocal handheld mic. Audio output supports the widely used Dante and XLR analog options. It is implemented as a modular system and more options will be added if a general demand arises. Additionally, N-Series comes with a wireless software for multiple platforms and the controls follow standard Open Sound Control (OSC) protocol, which makes it easy to integrate the system into larger installations."

Not to be outdone, **SHURE's Axient Digital** also plays extremely well when it comes to interoperability. It offers native Dante and

AES3 output, and is fully manageable via Wireless Workbench and ShurePlus Channels. Interoperability extends to third-party control protocols including AMX and Crestron, making it a natural fit for both live sound and AV integration. Notably, Axient Digital's ShowLink remote control allows real-time parameter adjustments over 2.4 GHz—something few systems can match.

Remote Monitoring and Lifecycle Reliability via Networked Software

One of the defining shifts in wireless audio has been the move from hardware-dependent operation to software-defined monitoring and control. System reliability is no longer reactive—it's predictive.

SHURE's Axient Digital ecosystem includes Wireless Workbench, arguably one of the most comprehensive RF management suites in the business. From spectrum scans and interference avoidance to battery telemetry and logging, it allows engineers to see and solve problems before they affect the show. Integration with Shure's Networked Charging Stations further enhances lifecycle management.

In the same stride, **SENNHEISER** continues its evolution in offering enhanced user monitoring and control capabilities with the Spectera – as the new system introduces cloud-based remote diagnostics and AI-driven RF collision prediction, thereby allowing centralised teams to monitor multi-venue deployments remotely. Kenan elaborates on this, "As IP-based workflows become the norm, software-driven control and monitoring are essential for ensuring system reliability and efficiency. Professionals now expect centralized, real-time access to system diagnostics, configuration, and performance data, especially in large-scale or distributed setups. For example, Sennheiser's LinkDesk software is the desktop application and centralized user interface

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for Spectera. Users can remotely manage and monitor all audio settings and RF status of the entire system. LinkDesk's assistive behaviors allow for quick and easy system management, and its production handling allows users to manage, store and recall multiple Base Station configurations instantly."

DPA's N-Series software tools, on the other hand, have been noted as "a welcome surprise" by several industry professionals – crediting its browser-based GUI to be responsive, visually clean, and capable of working natively on mobile and desktop platforms—important for festivals or OB van crews who need system visibility on the fly. Kalle throws more light on the topic, stating, "N-Series comes with a wireless control software for multiple platforms (MacOS and Windows), which is purposely built from scratch in a very modern and easy-to-use framework. It was designed based on a comprehensive customer insight study, while end-users were engaged in testing and providing feedback throughout the design and development phase. Simplicity and fault protection were the overall design goal. For less advanced users, only the necessary configurations are shown, and the system can be configured with a few operations. For more experienced users, advanced options can easily be opened, if needed. For simple use, the system can also easily be operated directly from the front panel of the devices. By supporting the most used digital audio standard (Dante), the audio end of the system operates seamlessly within any Dante environment. That said, the solution is modular and other digital options can be made available if/when a general demand arises."

Designing for Regional Needs: From Product to Philosophy

The APAC and Middle East regions represent some of the most diverse, challenging, and opportunity-rich environments for wireless

deployment. From the humidity of Southeast Asia to the sandy open-air stadiums of the Gulf, systems must be resilient, compliant, and intuitive.

While **SENNHEISER's** Digital 6000 offers rugged transmitters with field-swappable batteries (critical in remote markets), the **Spectera** system enables more forward-looking users to adopt WMAS architecture with its scalable, modular receiver platform; with the system's firmware allowing country-specific compliance configurations — ensuring it meets regional licencing requirements.

Offering key insights on the development of WMAS and the kind of role it plays within the Spectera ecosystem, Kenan reveals, "Dr Sebastian Georgi and Jan Watermann are the two research and development engineers who are the inventors of Wireless Multi-Channel Audio Systems (WMAS). For them this project started out with the intention to combat RF fading which can cause signal dropouts and to simplify set-up for user since narrowband wireless systems can be complex, especially in multi-channel applications. Another goal was to make better use of the scarce frequency resources, an ever-increasing challenge that audio engineers are faced with, not just in APAC or ME but around the world. Sennheiser's Spectera addresses these challenges, as it introduces a transformative approach to wireless audio by enabling more efficient spectrum usage, lower spectral power density, and simplified frequency coordination. It combines microphone transmission, low-latency digital in-ear monitoring, and remote control into a single bidirectional device operating on one RF channel—reducing hardware and streamlining workflows. Sound engineers gain granular control over audio quality, latency, and range per transmission, while perfect synchronization across devices enables wireless stereo and 3D audio without phase issues.

WMAS also dramatically reduces backstage and transport footprint, with up to 64 audio channels processed by a single 1U rack unit, and offers up to 40-fold RF diversity with just one antenna, enhancing reliability and resilience in demanding environments."

DPA, with the N-Series, took environmental robustness seriously from day one. The transmitters are sealed, the capsules are immune to moisture, and the form factor is deliberately compact. In regions where logistics and crew training vary widely, simplicity and durability are often as important as raw specs — and with the N-Series, it appears that DPA delivers both. "Our Innovation philosophy is to design a high-quality, open, fault-proof and user-friendly system based on state-of-the-art RF technology.

With N-Series, we have created a wireless system that we believe meets universal requirements of any region in the world. With the very scarce RF bandwidth available, especially in the Asia-Pacific regions, the ultra-wideband implementation is very convenient, as it provides a wider scope of available RF channels. Combined with RF distribution technology from Wisycom, this solution will bring unique features, especially in complex RF environments" affirms Kalle.

Shure Axient Digital.

Lest we forget, **SHURE's Axient Digital** supports tuning ranges suitable for markets as diverse as

India (where 470–590 MHz is still viable) to the UAE and Qatar (where frequencies shift more dynamically). The system also boasts IP-rated belt packs and user-friendly interfaces, which help local crews with varying technical skill levels adapt quickly.

Future-Proofing: Investment in R&D, Scalability and Compliance

As spectrum becomes scarcer and shows become more complex, the real value in a wireless system lies not just in what it does today—but what it can evolve into tomorrow.

SENNHEISER has invested heavily in R&D when it comes to Spectera being presented as a comprehensive platform - modular in nature, supporting both narrowband and wideband modes, optional IP extensions, and cloud-based service diagnostics. Kenan affirms this as he voices, "The great thing about Spectera is that this is just the beginning. Spectera will evolve over time with continuous hardware, software, feature and service enhancements. On the hardware side, the next addition will be the SKM handheld transmitter. Regarding features, the implementation of the SMPTE ST 2110 family of standards for the transmission of professional media signals is planned which, in the meantime, can be achieved with Merging Technologies' Hapi. We will continue to collaborate closely with the industry on this new technology and get valued customer input on system performance, usage scenarios and future updates." Complementing this thought; a large set of users and industry-insiders believe that Sennheiser's roadmap will evolve to include not only WMAS expansion, but also key capabilities like AI-assisted mix control, and deeper integrations with immersive production formats (e.g. object-based audio).

