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FEATURE:

Wireless Microphone Systems - Making Every Megahertz Count

LIVE:

L-Acoustics L1 Makes World Tour Debut at Joker Xue's Record-Breaking EVOLUTION Stadium Tour

From Heritage To Horizon

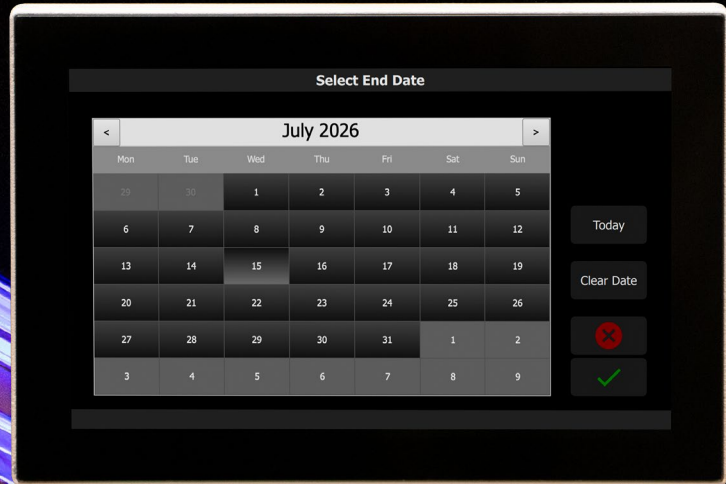
Nick Screen

Vice President & General Manager, HARMAN Professional APAC

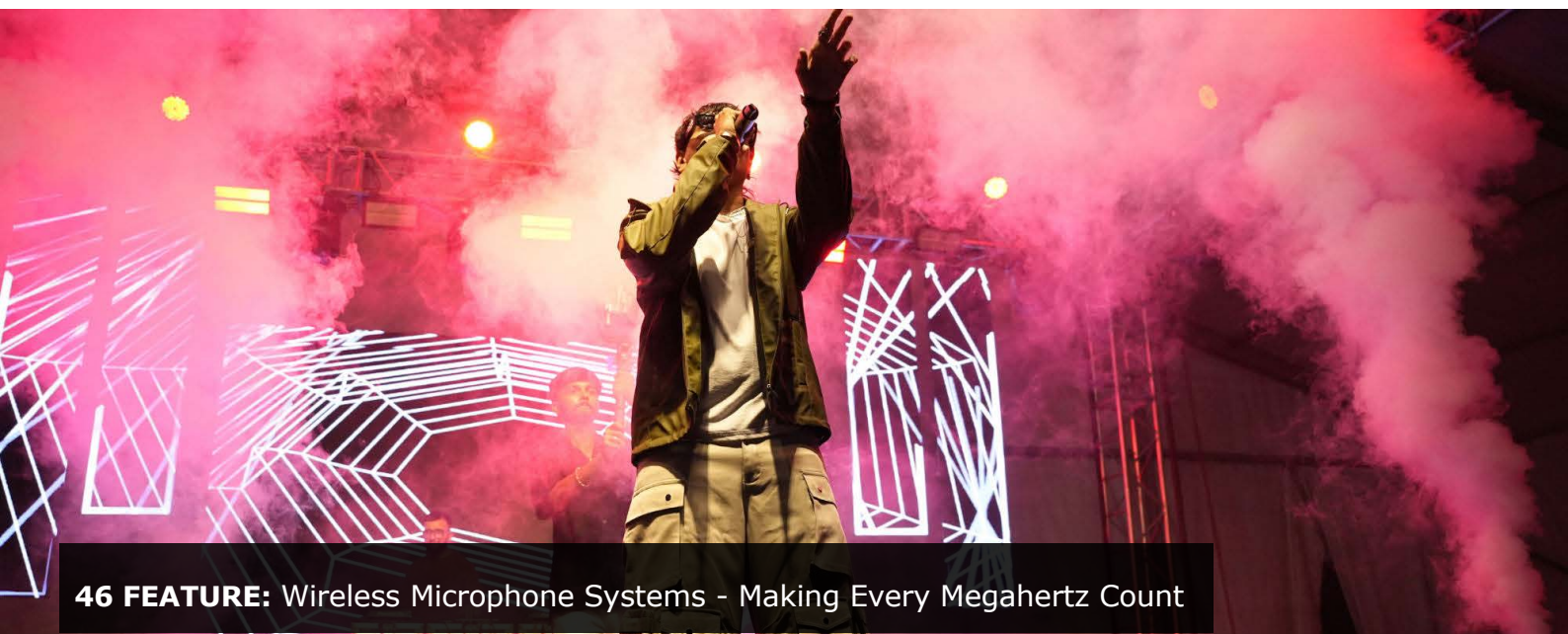
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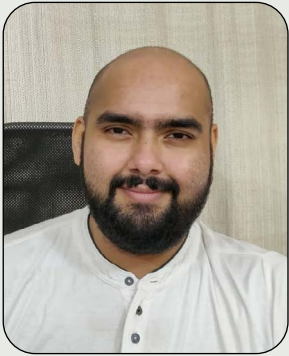
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Q3 has been interesting so far ... to say the least.

For starters, InfoComm Asia 2026 reported nearly 6,600 professionals from 77 countries converged in Bangkok, with 44.2% of attendees travelling from overseas and more than half occupying managerial positions or above; clear evidence that Asia is attracting serious decision-makers rather than just visitors. Across the exhibition floor, the

conversation had noticeably shifted beyond products towards smarter workflows, immersive environments, and fully integrated experience ecosystems.

At the same time, landmark deployments – from advanced wireless monitoring systems at Singapore's Star Performing Arts Centre to large-scale AV installations across Southeast Asia – continue to demonstrate why Asia is one of the world's most influential proving ground for AV innovation.

This relentless pursuit of certainty underpins our Feature; where industry leaders Shure, Sennheiser, Audio-Technica and DPA discuss the technologies, engineering philosophies and spectrum innovations redefining the next generation of professional wireless microphone systems. The takeaway? Reliability is no longer a luxury; it is the foundation.

That same philosophy resonates throughout our Cover Story, where **Nick Screen, Vice President & General Manager, HARMAN Professional APAC**, reflects on how JBL Professional is transforming eight glorious decades of engineering excellence into a future defined by intelligent ecosystems, scalable innovation and seamlessly connected professional audio solutions.

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PHILIPPINES

ETC HOG Launches in The Philippines at Meta Experience Showcase



Earlier this year, **Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC)** expanded the reach of its HOG lighting control platform in Southeast Asia with the official launch of the HOG console range in the Philippines, showcased during the 'Meta Experience' event organised by its local dealer, **Meta-Tech Solutions and Systems Corp**

Designed as a hands-on technology showcase, the event brought together lighting designers, creative directors and other entertainment technology professionals working across theatre, live events and related applications, providing attendees with an opportunity to not just learn more about the HOG platform, but also experience the capabilities of the HOG in a live production environment.

The event featured the Stage HOG console at the heart of the lighting control workflow, driving a series of dynamic visual demonstrations that highlighted the flexibility, programming power and intuitive operation that have made the HOG family a recognised choice for lighting professionals worldwide.



Alongside Stage HOG, the full range of HOG lighting consoles was showcased, allowing attendees to explore the different control solutions available for productions of varying scale and complexity.

The event also served as the official launch of the HOG console family within the Philippine market, reflecting ETC's continued commitment in strengthening its presence across the APAC region through local dealer partnerships and hands-on engagement with the professional lighting community.

By combining live demonstrations with direct interaction between users and the technology, the Meta Experience provided visitors with valuable insight into the latest advancements in lighting control while reinforcing the growing availability of ETC's Hog ecosystem for productions throughout the Philippines.

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AUSTRALIA

GLP Appoints StageKraft as Australian Distribution Partner



GLP has appointed **StageKraft** as its official distributor for Australia, strengthening the manufacturer's presence in the region and expanding access to its professional lighting solutions for the entertainment, touring, broadcast, television, and installation sectors.

The appointment marks StageKraft's first major brand partnership as the company begins to unveil its lineup of entertainment technology brands. Founded by Davey Taylor and Eli Malka, both established figures in the Australian entertainment technology sector, StageKraft is built around genuine product knowledge, deep technical expertise, and a customer-focused approach to supporting the people who make live events and productions happen.

"We are delighted to partner with StageKraft," says **Søren Storm, Sales Director for Asia Pacific at GLP**. "We have the utmost trust and confidence in their expertise, professionalism, and commitment to customer service. Australia is an important

market for GLP, and StageKraft shares our commitment to quality, reliability, and innovation. We are confident they will represent GLP with the dedication and care our products deserve, and we are excited to see them champion our brand across the country. As GLP continues to evolve, we also have an exciting pipeline of new developments and products on the horizon, which we look forward to bringing to market with strong partners like StageKraft."

"GLP doesn't play small, and neither do we," says **Eli Malka, Co-founder and Sales Director of StageKraft**. "For more than 30 years, GLP has remained ahead of the curve, setting the benchmark for innovation, reliability, and creative excellence, delivering real impact for lighting professionals worldwide. We are proud to represent the brand in Australia. Our vision for StageKraft has always been to partner with manufacturers that genuinely drive the industry forward, and few have done so as consistently as GLP. Launching with a brand of this calibre sends a clear message about who we are and where we are headed. We are building a portfolio that is carefully curated rather than simply collected, and we look forward to strengthening GLP's presence in Australia while providing customers with the products, expertise, and support they deserve."

Through this partnership, Australian customers will gain access to GLP's full professional range, along with technical consultation, product demonstrations, training programmes, spare parts, and comprehensive after-sales service.

ASIA

Adamson Partners Commit to Strengthening Regional Expertise Through Advanced Certification Training Initiatives



Participants at the Suryadhep Music Sala in a live system audit and preventive maintenance exercise.

Adamson's commitment to advancing technical excellence across the Asia-Pacific region continues to gather momentum, with its official distribution partners in India and Thailand organising training initiatives designed to equip audio professionals with advanced system design, optimisation and deployment expertise.

In India, Adamson's official distribution partner, **LewminAudio** have scheduled an Adamson Array Intelligence (AI) Certification Training programme in Bangalore on 21–22 July 2026. Per the schedule, the two-day certification will be led by renowned **Adamson trainer Carlos Sallaberry**, and aims to provide participants with in-depth exposure to the latest Adamson technologies and advanced software workflows for VG and CS Series systems.



The workshop organised by Sonos Libra guided participants through every stage of the workflow; from system design, simulation and array optimisation to network protocols, commissioning and real-world system tuning using Adamson's Array Intelligence software.

The programme will cover critical aspects of modern loudspeaker deployment, including system design and configuration, acoustic simulation, MILAN network configuration, array optimisation, and real-time system monitoring and control, enabling attendees to develop the practical skills required for both touring and fixed installation applications.

Meanwhile, in Thailand, Adamson's official distribution partner **Sonos Libra** recently concluded its own ADAMSON CS Series and AI Software Workshop, a two-day technical programme aimed at system engineers, sound engineers, AV integrators and audio professionals seeking to deepen their understanding of professional sound system design and deployment.



Participants proudly display their certificates post the successful culmination of the ADAMSON CS Series and AI Software Workshop organised by Sonos Libra.

Combining classroom learning with extensive hands-on sessions, the workshop guided participants through every stage of the workflow; from system design, simulation and array optimisation to network protocols, commissioning and real-world system tuning using Adamson's Array Intelligence software.

What distinguished the Thai initiative was its emphasis on practical experience. As part of the programme, participants were allowed the opportunity to explore the sound system at the Suryadhep Music Sala (Suryadhep Music Hall) at Rangsit University – where Sonos Libra had deployed a comprehensive Adamson loudspeaker system last year – and participate in a live system audit and preventive maintenance exercise.

The hands-on session covered overall system performance testing, firmware updates across networked devices and mixing

consoles, redundancy verification, equipment and network health checks, configuration refinement, and system optimisation to ensure long-term operational stability.

"For Sonos Libra, project delivery is not the end of the job, but the beginning of long-term system maintenance to ensure users that the audio system can function efficiently throughout its lifespan," the company said.

Together, the initiatives reflect Adamson's broader commitment to developing technical expertise throughout the region, ensuring engineers, integrators and rental professionals are equipped with the knowledge and practical experience required to design, deploy and maintain increasingly sophisticated professional audio systems for both touring productions and permanent installations.



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INDIA

J-Live Brings Home Gujarat's First DiGiCo Quantum 852



Gujarat-based event production specialist **J-Live** has strengthened its technical capabilities with the addition of the state's first **DiGiCo** Quantum 852. The investment makes J-Live only the fourth company in India to deploy DiGiCo's flagship platform, reflecting the growing demand for world-class production infrastructure beyond the country's traditional metropolitan markets.

Supplied by **Hi-Tech Audio & Image LLP** the official distributor for DiGiCo in India, the Quantum 852 expands J-Live's ability to support increasingly complex live productions across Gujarat and neighbouring regions, where demand continues to grow for large-scale concerts, sporting events, destination weddings, corporate gatherings, government events and cultural showcases.

Commenting on the investment, **Malvik Bhavsar, Director of J-Live**, said: "The scale of expectations has changed. Artists, engineers, promoters, corporate clients, government agencies, and even wedding planners are demanding production standards that are increasingly aligned with global benchmarks. Gujarat is witnessing remarkable growth across concerts, sporting events, destination celebrations, business summits, and public-sector initiatives. Our responsibility is not simply to respond to that growth, but to stay ahead of it. The Quantum 852 allows us to support larger productions, more complex workflows, and higher technical expectations while ensuring that Gujarat remains firmly positioned on the map of premium live entertainment destinations."

For Hi-Tech Audio & Image LLP, the deployment also reflects the growing maturity of India's regional production ecosystem. "Companies like J-Live are helping redefine what is possible outside traditional metro markets. Every such investment strengthens India's position as a destination capable of supporting global touring standards while simultaneously raising expectations across the broader sound rental and event production industry," said **Rajan Gupta, Founder & CEO of Hi-Tech Audio & Image LLP.**

"The future belongs to companies that view technology as a strategic growth asset rather than simply operational equipment.

Today's production environment demands speed, flexibility, resilience, and absolute confidence under pressure. The Quantum 852 was engineered precisely for those conditions. J-Live's investment demonstrates a clear understanding of where the industry is heading and positions the company to support the next generation of events," concludes **Nirdosh Aggarwal, Managing Partner of Hi-Tech Audio & Image LLP.**



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GLOBAL

AVIXA Expands Professional Development Portfolio with SynAudCon Audio Training



AVIXA has expanded its professional education portfolio through a new partnership with **SynAudCon** making the audio education specialist's online training courses available via its training and certification platform. The collaboration is designed to provide AV professionals with greater access to practical, real-world audio education while strengthening technical expertise across the industry.

"Adding the trusted audio training from SynAudCon to our education offerings advances our commitment to serving the AV community," said **Pam Taggart, Vice President of Content Creation, AVIXA**. "This agreement creates a seamless pathway to professional audio education and helps build stronger technical foundations, supporting talent development across the pro AV industry."