SHURE's focus on R&D is equally impressive, which is seen through initiatives like the Axient

Digital Next (ANX4) platform — offering enhanced channel count per rack, improved spectrum efficiency, and forthcoming AI-assisted frequency prediction. These systems are built to adapt to future codec standards, emerging RF regulations, and new networked control environments.

Meanwhile, **DPA** sees future-proofing differently; as Kalle reveals, "The currently available N-Series products are just the start. DPA will invest significant resources into expanding the series, with a range of additions already in the works. The philosophy behind N-Series is to provide a high-quality, open, fault-proof and user-friendly system based on state-of-the-art RF technology, with a modular approach that enables future updates such as output modules. Using standard protocols and connections to the greatest extent possible, DPA ensures that the system can work seamlessly in a multi-vendor configuration, now and in the future. DPA is constantly evaluating and testing various RF encoding schemes, and we are convinced that, for most users, the traditional UHF narrowband technology supported by N-Series is the most efficient." That being said, it would be prudent to note that the N-Series is firmware-upgradable, with the possibility of codec-flexibility and region-specific compliance tools available via software. Alongside, whispers around a few industry circles also suggest that the company is looking to design a "forever transmitter" platform — hardware that can last 8–10 years with firmware enhancements; while also hinting at forthcoming "system intelligence" add-ons like machine-learning-driven gain staging and feedback avoidance.

Closing Thoughts

The world of wireless has always demanded a delicate balance—between precision and unpredictability, clarity and complexity, freedom and control. But in 2025, the equation has shifted. Wireless is no longer the unsung layer beneath the stage; it is the conductor, the communicator, the connective tissue holding together ever-expanding production ecosystems.

What SHURE, SENNHEISER, and DPA have demonstrated—each in their own way—is that the future isn't about simply surviving shrinking spectrum or squeezing more channels into narrower bands. It's about reengineering the architecture altogether. It's about reimagining wireless not as a workaround, but as a strategic asset—rich with intelligence, packed with sonic precision, and built to adapt to environments that are only growing more demanding.

The APAC and Middle East markets are no longer fringe adopters—they're active testbeds, innovation accelerators, and growth frontiers for pro wireless technologies. And as the industry moves forward, one thing is clear: the systems that lead will not only deliver clean audio, they will navigate chaos, adapt intelligently, integrate seamlessly—and vanish quietly into the fabric of a flawless show.

DPA Microphones N Series

Sennheiser Spectera

Shure Axient Digital

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Phoenix Rising Beyond Frontiers

Interview with Animesh Mishra – Founder Director, Phoenix Networks Global Pvt Ltd.

Confidently stepping into the international spotlight with a powerful rebrand, pioneering tech investments, and a vision to redefine live sound — across India and beyond – Animesh Mishra, a stalwart within India's vast and dynamic live event landscape, shares the story behind his company's revolutionary transformation, and his vision for the future.

Precision, reliability, and sonic excellence – these are virtues that define the difference between a good event and one that remains permanently etched in the audience' minds and hearts for all the right reasons. India has played host to several such spellbinding live experiences in recent times; and one name has consistently echoed at the top: Phoenix Networks.

Known across India's sprawling event landscape for crafting high-performance experiences with surgical accuracy and an unrelenting passion for detail, the Bhopal-based company has steadily built a legacy of executional brilliance.

Founded in 2011, Phoenix has executed over 5,000 events, including more than 500 mega-sized productions, earning acclaim for events like Ed Sheeran's Mathematics Tour in Mumbai, the intricately staged Tansen Samaroh, and the dynamic, large-format Me'Gong Festival. Most recently, their flawless execution at the Kathmandu Music Festival in Nepal served as a proving ground for their international capabilities—further cementing their readiness for wider horizons.

Thus, in a move as bold as the team that coalesced those mesmerising experiences that were mentioned earlier – the 'Phoenix' legacy has a new name; and a bold new direction.

Phoenix Networks is now Phoenix Networks Global Pvt. Ltd.

And it must be noted that the transformation comes not only with a refined vision, but also with renewed technical firepower. The company has recently fortified its live sound arsenal with two strategic acquisitions; each chosen for their trailblazing performance and future-forward adaptability. In this exclusive interview, Entertainment Technology Asia sits down with Animesh Mishra, the visionary founder and director of Phoenix Networks Global Pvt. Ltd., to unpack the journey, the thinking behind the rebrand, the technological leap, and where this dynamic enterprise is headed next.

Let's begin with the big news. Phoenix Networks is now Phoenix Networks Global. What prompted this shift?

The change had been brewing for some time. Our client base has been expanding steadily, and we've started getting serious traction from international markets. The tipping point was

the Kathmandu Music Festival in Nepal late last year. That project proved not only our ability to execute in unfamiliar environments but also our capacity to deliver the same Phoenix-level quality outside Indian borders. So, in early 2025, we formalised what we had already been evolving into. The name Phoenix Networks Global Pvt. Ltd. represents our expanded business aspirations — it aligns with our vision of becoming a truly global technical services brand.

Is this re-brand purely symbolic, or are there tangible operational shifts?

It's very tangible. We've restructured our internal operations to better support international deployment — be it project logistics, cross-border compliance, or even personnel mobility – all while ensuring our domestic operations run smoothly at optimum levels.

Actually, we've been actively studying neighbouring markets like Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Middle East, and more for a while now – and we realised that these are regions with tremendous cultural and entertainment vibrancy, but relatively fewer high-calibre technical service providers. And so, following the success of the Kathmandu Music Festival, we had some in-depth conversations with event planners and cultural agencies in a few international locations, and I must admit that their prompt and positive response was extremely encouraging.

Our plan is to be a bridge — to bring world-class technical execution to productions in these territories; while ensuring that we continue raising the bar for technical excellence in India, irrespective of the scale of events we do.

That's why we've recently fortified our live sound arsenal with two strategic acquisitions. The first is a full-scale **Martin Audio WPC line-array system** comprising 24 WPC modules, 12 SXH218 subs, 6

LE200 monitors, and 10 iK42 amplifiers. And the next one is a brand-new **Sennheiser Spectera Wireless System**. These investments were each chosen for their trailblazing performance and future-forward adaptability.

I truly believe these moves position Phoenix Networks Global as a flexible, tech-savvy, transnational player capable of offering bespoke audio solutions in complex and varied environments. From India's grand concert halls to unpredictable terrains abroad, we are prepared to deliver scalable, premium production services backed by an ever-expanding portfolio of top-tier equipment — including India's largest Meyer Sound Panther and Leopard inventory.