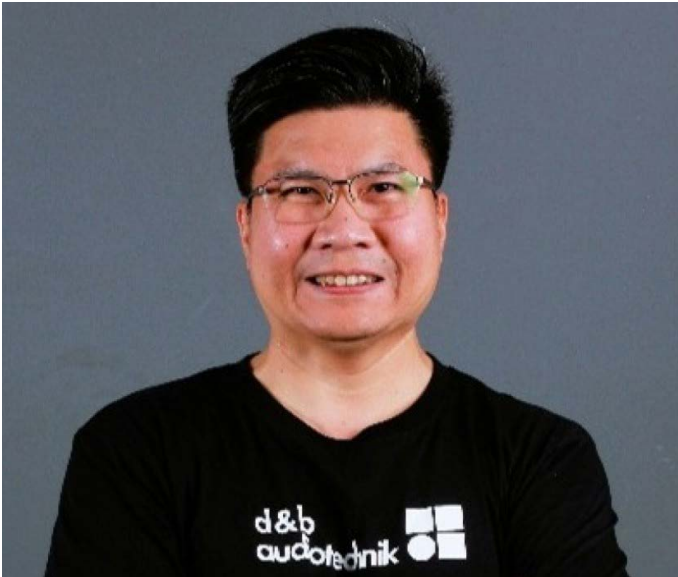
Pat Brown, President of SynAudCon, added, "This partnership harnesses AVIXA's extensive experience for providing training for the pro AV industry with our courses that cover the fundamental principles that all audio technologies are built upon. This partnership is a big win for the audio community worldwide."

The new offering comprises four online courses covering key aspects of professional audio. *How Sound Systems Work* introduces newcomers to the fundamental principles and terminology that underpin all sound systems. *Principles of Audio* provides an overview of core technical concepts, industry best practices and troubleshooting techniques while building a deeper understanding of advanced audio principles. *Transformer-Distributed Loudspeaker Systems* explores the role of transformers in signal distribution, including their impact on voltage, current and impedance. Meanwhile, *Digital Signal Processing* introduces the universal principles behind DSP, equipping learners with the knowledge required to deploy DSP solutions efficiently and prepare for manufacturer-specific DSP training programmes.

The self-paced courses incorporate animations, analogies, interactive calculators and practical demonstrations to explain technical concepts commonly encountered in real-world applications. Each purchase also includes a one-year membership to SynAudCon's online forums, providing access to a global community of audio professionals, along with 90 days of on-demand course access, enabling learners to revisit training materials as needed. The SynAudCon courses are available separately and are not included as part of AVIXA membership.

THAILAND

d&b audiotechnik Welcomes Jatuporn Rattanachirasuth as Sales Manager for Thailand



d&b Audiotechnik has strengthened its presence in Southeast Asia with the appointment of **Jatuporn Rattanachirasuth as Sales Manager for Thailand**, where he will be responsible for driving business growth, strengthening customer relationships and supporting the company's expanding activities in the local market.

Working closely with d&b audiotechnik's APAC regional team and local partners, Jatuporn will focus on expanding the company's presence across Thailand while supporting customers and channel partners across a broad range of professional audio applications.

Jatuporn brings more than 25 years of experience in sales leadership, business development and channel management within the professional audio and technology sectors. He has built an extensive career in Thailand's professional audio market, developing long-standing relationships with distributors, systems integrators and end users while delivering sustained commercial growth.

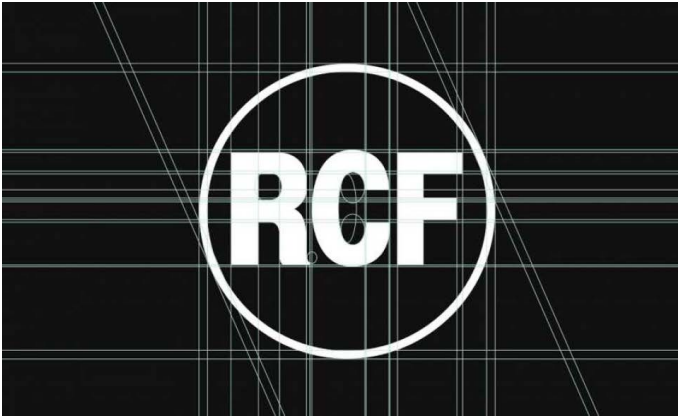
Commenting on his appointment, Jatuporn said: "I am excited to join d&b audiotechnik APAC and contribute to the continued growth of the Thailand market. I look forward to working closely with our partners and customers to strengthen relationships and deliver impactful sound solutions across a wide range of applications."

Anna Kovyza, Senior Commercial Director, d&b audiotechnik APAC, welcomed the appointment, adding: "We are pleased to welcome Jatuporn to d&b audiotechnik. His deep industry experience and strong understanding of the Thailand market will be a valuable addition to our APAC team."

The appointment forms part of d&b audiotechnik's continued investment in the Asia-Pacific region as the company expands its local commercial resources to better support customers, partners and projects across key growth markets.

CHINA

RCF Confirms Trademark Victory in China to Strengthen Global Brand Protection



RCF S.p.A has strengthened its global intellectual property protection efforts after securing a favourable final judgment in the People's Republic of China, preventing the unauthorised use of its "RCF" trademark by Ningbo S&A Electronics Co., Ltd.

The Intermediate People's Court of Ningbo City, Zhejiang Province, upheld an earlier ruling that found Ningbo S&A Electronics had infringed RCF's registered trademark rights through the unauthorised use of the "RCF" and "rcf" marks in online promotions. The court ordered the company to cease all unauthorised use of the trademarks and to compensate RCF for economic losses and legal expenses.

According to RCF, the ruling represents a significant milestone in the company's ongoing global brand protection programme and reinforces its commitment to safeguarding its intellectual property, reputation, authorised sales network and customers.

"For RCF, trademark protection is not only a legal matter. It is a direct commitment to the people who choose our products and rely on the authenticity associated with our name," said **Gioia Molinari, Director of Marketing and PR at RCF**. "This judgment confirms that the exploitation of our brand will not be tolerated. We will continue to take decisive action worldwide to protect our assets, our partners, and the integrity of the professional audio market."

RCF noted that its products are developed through an integrated engineering process encompassing acoustic research, transducer design, custom electronics, mechanical engineering and software development, supported by rigorous quality control throughout manufacturing. The company cautioned that counterfeit, unauthorised or misleadingly promoted products may fail to deliver the levels of performance, reliability, safety and long-term value associated with genuine RCF solutions.

As part of its wider anti-counterfeiting initiatives, RCF continues to encourage customers to purchase products only through authorised distribution channels and to verify product authenticity using the company's dealer verification resources, Security Hologram and serial number validation system. The manufacturer added that it will continue to monitor global marketplaces and work with international authorities to combat trademark infringement and protect the integrity of the professional audio industry.



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APAC - ME

PRG Enhances Production Capabilities Across Middle East and APAC Through Major Inventory Update



PRG has enhanced its production capabilities across geographies, particularly in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, through significant investments in audio, video, lighting and supporting infrastructure, reinforcing its ability to support an increasingly diverse range of live events and entertainment productions across its global network.

The investment programme responds to growing demand across the company's international markets, with additional equipment capacity being deployed in key regions including Australia and Japan, while enhancing technology availability for clients throughout the wider EMEA and APAC territories.

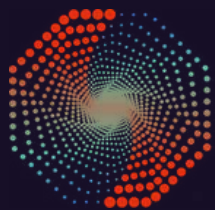
On the audio front, PRG has added **Adamson's** Vergence Group VGt and VGx line array systems to its inventory, further strengthening its large-scale sound reinforcement capabilities. The company has also expanded its **Yamaha Professional Audio** inventory with additional DM7 digital mixing consoles, CTL-DM7 controllers and Rio-D3 stageboxes, increasing system availability across EMEA.

In video, PRG has made a long-term investment in **AURA LED** following strong demand from the corporate, exhibition and broadcast sectors. The company has also expanded its Australian inventory with **INFiLED** AR4 MK2 outdoor LED panels, increasing locally available capacity for festivals, sporting events and other large-scale outdoor productions.

PRG has similarly enhanced its lighting portfolio with the addition of **GLP** TWYN, JDC Burst 1 and impression X5 IP Maxx fixtures, alongside **Ayrton** EagleStrike luminaires. In Japan, the company has further expanded its inventory with Ayrton Rivale, Veloce and Nando 502 Wash fixtures to support the growing requirements of the local market.