How does your new Martin Audio system fit with your existing Meyer Sound inventory?

Seamlessly! And I say this with certainty and confidence. This is not a "replace" strategy — this is a diversification strategy. We want the best tools in every category.

Meyer is still our go-to for large-format deployments. Like I mentioned earlier, we have the largest stock of Panther and Leopard systems in India, and we're deeply invested in them. But what the Martin Audio WPC system gives us is flexibility at scale. The Wavefront Precision Compact (WPC) system is a monster in a very elegant jacket. It gives us scalable resolution, which is absolutely vital when you're working across different venue profiles and city types. Whether it's a dense urban ballroom or a 3,000-seat outdoor venue, we can now optimise for consistency and throw without over-deploying.

When it comes to the rig that we've acquired in particular; I'd say it's compact yet powerful— it's fast to fly, easy to configure, and sonically stunning. It complements our existing arsenal and allows us to tailor every project with absolute precision.

Animesh With team VMT who are the authorised distributors of Martin Audio in India.

And what's your take on the new Sennheiser Spectera wireless system? How does this impact your company's inventory?

The Spectera system is, frankly, mind-blowing. It's software-defined radio architecture gives it unmatched adaptability—ideal when you're dealing with congested RF environments, which is becoming the norm, not the exception. You get wideband tunability, superior intermodulation resistance, low latency, and solid encryption. It's a beast for both touring and hybrid fixed-rig systems. The best part? It plays nice with legacy infrastructure, which makes it a dream for transitional deployments. This is us future-proofing. We're not buying for today—we're buying for what's coming five years down the line.

With these developments coming in quick succession, how has your team adapted to so much rapid change?

That's a brilliant question. The answer lies in culture. We've always been a team that thrives on discomfort—on pushing the limits. Every

time we invest in something new, we also invest in training, shadowing, and simulated rigging sessions. That keeps us agile. Also, a large part of our crew has been with us for years – and they've played the perfect mentors to anyone new who walks through our doors. There's loyalty, but there's also a hunger to learn. That's priceless!

With so much happening, where do you see Phoenix Networks Global in five years?

Leading the charge in transnational live event solutions, without question. I want us to be the first name people think of when planning a technically demanding production—whether it's in Mumbai, Muscat, or Mauritius.

We'll continue investing in technology that gives us scale without sacrificing quality. But beyond that, I want us to keep crafting unforgettable experiences. That's what we've always done, and that's what we'll keep doing—only now, with a wider canvas.

We've always believed that good sound is universal — it doesn't care about borders, time zones, or languages. And neither do we. Whether you're a promoter, an artist, a cultural body, or a fellow tech company — we are here to collaborate, innovate, and elevate. Because at the end of the day, we don't just manage events — we craft experiences that endure.

Phoenix Networks

CHINA

d&b's Sonic Ascension Enthrals Bird's Nest Once Again

*Phoenix Legend's Record-Breaking Six-Night Run at the Bird's Nest Powered by d&b SL-Series*

Delivering the audio muscle behind Phoenix Legend's record-setting production was the d&b audiotechnik SL-Series that was expertly designed and deployed by technical partner Nanjing OST.

Mandopop powerhouse Phoenix Legend recently electrified Beijing's iconic Bird's Nest stadium with a monumental six-show residency—each concert a sold-out affair that broke records and redefined what's possible in Mandarin pop production.

Held in early June, the concerts followed hot on the heels of Zhang Jie's historic 12-show run, with Phoenix Legend taking the stage in a bold continuation of world-class live entertainment at the venue. This wasn't just another concert series—it was an immersive, visually and sonically spectacular production that pushed boundaries in stage design, audience layout, and live sound.

At the heart of this success was the expertise of technical partner **Nanjing OST**. The team executed a meticulous equipment plan and stage layout that delivered complete visual access— even from the furthest corners of the vast stadium. By bringing audiences physically closer to the action with an expanded thrust stage, the production set a new record for the largest-ever on-stage audience area in Bird's Nest history.

Delivering the audio muscle behind this record-setting production was the **d&b audiotechnik** SL-Series, featuring a combination of **GSL and KSL** systems. The GSL loudspeakers formed the backbone of the main and side PA arrays,

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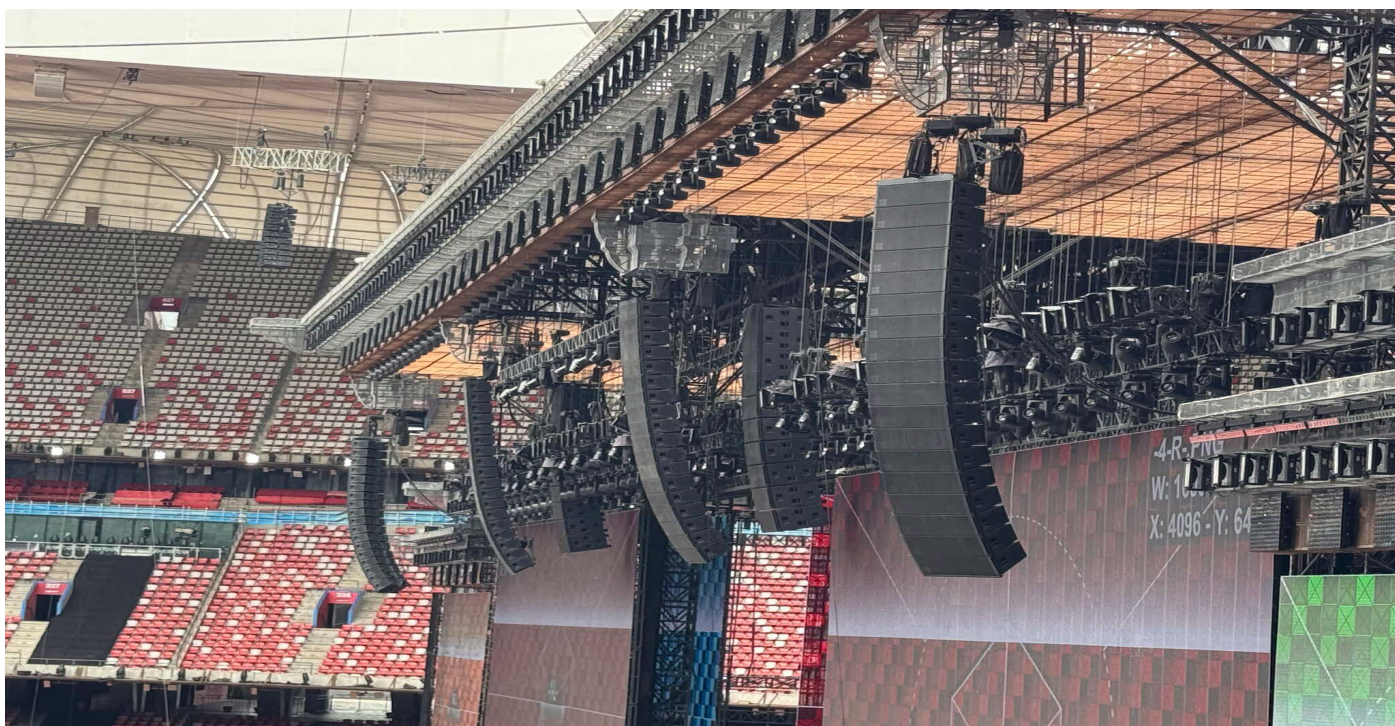
The GSL loudspeakers formed the backbone of the main and side PA arrays, delivering pristine full-range coverage with exceptional directivity control.

delivering pristine full-range coverage with exceptional directivity control. All four array stacks comprised 18 units each of the GSL modules that helped the team ensure clean, distortion-free audio at consistent levels across the venue, while deeply resonant and impactful low-frequency fidelity was assured thanks to a total of 20 units of the SL-SUBs that were flown in arrays of 10 units each deployed on either side of the principal FOH hangs.

Seamlessly supporting the GSL mains were the KSL arrays that were deployed as strategically positioned delay towers. With ten precisely aligned and tuned KSL arrays in total, the system achieved an overwhelmingly comprehensive acoustic coverage, eliminating sonic gaps and maintaining perfect synchronisation between on-stage performance and audience experience.

The result? An immersive, high-impact live experience for tens of thousands each night—proof of how visionary design, technical precision,


and next-generation audio tools like d&b's SL-Series can redefine expectations at the highest level of live performance.

Phoenix Legend's Bird's Nest series of events didn't just raise the bar for Mandopop concerts—it underscored the power of immersive audio design in creating unforgettable shared experiences on a truly massive scale.

CHINA

G.E.M Seamlessly Switches Up with Carbonite Ultra 60

Ross Video Powers G.E.M.'s Wenzhou World Tour Stop with Carbonite Ultra 60
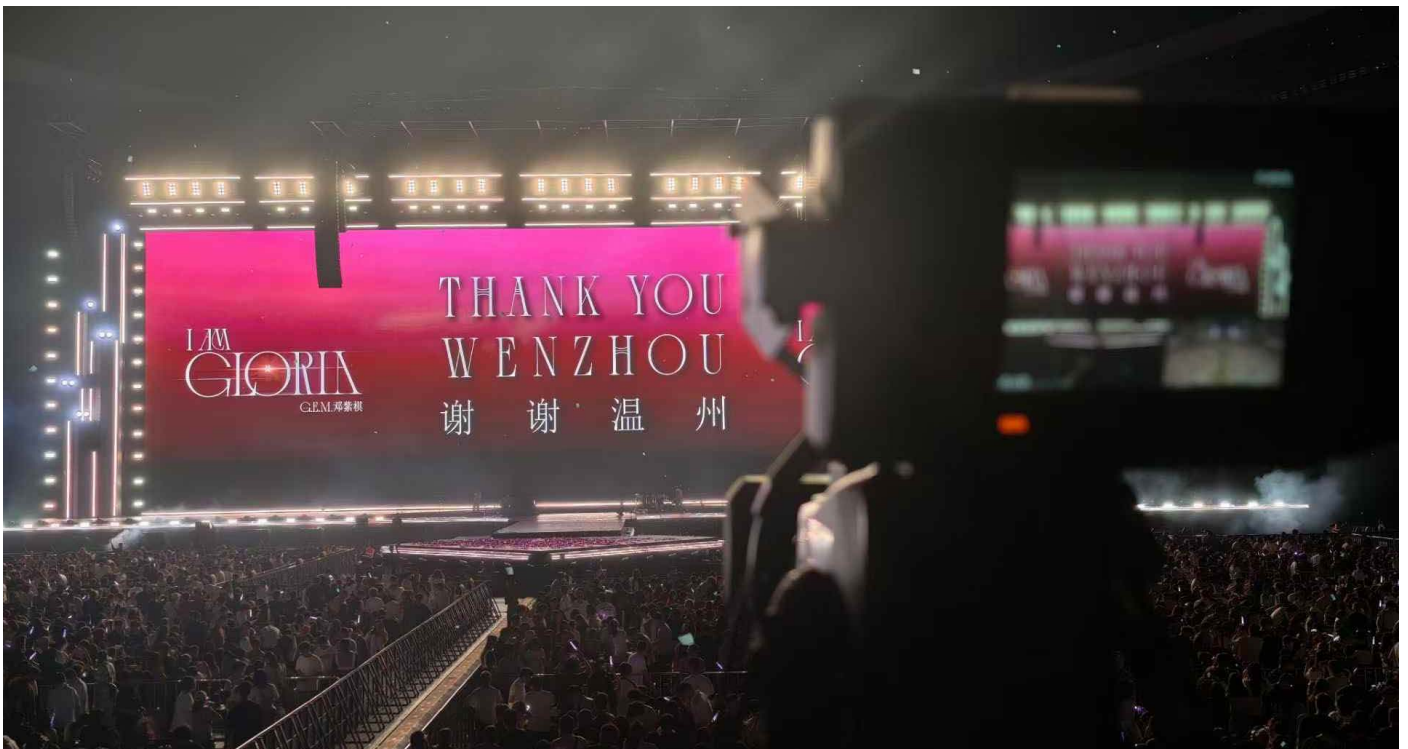
G.E.M.'s "I AM GLORIA" World Tour 2.0 electrified the Wenzhou Olympic Sports Center this May, drawing more than 72,000 fans over two sold-out nights.

The kickoff of G.E.M.'s "I AM GLORIA" World Tour 2.0 electrified the Wenzhou Olympic Sports Center this May, drawing more than 72,000 fans over two sold-out nights and setting a new attendance record for the venue. The performance was a bold fusion of music, storytelling, and spectacular visuals, beginning with G.E.M.'s dramatic entrance atop a mechanical lion, complete with cold fireworks and dynamic stage effects.

Behind the scenes, a powerful live production system brought this vision to life, with **Ross Video's** Carbonite Ultra 60 production switcher at its heart, enabling seamless, real-time video delivery throughout the concert.

As part of the end-to-end live production infrastructure delivered by Ross Video's trusted partner **Jiangsu R&J Electronics Co., Ltd. (R&J)**, the Carbonite Ultra 60 played a central role, orchestrating the concert's multi-camera, multi-source broadcast workflow.

Whether on a world tour or a live studio broadcast, Carbonite Ultra 60 delivers the scalability, reliability, and intuitive control today's productions demand.

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As part of the end-to-end live production infrastructure delivered by Ross Video's trusted partner Jiangsu R&J Electronics Co., Ltd. (R&J), the Carbonite Ultra 60 played a central role, orchestrating the concert's multi-camera, multi-source broadcast workflow.