Beyond production technologies, PRG has also invested in data and power distribution infrastructure, transport systems and equipment casing across its network, supporting greater operational efficiency and deployment consistency.

According to PRG, the latest investments are aimed at increasing regional equipment availability, scalability and operational flexibility as production requirements continue to evolve across EMEA and APAC. The company added that ongoing investment in the latest technologies will enable its teams to continue supporting clients with high-performance production solutions while maintaining the operational standards expected across its global network.



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PROEL Ushers in New Era with Alessio Foti Appointed Co-CEO



PROEL SpA has announced the appointment of **Alessio Foti as Co-CEO alongside Giacomo Sorbi**, marking the beginning of a new strategic chapter for the Italian manufacturer as it embarks on an extensive programme of technological, digital and organisational transformation.

In his new role, Foti will lead PROEL's global sales operations, working closely with the company's sales teams to expand the Group's international presence and strengthen its position across the MI and professional audio markets. And according to the company, the leadership appointment supports a long-term vision centred on product innovation, digitalisation and international growth while preserving the company's heritage of Italian design and manufacturing.

"Joining PROEL at this historic moment is an extraordinary challenge. There is a completely new energy," said **Alessio Foti, Co-CEO of PROEL**. "As Co-CEO, my goal is to lead Global Sales, both directly and together with our team, to bring the company into the MI and PRO world. The global market demands fast, intelligent responses; we are ready to provide them. Customers will not only find new products, but a fully digitalized global partner. The integration of our model, between our past and our outlook toward the future, allows us to fully understand the market's needs. Made in Italy is a fundamental part of our identity: engaging with the world while proudly showcasing what our manufacturing excellence can achieve is a source of pride for the history of our brand, for our country and for our industry."

"Our history represents an enormous asset: 35 years, thousands of customers, distributors and collaborators have built this company over the years. Our task is not to change who we are, but to ensure that this history continues to be relevant in the years to come. You cannot build the future if you don't know where you come from. But today, that same passion compels us to evolve. To drive such a powerful machine, you need the right people," said **Giacomo Sorbi, CEO of PROEL**, highlighting the value of Foti's arrival during the Group's current growth phase.

GLOBAL

Listen Technologies and Ampetronic Strengthen Global Leadership



Listen Technologies and **Ampetronic** have reinforced their executive leadership team with two key appointments, promoting Kevin Jewkes to Senior Vice President of Global Revenue and appointing Alan Kennedy as Vice President of Operations as the organisations continue to invest in global growth and the

expansion of their assistive listening and inclusive audio solutions portfolio.

As Senior Vice President of Global Revenue, Jewkes will oversee the organisations' overall sales strategy, sales operations, team leadership and global go-to-market execution across international markets. His responsibilities also include strengthening channel and partnership programmes, aligning marketing initiatives with sales execution alongside the Chief Marketing Officer, and collaborating with product management to ensure customer and market insights continue to shape product strategy.

On the other hand, as Vice President of Operations, Kennedy will lead the strategy, performance and scalability of the organisations' operational framework, overseeing supply chain, manufacturing, logistics, quality, facilities and IT to ensure these functions operate as an integrated system capable of supporting continued growth and delivering on customer commitments.

AUSTRALIA

Chris Fitzgerald to Head TDC's Experiential Growth

**TDC – Technical Direction Company**

promotes Chris Fitzgerald to the newly created role of Head of Experiential & Installations, reinforcing the

company's continued investment in immersive environments, museums, attractions and cultural destinations.

With more than a decade at TDC, Fitzgerald will lead the company's growing experiential portfolio, helping clients shape visitor experiences from concept through to delivery.

Unlike traditional AV suppliers, TDC combines creative, technical and production expertise to help project stakeholders such as museums, attractions, architects, designers and producers create engaging visitor experiences.

SRI LANKA

dBTechnologies Strengthens APAC Network with Mike Audio Appointment in Sri Lanka



dBTechnologies has expanded its distribution network across the Asia-Pacific region with the appointment of **Mike Audio (Pvt) Ltd** as its exclusive distributor for Sri Lanka, marking the brand's return to the country's professional audio market through a long-established local partner.

Headquartered in Colombo, Mike Audio has built a strong presence within Sri Lanka's professional audio industry through its technical expertise, customer-focused approach and extensive experience across both the retail and installation sectors. Under the new agreement, the company will provide customers nationwide with access to the complete dBTechnologies portfolio, supported by local sales, technical assistance and after-sales service.

The appointment signals a renewed commitment by dBTechnologies to the Sri Lankan market, with the partnership aimed at strengthening customer engagement while

improving product availability and local technical support.

"I'm very happy that dBTechnologies is finally back in Sri Lanka with a very strong distributor as Mike Audio, a true long-standing company in the Pro Audio industry in Sri Lanka," said **Manuele Poli, Head of Sales APAC at dBTechnologies**. "dBTechnologies has a big potential to be very successful

in this country and thanks to our new distributor we believe that this can now happen sooner rather than later."

Commenting on the partnership, **Shane Joachim, Director at Mike Audio (Pvt) Ltd**, said, "dBTechnologies is a brand we've long respected for its innovation and build quality. We're proud to bring it back to Sri Lanka and give our customers direct access to the full range, backed by proper local sales, service, and technical support. This is a partnership we've been working towards, and we're looking forward to growing it together."

The partnership is expected to strengthen the brand's visibility across Sri Lanka while providing audio professionals with a dedicated local resource for product consultation, technical expertise and ongoing support. The appointment also reflects dBTechnologies' broader strategy of expanding its APAC footprint through long-term partnerships with experienced regional distributors.

INDIA

AlphaTheta Showcases New DJ Systems at Mumbai Launch Event



The AlphaTheta India team, Satrupa Pyne, AlphaTheta India's Product Specialist Tuhin Mehta, Influencer DJ Shameless Mani and guests at the launch.

AlphaTheta India has unveiled its latest DJ products, the CDJ-1500X and XDJ-AN, during an exclusive launch event at Raasta in Mumbai, bringing together professional DJs, industry stakeholders and aspiring artists for a hands-on product showcase and educational workshop.

Organised in collaboration with **Alphatec Audio Video Pvt. Ltd.** AlphaTheta's master distributor in India, the event highlighted the company's continued focus on supporting the country's rapidly expanding DJ community through a combination of new technology, practical training and industry engagement.

The programme featured live demonstrations and interactive sessions led by AlphaTheta

India's Product Specialist, Tuhin Mehta, who guided attendees through the workflow enhancements, performance capabilities and key features of the newly introduced systems. Participants also had the opportunity to experience the equipment in a live performance environment while exploring advanced DJ techniques.

The event attracted several prominent figures from Mumbai's electronic music scene, including AlphaTheta India influencer DJ Shameless Mani, DJ Russel and Indian model and actress Satrupa Pyne, reflecting growing interest in professional DJ technology among both established performers and emerging talent.



The launch of the CDJ 1500X and XDJ AN was interactive, insightful and full of fun.

The newly launched CDJ-1500X has been designed to deliver flagship-inspired performance in a compact format, while the XDJ-AN expands AlphaTheta's all-in-one DJ ecosystem with enhanced workflow capabilities aimed at modern performance environments. Together, the two products reinforce the company's strategy of providing intuitive, reliable solutions for applications ranging from clubs and festivals to studios and live events.

Commenting on the launch, **Devais Barkataki, Managing Director of Alphatec Audio Video Pvt. Ltd.**, said: "Our objective was to introduce these new products in a creative environment where DJs can experience the technology first-hand, ask questions, exchange ideas and understand how these innovations can elevate their



Indian Actress and Model Satrupa Pyne getting a hands-on experience of the CDJ 1500X with AlphaTheta India's influencer DJ Shameless Mani.

performances. The overwhelming response from India's DJ community reaffirms the growing demand for professional-grade equipment and knowledge-sharing platforms that encourage greater participation."