Purpose-built for high-end productions, the Carbonite Ultra 60 offers up to 60 inputs and 25 outputs, easily supporting complex 4K Ultra HD environments. It allowed the Wenzhou show production team to fluidly switch between drone footage, cinematic cameras, and dynamic stage angles, ensuring every moment of G.E.M.'s performance was captured with clarity and style.

The two-night performance pushed the boundaries of technical execution. From cinematic shots of G.E.M.'s 360-degree piano routine to aerial views of tens of thousands of purple glow sticks in the crowd, the production team faced high demands in both coordination and quality. With robust tools like the Carbonite Ultra 60, they were able to rise to the challenge and deliver an immersive visual experience to fans in the venue and beyond.

Ross Video's trusted partner, R&J, provided outstanding deployment and technical execution, which were instrumental in the success of this world-class production.

The performance was a bold fusion of music, storytelling, and spectacular visuals, beginning with G.E.M.'s dramatic entrance atop a mechanical lion, complete with cold fireworks and dynamic stage effects.

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VIETNAM

CHÀO Show Sets Immersive Audio Benchmark in APAC with JBL Professional and FLUX

HARMAN Professional Solutions delivers Asia-Pacific's first immersive audio system for live cultural performance in Vietnam, redefining the audience experience through cutting-edge spatial sound and seamless AV integration


CHÀO breaks new ground in live performance by placing audiences and performers within a shared acoustic environment with no stage monitors or in-ear systems.

In a landmark project for the Asia-Pacific region, **HARMAN Professional Solutions** and AV integration partner **Ba Sao Audio** have delivered one of the first large-scale immersive audio deployments for a live cultural performance. The groundbreaking soundscape was realised for CHÀO, a theatrical celebration of Vietnamese heritage that melds traditional music with cutting-edge AV technologies, powered by a comprehensive suite of HARMAN Professional brands including JBL Professional, FLUX::, BSS, Crown, AKG, and Soundcraft.

Conceived by **Nguyễn Khắc Anh, CEO of Ba Sao Investment**, and led technically by Vũ Hữu Thắng, CHÀO breaks new ground in live performance by placing audiences and performers within a shared acoustic
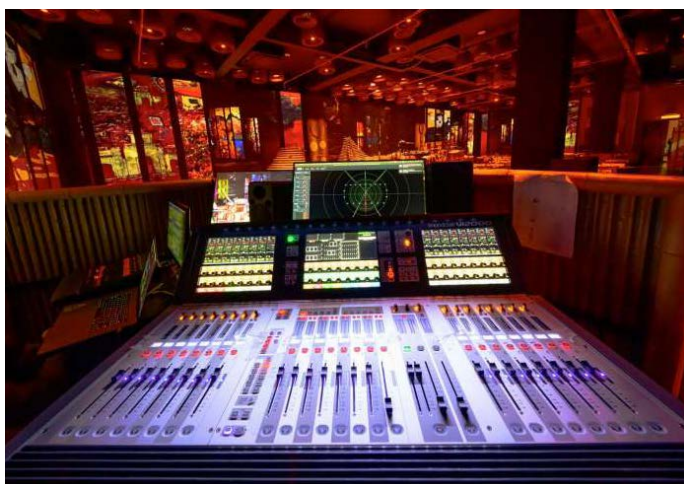
Mixing was facilitated by a Soundcraft Vi2000 digital mixing console paired with a 64-channel Dante stagebox, ensuring seamless routing and precision control.

Central to 20.4-channel immersive audio system was the FLUX:: SPAT Revolution, which enabled precise spatial positioning and real-time control of sound objects across the venue.

environment—an unconventional setup with no stage monitors or in-ear systems. This presented unique acoustic and spatial challenges, prompting the deployment of a 20.4-channel immersive audio system designed to envelop the audience in a meticulously mapped three-dimensional sonic field.

Central to this setup was the FLUX:: SPAT Revolution, which enabled precise spatial positioning and real-time control of sound objects across the venue. Supporting this were 20 units of the JBL AC18/95 loudspeakers for full-range coverage and four units of the JBL STX818S subwoofers delivering controlled low-end energy. Amplification and system control were managed via Crown CDi Drivecore 4|600 and MA9000i amplifiers, while BSS Soundweb BLU-806 and BLU-BOB2 handled signal processing and spatial rendering.

To capture the delicate nuances of the show's original orchestral suite with 30 traditional Vietnamese instruments – 49 units of the AKG microphones were deployed, including the C214, C519M, C411PP and C451B models. Mixing was facilitated by a Soundcraft Vi2000 digital mixing console paired with a 64-channel Dante stagebox,

ensuring seamless routing and precision control. "This collaboration has enabled us to create a powerful and engaging experience for audiences," noted **Vũ Hữu Thắng**, **Technical Director, Ba Sao Audio**. "Working with HARMAN's integrated solutions allowed us to meet the technical demands of the production while supporting its creative goals."

CHÀO also featured a massive 150-square-metre LED screen and synchronised lighting, further enhancing the immersive storytelling. The result was a deeply engaging, multisensory experience that transported audiences into the heart of Vietnamese tradition—redefined through innovation.

"This project exemplifies how our end-to-end solutions can elevate cultural storytelling," stated **Amar Subash, VP & GM, Professional Solutions, APAC**. "CHÀO is a model for how immersive technologies can preserve and amplify tradition in a way that's both modern and moving." The production stands as a new benchmark for immersive cultural performance in the region, demonstrating the power of integrated AV technologies to honour the past while propelling live experiences into the future.

DUBAI

Discerning Soundscapes Enchant Dubai

Martin Audio Hits A New High in Dubai with Coco Grill & Lounge and McGettigan's

Exacting Diseno Technical Services worked with PRO LAB to deploy a premium Martin Audio sound system at Coco Grill & Lounge.

Exacting Diseno Technical Services, helmed by Lou Agha, continues to strengthen its reputation for high-quality installations in Dubai's luxury hospitality sector with the deployment of a premium **Martin Audio** sound systems at two of the city's current iconic premium dining destinations – Coco Grill & Lounge and McGettigan's latest venture in the city. With both installations developed in partnership with regional distributor **PRO LAB** both venues boast truly immersive soundscapes that capably support the respective brands' vision to offer superlative customer experiences to their respective patrons.

Coco Grill & Lounge is the Dubai extension of Choudhury's original concept in London,

which overlooks Tower Bridge. A unique concept from venue owner Naz Choudhury — a fusion of upscale Shisha Lounge and Dubai's first Redemption Bar, offering alcohol-free sophistication with an emphasis on immersive experiences – the new downtown location offers spectacular views of the iconic Burj Khalifa, and continues the brand's ethos of high-end hospitality paired with rich musical atmospheres. When asked about audio preferences, Choudhury was immediately drawn to Martin Audio, having used the brand in his London venue.