According to AlphaTheta India, the Mumbai launch forms part of its broader commitment to community-driven initiatives that combine technology, education and live performance, while strengthening relationships with India's growing electronic music ecosystem. Through collaborations with industry partners such as Alphatec Audio Video, the company aims to continue supporting DJs with access to professional equipment, technical expertise and experiential learning opportunities.

GLOBAL

Ayrton Strengthens Leadership Team to Drive Next Phase of Growth



L-R Massimo Bolandrina, Chris Ferrante, Michael Althaus

Ayrton has announced a series of senior leadership appointments as the company strengthens its executive team to support its next phase of global growth while maintaining its focus on product innovation and international expansion.

Leading the changes is the appointment of **Michael Althaus as Chief Executive Officer**. Having assumed the role in September 2025, Althaus steps up from his previous position as Global Sales Director, a role he held since 2017, during which he played a key role in expanding Ayrton's global market presence.

"It's a great honour to step into the role of CEO at such an important moment in Ayrton's journey," said Althaus. "Knowing Ayrton now for 25 years and having grown with this company over more than a decade, I've seen first-hand what makes Ayrton exceptional—the passion of our people, the strength of our culture and our relentless drive for innovation. My focus will be on building on this legacy while shaping the next chapter of

growth together with our teams and partners worldwide."

As part of the restructuring, **Massimo Bolandrina has been appointed Global Sales Director** after joining Ayrton from Claypaky, where he spent 15 years in senior sales positions. **Matt Hallard's** responsibilities have also been expanded, with his role as European **Sales Director** now extending across Europe and North Africa. Supporting this regional growth, **Koen Ceulemans** joined the company as **European Sales Manager** in January 2026.

The leadership changes also reinforce Ayrton's continued emphasis on research and development. Founder and Chief Technology Officer Yvan Peard remains responsible for product innovation, continuing to lead the company's engineering efforts, most recently with the development of the RAWBEAM 350 moving head fixture.

Meanwhile, **Christopher Agius Ferrante, who has served as Ayrton's CEO since 2017, has transitioned to lead Golden Sea Holdings**, the organisation overseeing Golden Sea's international brand portfolio. In his new role, Ferrante will focus on strategic planning and strengthening integration across the group's global operations.

Joining Ferrante at Golden Sea Holdings are **Chunyan Hou as Integration and Legal Director, Xulin Liang as Corporate Strategy & Operations Specialist, and Muzi Lui as ESG Analyst**, further strengthening the group's strategic and organisational capabilities as it supports the continued development of its international brands.

ASIA

Disguise Celebrates Major Achievements in Asia



Wipro's Innovation Network experience centre in India.



Ray Showtech Japan.

Disguise has marked two significant milestones in the APAC region, with its technology powering an award-winning immersive experience centre in India while also strengthening its education ecosystem in Japan through the certification of a new training partner.

In India, Wipro's Innovation Network experience centre in Bengaluru has been designed by **MetaHive Design Consulting** and delivered with **BT Convergence Technologies** as system integrator. The facility showcases advancements in artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum computing and digital innovation through a combination of immersive projection, interactive storytelling, sensor-based environments and advanced visual technologies.

A key highlight of the experience centre is its immersive quantum computing zone, where Disguise VX 4+ media servers and RX III real-time rendering workflows power interactive augmented reality and virtual reality demonstrations within an 8K LED environment. By synchronising live interactions with real-time visuals, the installation transforms complex technologies into engaging, immersive experiences.

BT Convergence Technologies worked closely with MetaHive throughout the project, overseeing design reviews, on-site inspections and implementation to ensure the installation met stringent quality standards. The award recognises the collaborative efforts of Wipro, MetaHive Design Consulting, BT Convergence Technologies and Disguise in delivering a next-generation visitor experience.

Meanwhile, in Japan, Disguise has further expanded its regional training ecosystem with partner **Ray Showtech** successfully completing the company's training programme and becoming a certified provider for both the Disguise Designer Essentials and Disguise Creative Sequencing courses.

The certification enables Ray Showtech to deliver authorised Disguise training locally, helping to develop creative and technical talent while broadening access to professional education on the Disguise platform. The milestone also reinforces the partnership between the two companies as they work together to further grow the Disguise community in Japan through high-quality training, knowledge sharing and industry collaboration.

GLOBAL

Greg Mackie and Peter Watts Announce M&W Pro Audio with Phil Bunch as CEO



M&W Pro Audio founded by industry veterans **Greg Mackie** and British audio engineer **Peter Watts**, made its public debut at InfoComm 2026 in Las Vegas; as the manufacturer

unveiled its first products — the D24 and D32 digital mixing consoles — marking its entry into the live sound sector. According to the company, the launch follows five years of research and development focused on creating a new generation of digital mixing consoles built around advanced DSP processing, touchscreen-based operation and proprietary microphone preamplifier technology.

The inaugural D24 and D32 consoles have been designed for a broad range of live sound applications, including houses of worship, theatres, concert touring, corporate AV and nightclub installations. Both consoles feature large-format touchscreens that provide direct access to channel processing, routing and system management functions; with the company stating that this touchscreen-centric architecture has been developed to enhance workflow, improve operational flexibility and provide greater visual feedback than traditional digital console interfaces. The software-driven platform has also been designed to accommodate future feature enhancements through ongoing software updates.

Alongside, M&W Pro Audio has also appointed **Phil Bunch as its Chief Executive Officer**, strengthening the company's leadership team. Bunch joined the company immediately prior to the launch at the request of co-founder Greg Mackie and officially assumed the CEO role on 18 June 2026.

Before joining M&W Pro Audio, Bunch served as Vice President of Global Operations at Tectonic Audio Labs for eight years. Earlier in his career, he was President of Phase Group, overseeing operations across the company's QA and Engineering Services, Automation, Supply Chain Management and Procurement divisions, while also holding senior leadership positions at Eastech and Esoteric Audio, where he managed engineering, product development, manufacturing, quality and procurement operations across Asia and North America.

Welcoming Bunch to the company, **Greg Mackie, Co-Founder of M&W Pro Audio**, said, "I've known Phil professionally for many years, and I've always respected both his leadership style and his ability to get things done. As we prepared for our launch, I knew we needed someone I could trust to lead the business while Peter and I remained focused on developing great products and shaping the future of the company. Phil has a unique combination of engineering knowledge, manufacturing experience, supply chain expertise, and executive leadership that is difficult to find. I wanted a hands-on leader for our team, and I have complete confidence in him leading M&W Pro Audio as we begin this next chapter."

MIDDLE EAST

Staras Electronic Equipment Rental LLC Expands Rental Inventory with Major Investment in Martin Professional Solutions



Staras and Martin Professional ME team posing in front of the recently acquired inventory.

Martin Professional Middle East, a **HARMAN Professional Solutions** brand, announced that **Staras Electronic Equipment Rental** in the UAE has expanded its rental inventory with a major investment in more than 400 varied Martin Professional entertainment lighting fixtures. The substantial order strengthens Staras' rental inventory and technical capabilities to support live events, touring productions, corporate experiences and entertainment projects throughout the UAE and the broader Middle East region.

The substantial investment includes a significant portfolio of Martin Professional fixtures, including the highly versatile MAC One and MAC One Beam, the premium creative wash capabilities of the MAC Aura PXL, alongside the proven reliability and impact of the Atomic 3000 LED fixtures. Together, these products significantly increase Staras' stock profile with one of the region's

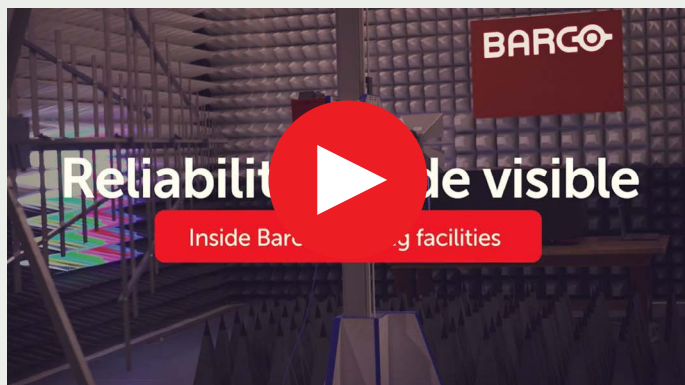
more notable commitments to high performance rental inventory at a time when much of the market remains cautious.

The decision to invest in Martin Professional reflects a long-standing relationship between Staras and Martin Professional Middle East, built around technical collaboration, product support and a shared focus on delivering reliable solutions for customers across the entertainment industry in the region.

"This investment says a great deal about the strength of the relationship and the shared belief in the future of our industry," said Bilal Assidi, Regional Sales Director at Martin Professional Middle East. "Their willingness to invest now demonstrates confidence in the future of the UAE events market and a determination to be ready to support customers at the highest level when activity returns at full pace. We are incredibly proud that Staras have placed their trust in Martin Professional solutions and our team. This investment reinforces our shared belief in the resilience of the UAE, the strength of its leadership, and the long-term future of the live events and entertainment industry."

Together, Martin Professional Middle East and Staras remain committed to supporting the rental market with premium technology, exceptional service, and strong partnerships built for the long term.

BARCO Upholds Reliability Through Rigorous Testing



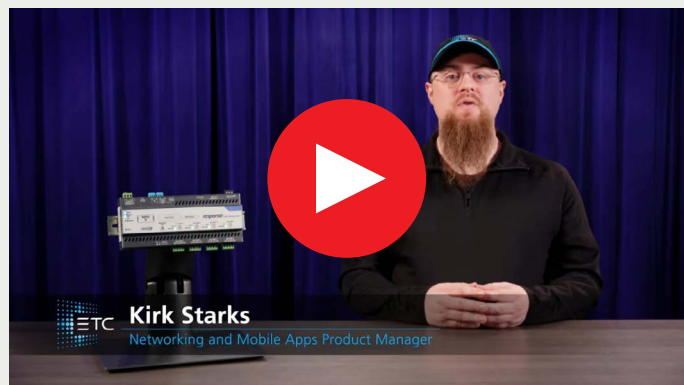
Barco's spotlights its rigorous testing procedures which includes various extreme conditions and standard operational tests that products undergo to confirm their performance under various environmental stresses; and prevent failures while ensuring consistent world-class quality and performance.

K-array's new KORAL KO102 Emphasises Powerful Sound with Minimal Design



With Line Array and Point Source modes, horizontal mounting, outdoor-ready IP64 rating, and finishes up to 24K gold, K-array's new KORAL KO102 packs six 3" drivers and a 1" tweeter, delivering the power of a much larger system in a discreet, design-first form.

ETC Enhances DALI with Response DALI Gateway MK2



ETC's Response DALI Gateway MK2 is a DALI-2 certified device, part of ETC's impressive toolbox of architectural and commercial network options. Developed to meet the growing demand for DALI applications, the user-friendly, intuitive web interface enables quick setup and effortless status management of fixtures or devices.

INFILED Reinforces Production Flexibility with MC Series



Powered by INFILED's ArmorLED technology, the new MC Series is built for the demands of rental staging and live production with the flexibility to adapt across diverse environments. Built for broadcast ready production, CBSF (Color Shift Free) technology ensures consistent color and visual performance in every scenario.

From Heritage To Horizon

Interview with **Nick Screen**, Vice President & General Manager, **HARMAN Professional APAC**



Nick Screen giving his welcome speech at the opening of the recently upgraded HARMAN Experience Centre in Singapore.

Nick Screen, Vice President & General Manager, HARMAN Professional APAC, reveals how JBL Professional is transforming Eight remarkable decades of engineering excellence into a future defined by Intelligent Ecosystems, Scalable Innovation, and Seamlessly Connected Professional Audio Solutions.

Eighty years is a remarkable milestone for any technology brand. Yet in professional audio, longevity alone carries little weight unless it is accompanied by an unwavering ability to remain relevant. Markets evolve,

technologies disrupt, customer expectations shift, and entire workflows are rewritten. Through all of this, only a handful of companies have managed to continuously redefine both themselves and the industry around them.

JBL Professional belongs firmly in that category. Having shaped everything from concert touring and cinema sound to stadiums, houses of worship, corporate campuses and cultural venues, the brand's legacy is measured not merely in years, but in the countless experiences it has helped bring to life across generations.

Today, however, JBL Professional is about far more than loudspeakers. The conversation has shifted towards intelligent ecosystems, immersive experiences, and customer-centric innovation. With decades of experience across Asia-Pacific, Nick understands that tomorrow's customers are no longer simply seeking exceptional products ... they are investing in connected, scalable solutions that simplify complexity and deliver lasting value.

The conversation that follows is not merely a celebration of JBL Professional's storied legacy, but a forward-looking exploration of the ideas, innovations, and industry forces that will shape the future of professional audio; as Nick candidly shares his perspectives on leadership, intelligent ecosystems, and the evolving demands of a rapidly changing market.

ETA: JBL stands today at an extraordinary 80-year milestone — a legacy that has shaped how the world listens, experiences, and engineers sound. From a leadership standpoint, how do you personally balance protecting that legacy while ensuring JBL Professional continues to evolve with relevance in a rapidly shifting technological landscape?

NICK SCREEN: JBL was founded on a culture of innovation, that spirit remains at the heart of everything we do today. Our heritage provides the foundation, whilst innovation ensures our relevance. Our responsibility is to safeguard the principles that made JBL successful such as acoustic excellence, engineering rigour, reliability, and customer trust. At the same time, we must continuously evolve how those principles are delivered. Today's customers expect more than exceptional sound quality. They expect intelligent systems, seamless workflows,

scalability, networked control, and long-term operational value. Investing in the solution is key.

ETA: For eight decades, JBL has influenced everything from cinema sound to global touring and installed audio. In today's context, how would you define JBL Professional's core identity? Is it still rooted in loudspeaker engineering, or has it evolved into something broader?

NICK SCREEN: At its core, JBL Professional remains a company dedicated to delivering exceptional audio experiences. That has never changed. Experiences themselves have elevated and evolved. That has redefined what the creatives in our industry need, to create those memorable experiences. Loudspeaker engineering remains a foundational strength and an area where JBL continues to lead the industry, our identity today extends far beyond the loudspeaker itself. In addition to loudspeaker engineering, which includes manufacturing our own transducers, we have become a comprehensive provider of professional audio solutions that combine transducers, amplification, DSP, network management, system design tools, and software platforms into a cohesive solution.

If you consider our VTX Line Arrays, then factors such as ease of rigging and the available software tools are increasingly important to our customers. JBL has invested in these areas producing a product with best in class rigging and an end-to-end software solution with Venue Synthesis for Design and FLUX::Mira for measurement. Customers increasingly want solutions rather than individual products. Whether they are building a stadium, a performing arts center, a corporate campus, a house

of worship, or a touring production, they expect technologies that work together seamlessly. JBL Professional, together with the broader HARMAN Professional portfolio, is uniquely positioned to deliver that end-to-end experience.

ETA: Recent developments across the JBL Professional portfolio — from advanced touring systems like the SRX900 Series to installation-focused innovations like the Control 400 Series — suggest a growing convergence between performance, control, and scalability. Do you see the future of pro audio being driven by integrated ecosystems rather than standalone products?