Agha began the project with a demonstration at PRO LAB, showcasing various Martin Audio options including CDD models and FlexPoint systems. "We started with the small FP, and he

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Agha began the project with a demonstration at PRO LAB, showcasing various Martin Audio options including CDD models and FlexPoint systems.

was amazed by the sound quality," **recalled Agha**. This led to a customised system design tailored for the venue's low ceilings, mixed-use layout and live performance requirements.

The interior zones are served by Martin Audio CDD6 speakers, while the venue's expansive outdoor areas — blending shisha service with DJ sets and live acoustic music — feature 14 units of the Blackline X8 loudspeakers supported by six SX112 subwoofers. The entire system is networked via a Dante backbone and spread across nine independent zones. The design also integrates six refurbished ADORN A55 speakers, supplemented by additional units at the venue's entrance, where a pair of A55 and an SX110 subwoofer create a warm welcome.

As patrons pass through to the Dome area, they're immersed in sound via six FlexPoint FP8 speakers and four SX112 subwoofers. Even the venue's restrooms aren't overlooked — ADORN ACS 40TS ultra-compact ceiling speakers deliver refined background music at 16 ohms, maintaining acoustic consistency throughout.

The non-smoking lounge areas feature dedicated soundscapes: one zone includes four CDD6 and two SX110 subwoofers, while another utilises six CDD6 with two SX110 units. The smoking areas are similarly equipped, ranging from two to four CDD6 units per section, supported by appropriately scaled SX110 subwoofers. One of these sections, Smoking Area 3, is also available for private rental, necessitating a discrete yet powerful setup of four CDD6 and two SX110 units.

"In order not to intrude on the lounge's aesthetic, the subwoofers are placed discreetly," noted Agha. "I used the SX110 rather than the SX210 because of space constraints — I couldn't put the SX210 on its side, so I separated them into pairs of SX110s."

By day, the venue operates with a curated Spotify playlist programmed by Coco's DJs, with selections favouring Afro Beats to maintain a unified sonic identity across both the London and Dubai locations. Audio routing and DSP are handled by a Xilica FR1 processor, ensuring seamless zone control and sound shaping.

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The entire system is networked via a Dante backbone and spread across nine independent zones.

Describing itself as a venue that "redefines sophistication," Coco delivers on that promise not only through its culinary and visual elements, but also through the detail and depth of its sound — made possible by a Martin Audio system meticulously tuned to elevate every facet of the guest experience.

On the other hand, with the latest chapter in McGettigan's expansion across Dubai landing at a landmark location: the Four Points by Sheraton Production City, the Exacting Diseno Technical Services - PRO LAB LLC team once again delivered a versatile Martin Audio sound system.

Set across 5,000 square feet, this new bar and restaurant not only marks the brand's first venue within a Marriott-owned property, but puts McGettigan's at the heart of one of the region's fastest-growing media and entertainment hubs—a move that's both strategic and symbolic. The venue caters to business professionals by day and transforms into a dynamic, high-energy social space after dark. And to ensure the venue's audio matched its ambitions, McGettigan's turned to Exacting Diseno Technical Services - PRO LAB
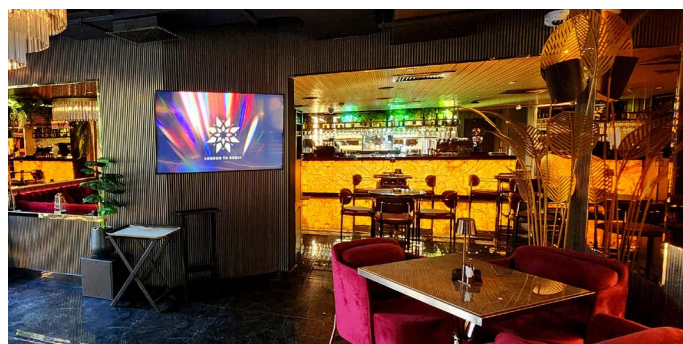
LLC team, entrusting them with the responsibility of delivering a versatile sound system that could adapt to the venue's shifting pace.

"They are big supporters of Martin Audio—it's their number one choice," said **Pavel Shemiakin, Head of Audio at PRO LAB**. "The brief was clear: the system had to offer pristine HiFi audio at low volumes during the day and then scale up with punch and clarity for DJ sets and weekend crowds."

At the core of the install is a pair of Martin Audio CDD12 loudspeakers positioned at the DJ booth, supported by nine CDD6 units evenly distributed across the venue. Low-frequency reinforcement is delivered through four Blackline X115 subwoofers, delivering the weight and warmth needed to energise the space without overwhelming it.

The experience doesn't stop indoors. On the outdoor terrace, guests are met with the same sonic quality, courtesy of 12 Martin Audio ADORN A55T speakers fitted with weather-protected IP44 covers. This outdoor zone has its own independent input and volume control, allowing it to either mirror the main space or operate as a standalone zone.

"Partnering with McGettigan's reflects our commitment to supporting Dubai's top venues with exceptional audio solutions that elevate the guest experience," commented **Rami Haber, CEO of PRO LAB**.

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INDIA

Lighting the Bull by the Horns

Obsidian ONYX and Netron infrastructure bring precision, speed, and theatrical power to Big Bull - Hyderabad's newest entertainment marvel

Big Bull features a double-height dance floor, panoramic LED screens, over 250 lighting fixtures, and a mesmerising kinetic LED mesh ceiling powered by 80 hydraulic motors.

Hyderabad's newest nightlife giant, Big Bull, has burst onto the scene with an ambitious 30,000-square-foot footprint that redefines immersive entertainment in India. Designed to engage all senses, the venue fuses bold architectural scale with cutting-edge visual technologies, including a double-height dance floor, panoramic LED screens, over 250 lighting fixtures, and a mesmerising kinetic LED mesh ceiling powered by 80 hydraulic motors. Orchestrating this technical complexity is the ONYX lighting control platform from **Obsidian Control Systems** distributed in India by **VMT**

To meet Big Bull's demand for speed, stability, and adaptability in handling its high-spec lighting system, the venue deployed the Obsidian NX2

console at the heart of its control solution. Known for its robust performance in high-demand environments, the NX2 offers a full suite of advanced programming tools and real-time control options. This setup is further enhanced by the NX P motorised fader wing, providing tactile playback access along with smooth and immediate manual control for responsive live operation.

Lighting designer associate Klinton Mascarenhas explains "From pre-programming to live execution, the system at Big Bull supports every part of the design process. It allows for rich creativity without technical limitation. Working with this setup has elevated the way we approach visual storytelling inside the venue."

The multiple dynamic lighting zones at Big Bull are controlled seamlessly via Obsidian Control Systems ONYX platform, with flexible and decentralised DMX distribution made possible through a comprehensive Netron infrastructure.