NICK SCREEN: The future is not about choosing between performance and simplicity. It is about delivering both. That's why JBL continues to invest in solutions that combine world-class acoustics with intelligent control, networked audio, prediction and system management software tools, and seamless integration across the HARMAN ecosystem. Customers want solutions that are easier to deploy, simpler to manage, and more efficient to operate. They want products that communicate seamlessly, provide meaningful data, enable remote monitoring, and support future scalability. This is especially important as venues become larger and operational resources become more constrained. Another example of this from within the HARMAN portfolio is the recently announced BSS OMNI. OMNI is the next generation AV platform from HARMAN Professional combining DSP, Video and USB Distribution, Users Interfaces and Software into one ecosystem.

ETA: Asia is currently among the most dynamic growth regions for professional AV and live event technologies. From

your perspective, what fundamentally differentiates these markets in terms of technology adoption, scale of ambition, and user expectations?

NICK SCREEN: What makes Asia particularly exciting is the combination of scale, speed, and ambition. To address these opportunities, we continue to strengthen our regional support capabilities, invest in training and education, collaborate closely with local partners, and develop solutions that address specific market needs. Success in these markets requires much more than delivering products; it requires acting as a long-term technology and business partner.

There is clearly a demand for future-ready solutions that deliver reliability, scalability, and exceptional user experiences. APAC is leading the way in immersive experiences, and we are seeing high demand for our FLUX:: x JBL immersive audio solutions in the region. Our Singapore Experience Centre opened earlier this year is a demonstration of our commitment to the APAC market and to our goals: creating enduring relationships, elevating experiences and exciting audiences.

ETA: We're seeing somewhat of a blurring of boundaries between live sound and installed systems, where stadiums, immersive venues, cultural destinations, and large-scale entertainment infrastructure demand both performance and permanence. How is JBL Professional redefining its approach to address this convergence of live and installed audio ecosystems?

NICK SCREEN: Historically, live sound and installed audio were treated as separate disciplines. Today our focus is on delivering platforms that can adapt to multiple use cases while maintaining exceptional performance. Technologies developed for

touring applications are increasingly finding value in fixed installations, while installation-focused solutions are benefiting from advancements in networked audio, system optimization, and intelligent control originally driven by live production environments. Our objective is to give customers maximum flexibility while maintaining consistent user experiences across applications.

ETA: Despite rapid growth, the global pro AV industry continues to face challenges around skills gaps, system complexity, and integration maturity. From JBL's vantage point, what are the most pressing challenges today—and how can manufacturers play a more proactive role in simplifying technology adoption and empowering users?

NICK SCREEN: The risk is that the technology itself is advancing faster than the industry's ability to fully absorb and operationalise it. Many organizations struggle to find qualified talent with expertise across electro-acoustics, networking, software, control systems, etc. At the same time, systems are developing at speed, which could introduce additional complexity for end users and operators.

As a manufacturer we have a responsibility to simplify deployment, improve interoperability, provide intuitive user interfaces, and design products that reduce rather than increase operational complexity. Our investments in this area are clear; for example, in tour sound we continue to develop our software ecosystem with recent updates to Venue Synthesis, ArrayLink, Performance, and Performance Manager.

Education is also critical. JBL Professional/HARMAN Professional invests heavily in training programs, certification opportunities,

technical workshops, and partner enablement initiatives because knowledge transfer is just as important as technology innovation.

ETA: As JBL celebrates 80 years of innovation—a journey that has continually redefined sound across generations—what do you believe will define the next decade of professional audio, and how is JBL positioning itself to lead that future?

NICK SCREEN: Audio systems will become increasingly connected, adaptive, and intelligent. They will provide deeper insights into performance, operational efficiency, audience engagement, and system health. Users will expect technologies that not only sound exceptional but also simplify operations and deliver measurable value. We will also see growing demand for immersive experiences across entertainment, hospitality, education, transportation, corporate environments, and public spaces. Sound will play an even more important role in shaping how people interact with physical environments.

JBL is uniquely positioned to lead this future because we combine eight decades of acoustic expertise with the innovation capabilities of HARMAN. We are investing in advanced transducer technologies, intelligent software platforms, connected system architectures, and integrated workflows that empower designers, operators, and end users alike. As we celebrate 80 years of JBL, we are incredibly proud of our legacy. But what excites me most is that we believe the next chapter of innovation may be the most transformative yet. Our mission remains the same as it has always been: to create technologies that move people through the power of sound.

JBL Updates VTX Series



JBL Professional has expanded its VTX Series with the introduction of the VTX B35 and VTX B35G compact single-enclosure subwoofers, bringing integrated directional low-frequency control to both touring and installed sound reinforcement applications.

Designed to be flown directly above VTX A12 line array systems, the VTX B35 enables clean mixed-array configurations in venues where ground-stacked subwoofers are impractical or space constrained. The single-enclosure design delivers integrated cardioid performance, reducing rearward low-frequency energy while focusing bass coverage towards the audience. By eliminating the need for rear-facing subwoofer cabinets, complex array spacing or custom-built cardioid configurations, the B35 simplifies system deployment. It also allows VTX A12 arrays to be suspended directly beneath the enclosure without requiring additional adapter frames, while maintaining compatibility with existing A12 rigging accessories, including the A12 Array Frame and A12 Suspension Bar.

At the heart of the design are three JBL Differential Drive 15-inch woofers configured

in a front-rear arrangement, with two forward-facing drivers and one rear-facing driver. Each driver section is powered independently via dedicated Crown I-Tech HD amplifier channels, enabling optimised DSP presets to deliver consistent cardioid directivity, enhanced rear rejection and focused low-frequency output without the need for additional subwoofer enclosures.

Extending low-frequency response down to 32Hz, the VTX B35 is equipped with full touring-grade rigging hardware, while the VTX B35G features 16 M10 Quick Link eyebolt mounting points for fixed installations and ground-stacked applications. Both models share the same acoustic architecture, amplifier presets, performance characteristics and NL4 connectivity. The VTX B35 Series also integrates seamlessly with JBL Professional's software ecosystem, including Venue Synthesis, Array Link and Performance Manager. Housed in outdoor-grade Baltic birch plywood enclosures with JBL's impact-resistant DuraFlex finish, stainless-steel grilles, corrosion-resistant hardware and an IP55 rating, the new subwoofers are engineered for reliable performance in demanding touring and installation environments.

Christie Announces XP Series



Christie has expanded its visual solutions portfolio with the introduction of the XP Series LED display platform alongside the latest Spyder-S 6.1 software update, delivering enhanced performance for mission-critical visualisation, live events and professional AV applications.

Designed for government facilities, immersive entertainment venues and other demanding professional environments, the XP Series LED platform supports P3 colour reproduction and a 7,680Hz refresh rate. Built on flip-chip LED technology, the displays are engineered to reduce energy consumption while incorporating Christie's VividLife processing technology to deliver accurate low-brightness rendering, enhanced grayscale performance, and consistent colour and brightness uniformity across the display in both bright and low-light conditions.

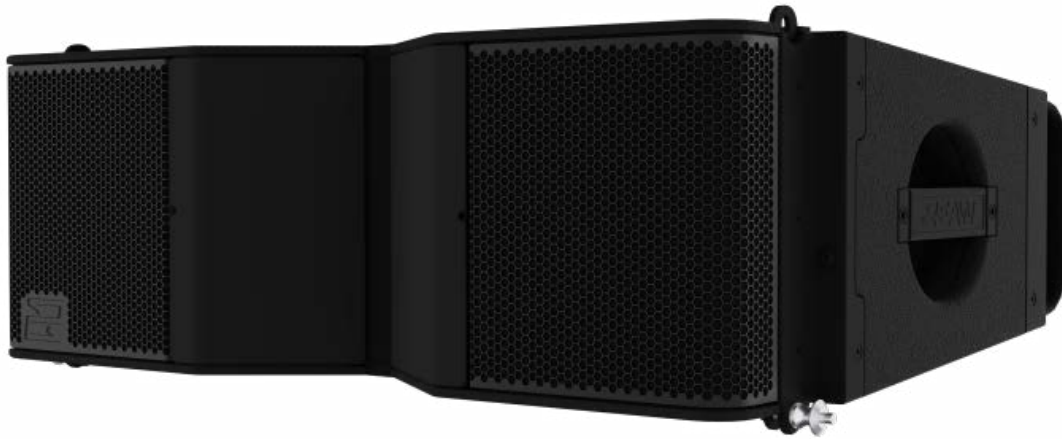
Available in pixel pitches ranging from 0.9mm to 3.8mm, the XP Series supports both flat and curved display configurations. The platform is also TAA-compliant, making it suitable for government procurement and other regulated applications.