Palagani Dushyant Reddy of White Noise, who was the system designer and consultant for the project, adds to this stating, "This is one of the most technically sound lighting systems I've seen in a venue of this size. The control is sharp, DMX flow is uninterrupted, and the user interface is seamless. It's a dream to program and operate. The lighting install here truly brings the venue to life."

With the venue divided into multiple dynamic lighting zones, a flexible and decentralised DMX distribution strategy was essential. The technical team implemented a full **Netron** infrastructure to manage data flow across the space. The Netron DMX 10.3 was selected for clean signal routing, with the unit offering ten assignable 3-pin outputs and dual-input redundancy. For high-density fixture zones, the Netron EN12 and EN12-45 offered twelve RDM-compatible outputs each — in XLR and RJ45 configurations respectively — ensuring clear Artnet input support and efficient signal handling. Smaller and more targeted control zones were served by the compact

Netron EN4 4-port Artnet-to-DMX gateway, enabling precise distribution while maintaining responsiveness across the network.

Co-founders Shashidhar Kasi and Ramaraju Kallepalli echoed the system's transformative impact on Big Bull's experience delivery. "The lighting system has become an essential part of how we deliver energy and emotion at Big Bull. It allows us to shift atmospheres instantly, keeping every event fresh and dynamic," noted Kasi. Kallepalli added, "The new lighting has completely transformed how we shape experiences. We can move from subtle ambience to full-blown spectacle in seconds. Every visual feels purposeful and powerful."

Jeff Mandot, Director at VMT, reflected on the installation's broader impact: "The lighting installation at Big Bull is a powerful example of design meeting purpose. It gives the venue the ability to transform, react, and tell a visual story in real-time. Every event feels elevated, intentional, and unforgettable. We're proud to have enabled that possibility."

Sonic Wellness

Yamaha Delivers a Refined Sonic Experience at Hotel GrandBach Tokyo Ginza

The Wald Haus restaurant has a dedicated entrance directly connected to Ginza Miyuki Street and features four VXC6W ceiling speakers, which deliver soothing music by Bach.

In November 2021, the Hotel GrandBach brand—known for its unique philosophy of "healing and inspiration through food and music"—expanded its presence with a new property in Tokyo's prestigious Ginza district. Rooted in a tribute to the serenity and harmony of Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions, the Ginza hotel elevates this ethos through an immersive audio environment powered by Yamaha's professional sound solutions. And to bring this vision to life, the establishment turned to **Yamaha Professional Audio** – a leading brand rooted in music culture and sonic excellence.

The hotel has integrated Yamaha's VXC Series ceiling speakers, VXL1B-8 slim line array speakers, and VXS10ST subwoofers across its multi-level premises, including public zones and private guest areas. The installation and system tuning were overseen by **Takeshi Suzuki, who was with Green Hospitality Management Co., Ltd**. at the time and responsible for the technical deployment. Overseeing the broader concept and operational execution was **Toshihiro Sato, General Manager and Executive Chef of Hotel GrandBach Tokyo Ginza**.

"The name GrandBach embodies our commitment to offering experiences with a deep resonance, much like the beautiful harmony, serenity, sophistication and elegance found in Bach's music. It also reflects our desire to create a

Mr. Takeshi Suzuki (left) from Green Hospitality Management Co., Ltd. (his affiliation at the time of the interview), who shared insights on the operational aspects, alongside General Manager Mr. Sato.

The spacious area extending from the front lobby to the bar lounge (left) and the narrow grooves in the ceiling design, which were inspired by the shape of the VXL1B-8 line array speaker.

hotel filled with heartfelt hospitality. Just as Bach held a deep reverence for both music and family, we strive to bring joy to each and every guest. We have continuously increased our pursuit of 'healing and inspiration through food and music', which includes offering live performances for our guests to enjoy" explains Sato, who continues, "Establishing this concept has enhanced our dedication to sound and music even further. Nearly all the background music played throughout the hotel consists of works by Bach. The atmosphere changes, depending on the time of day and season, with carefully-selected pieces providing guests with a serene environment."

The system was carefully designed to integrate with the hotel's architectural aesthetic. In the second-floor reception area, Yamaha's ultra-slim VXL1B-8 line arrays and VXS10ST subwoofers are concealed within the ceiling and walls, providing a nearly invisible yet immersive soundstage. Sato informs, "The speaker installation plan was nearly finalized during the early stages of the interior design process, so 240designstudio, the company responsible for the interior and logo design, carefully incorporated the shape and characteristics of the speakers into the overall design. This allowed us to install them

seamlessly into the ceiling and walls, making them almost invisible. The sound quality of Yamaha speakers exceeded our expectations. The immersive experience of being enveloped in music that seems to come from nowhere is truly exceptional."

The restaurant on the first floor, Wald Haus, offers guests 'Wellness Cuisine'—meals crafted for nourishment and comfort. Background music, primarily classical works, is delivered through Yamaha VXC ceiling speakers. "We wanted our guests to fully enjoy its unique menu, while being able to engage in conversations with one another and our hotel staff," says Sato. "The Yamaha system achieves that balance perfectly."

Suzuki adds, "The system is very user-friendly. daily operations can be easily managed using the external control panel on the wall", noting that the presets are configured via the MTX3 matrix processor, which make it easy even for non-technical staff to manage audio levels using the DCP1V4S-US wall-mounted control panel. Furthermore, Suzuki shares that when simultaneous control of both audio and visual equipment is needed for specific situations, the system employs the use of AMX's touch panel interface.

The audio equipment rack inside the front lobby wall cabinet alongside the Yamaha S6X-ENPRO Disklavier, which is prominent in the front lobby.

In the multi-purpose boardroom Wald Tür, also located on the second floor, the Yamaha system provides clear audio projection for conferences, private dining, and culinary demonstrations. "The VXL1B-8 is extremely slim and compact, yet it delivers ample volume and excellent sound quality, making it a perfect fit for the spacious second floor area. Additionally, using the subwoofer alongside it has enhanced the depth of the sound, making Bach's background music even more pleasant and immersive," notes Suzuki. "Installing the line array speakers, which provide clear and well-projected sound, was definitely the right choice. Furthermore, we have installed three wall-mounted control panels, ensuring that when the room is divided into two separate spaces, each area can independently adjust volume levels and other audio settings for added convenience."

Last, but certainly not the least; at the heart of the magnificent hotel lobby sits a Yamaha S6X-ENPRO

ENSPIRE PRO Disklavier self-playing grand piano. Performances recorded by emerging artists are synchronised with video footage and played back on Yamaha soundbars installed in every guest room, offering guests a lifelike concert experience in private. Live salon concerts are also hosted in the lobby, streamed in real time throughout the hotel.

By blending live music, thoughtful design, and advanced audio technology from Yamaha, Hotel GrandBach Tokyo Ginza sets a new benchmark for hospitality; as it creates a holistic environment that elevates every guest interaction. As Sato concludes, "With the hotel's unique Wellness Cuisine complementing the experience, I am sure that many guests with refined tastes in both music and food will want to return time and again."

CHINA

Conservation Through Crystal Clear Sound

L-Acoustics Powers Landmark Audio Installation at Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center

The Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center premiered the "Panda Is Back" theatrical production with L-Acoustics K Series and A Series professional sound systems.

The city of Ya'an holds a singular place in China's natural and cultural history, being the site where the first giant panda was introduced to the world in 1869. That moment not only brought the panda to international attention but also helped shape China's modern cultural diplomacy. Today, Ya'an continues to play a leading role in panda conservation — now, with the new Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center shaping how those efforts are communicated through immersive storytelling and sonic precision.

Marking one of the most ambitious deployments of high-end audio systems in China dedicated to conservation awareness and cultural education – the Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center has unveiled a comprehensive **L-Acoustics**

professional sound installation across its three performance spaces. Situated within the Ya'an Bifengxia Panda Base—one of four branches of the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda—the venue is a unique fusion of heritage, education, and cutting-edge technology, delivering crystal-clear sound for theatrical productions, musical events, and public engagement programmes.

The center opened in February 2025 with Panda Is Back – a live production combining entertainment with an educational narrative around panda preservation. And for L-Acoustics Certified Provider **Rightway Audio Consultants (RAC)**, delivering both intelligibility and emotional depth was paramount. "In educational

The Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center Main Theatre center array of A15i Focus and A15i Wide.
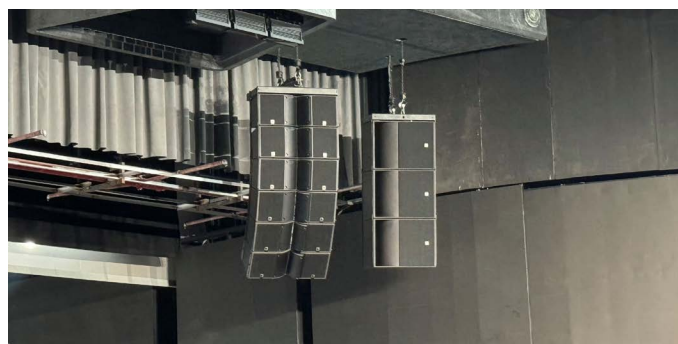
L-Acoustics A10i boxes provide in-fill in the Main Theatre of the Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center.

entertainment, every word of narration, every environmental sound effect, and every musical element must be crystal clear," stated **Ning Zhaoqi, System Designer at RAC**. "Clarity directly impacts the audience's comprehension and emotional engagement."

To achieve this, RAC engineers employed L-Acoustics Soundvision software to model and fine-tune audio distribution across all three zones. The centrepiece is the 1,200-seat Main Theatre, equipped with a sophisticated LCR configuration that comprises six K3i enclosures per side, plus a combination of A15i Focus and Wide units for centre fill. A further four A10i loudspeakers provide in-fill coverage, while the low-end fidelity is provided by six KS21i and four KS28 subwoofers. The result is a wide and balanced soundstage capable of switching between theatrical subtlety and concert-scale dynamics. Additionally, L-Acoustics X12 units are deployed in multiple roles across the venue—not only as stage monitors, but also as overhead speakers for height-enhanced spatial effects.

"The overhead speaker configuration gives us tremendous flexibility," explained **RAC Lead Engineer Shi Zhuohao**. "For environmental sounds like bamboo forests or mountain winds, the overhead elements create a natural sense of space that supports the authenticity of the content."

On the other hand, the 1,200-seat Performance Hall is driven by L-Acoustics X8i systems, with SB18 IIi subwoofers providing tight, extended low-frequency support. Designed to accommodate everything from lectures to cultural performances, the system is anchored by a DiGiCo Quantum 225 console for robust and adaptable control.

Meanwhile, the Outdoor Plaza utilises the visually discreet Syva and Syva Low systems. These slimline enclosures offer high SPL output and a 140° horizontal coverage angle—ideal for large-scale community gatherings and open-air education sessions, all while blending into the architectural aesthetic of the venue.

"When you're presenting content that carries the cultural weight of China's most beloved species and the scientific importance of conservation research, technical excellence becomes a responsibility," emphasised Shi. "The L-Acoustics professional sound systems ensure that every educational moment, every cultural reference, and every conservation message reaches audiences with the clarity and impact these subjects deserve."
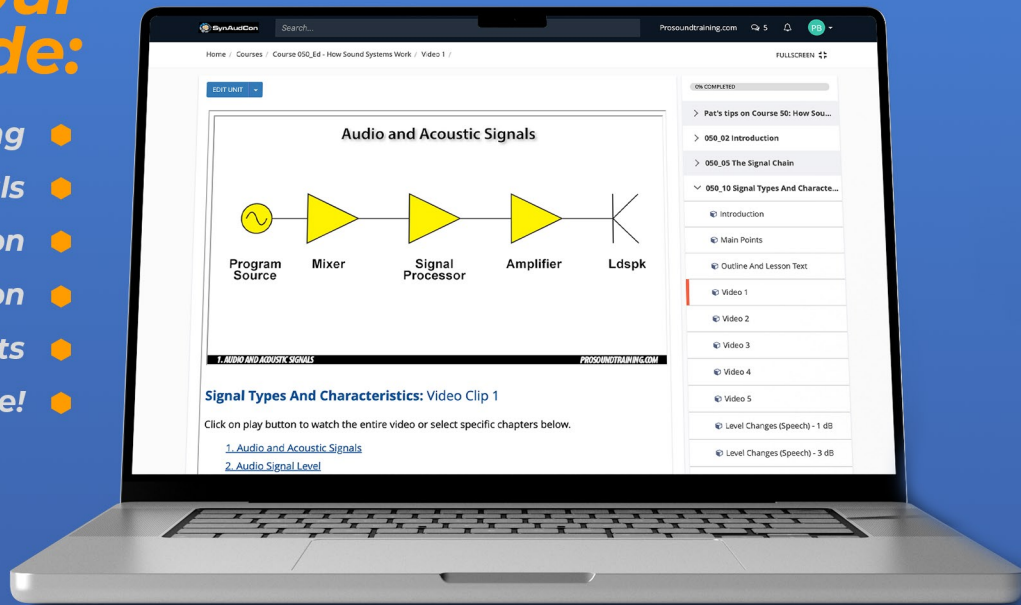
With audio now playing a pivotal role in the visitor experience, the Ya'an 1869 Panda Performing Arts Center underscores how technology can elevate environmental storytelling—making panda conservation not only informative, but also unforgettable.