Complementing the new LED platform is the release of Spyder-S 6.1, the latest iteration of Christie's FPGA-based video processing system. Supporting configurations from a single 1U frame to as many

as 16 linked frames, the platform is capable of managing canvases exceeding 200 million pixels while maintaining a consistent software environment regardless of system scale. The update introduces two new hardware frames that further expand system connectivity. A DisplayPort 1.4 Frame supports background inputs of up to $7,680 \times 2,160$ at 60Hz, while a new SFP Frame provides 12G-SDI and HDMI 2.0 connectivity with fibre support for long-distance signal transmission.

Spyder-S 6.1 also adds a Configuration Manager, expanded internal and external control capabilities, integrated testing tools, background and mix-effect source monitoring, and additional safeguards for live switching operations. The software enables background sources to be rendered without consuming processing layers, while source mixing can now be performed using a single layer, improving overall processing efficiency. Built around dedicated FPGA hardware to deliver low-latency performance, Spyder-S is designed for demanding applications spanning rental and staging, fixed installations, corporate events, broadcast, sports venues and large-scale entertainment productions.

EAW Extends Newport Series



EAW has expanded its Newport Series with the introduction of the NT208L active line array and NT116S active subwoofer, extending the platform's capabilities for touring, live production, permanent installation and outdoor festival applications.

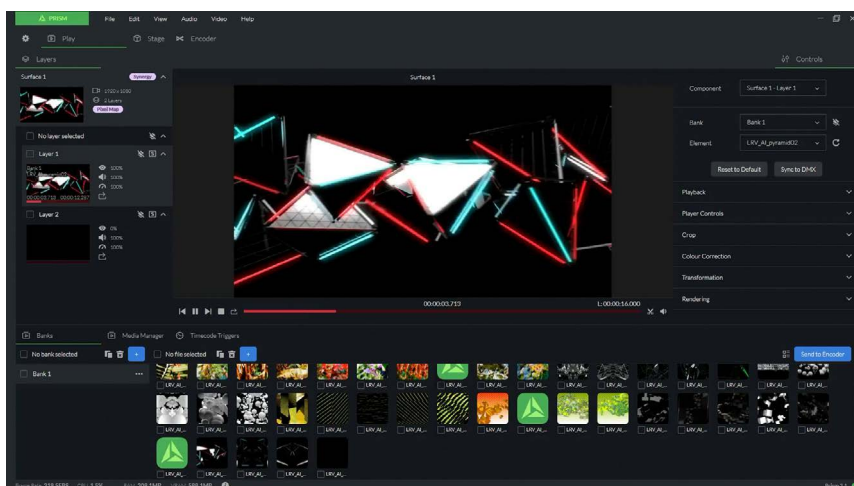
Designed to eliminate the need for external amplifier racks, the Newport Series combines integrated Class-D amplification with lightweight enclosure construction to simplify deployment while maintaining high-performance audio reproduction.

The NT208L is a dual 8-inch active line array system capable of delivering a maximum SPL of 141dB, with low-frequency extension down to 50Hz. The enclosure incorporates a 2,000W Class-D amplifier and a field-adjustable horn offering selectable 80°, 95° or 110° horizontal coverage. EAW's Adjustable Horizontal Directivity (AHD) technology further enables users to configure four horizontal coverage profiles through tool-free adjustments, providing greater flexibility to suit varying venue requirements.

Complementing the line array is the NT116S, a 16-inch active subwoofer that delivers 50% greater air displacement than a conventional 15-inch driver while integrating 4,000W of peak onboard amplification. An optional rigging accessory allows the subwoofer to be flown alongside the NT208L line array or deployed independently as a standalone low-frequency solution. The rear-mounted control panel also provides a selectable Cardioid Mode, directing low-frequency energy towards the audience while reducing bass spill onto the stage.

Constructed from a combination of Baltic birch, steel and aluminium, both enclosures are designed for demanding professional environments. Optional rain shields protect the amplifier and input sections during outdoor operation, while compatibility with EAW's new OAA software and Resolution modelling platform enables comprehensive 3D SPL prediction and detailed room optimisation for system designers and engineers.

Avolites Broadens Media Control Capabilities with Launch of Prism



Avolites has introduced Prism, a new media control platform designed to simplify the creation and management of dynamic visual content, making advanced media workflows more accessible to lighting designers, programmers and production teams.

Developed for both lighting and video professionals, Prism is designed to bridge the gap between lighting and media control by providing an intuitive, visual interface that enables users to incorporate video, screens and pixel-mapped fixtures into productions without the complexity traditionally associated with media programming.

The launch follows an extended early access programme and builds on Avolites' long-standing expertise in integrated lighting and media control. Over the past 15 years, the company's technology has been deployed across major live music productions, sporting events, broadcast projects and performances, including two Olympic opening ceremonies, as well as productions for Coldplay, Maluma, The Rio Hotel Las Vegas and The Script.

When integrated with the Avolites Titan lighting control platform through Synergy, Prism enables media control to become part of a unified show workflow, allowing lighting and media elements to be programmed and managed within the same production environment. Prism can also operate as a standalone media control platform, making it suitable for applications ranging from touring productions and

live events to theatres, clubs, museums, galleries, attractions and permanent installations.

Among its key capabilities are a visual workflow interface, Titan integration through Synergy, pixel map adjustments, timecode triggering and a Media Manager supporting multiple media formats including HAP, NotchLC and DXV. Prism also incorporates AiM encoding for smoother high-resolution playback and 10-bit colour support, while offering adaptable surfaces, layers and regions, 17 blend modes, and output options including physical outputs, NDI and RTSP.

The platform is licensed through Avolites' new AvoKey Collection and Travel Collection hardware, available in A1+, A2+, A3+, T1+, T2+ and T3 Bundle variants, with each version unlocking different numbers of display outputs based on production requirements. Avolites has also confirmed that DMX Pixels support will be introduced later this year, enabling users to control up to 4,096 pixels depending on the selected licence tier.

Bose Professional Expands Installation Portfolio with ShowTime STS118E Subwoofer



Bose Professional has expanded its installed sound portfolio with the introduction of the ShowTime STS118E, an installation-grade 18-inch subwoofer engineered to deliver powerful low-frequency performance across permanent indoor and outdoor audio installations.

Designed for music-focused and high-energy applications, the ShowTime STS118E is intended to complement high-output Bose Professional loudspeaker systems, including the AMU, AMM and Forum series, providing extended low-frequency reinforcement while maintaining consistent system voicing and simplifying system design and integration.

The new subwoofer features an 18-inch low-frequency driver housed within an installation-grade enclosure designed for both ground-stacked and flown applications. Integrated suspension points and removable feet offer

installation flexibility, while a universal pole cup supports both 35mm poles and M20-threaded poles for secure mounting of full-range loudspeakers where required.

Engineered for permanent deployment in a variety of venues, the ShowTime STS118E incorporates an IP55-rated enclosure suitable for exposed and partially exposed outdoor environments. The subwoofer will be offered in both black and white finishes, enabling integration into a broad range of architectural and performance spaces.

Scheduled to become available from October 2026, the ShowTime STS118E further expands Bose Professional's portfolio of installed sound solutions, providing system designers and integrators with a dedicated low-frequency option for applications requiring greater bass impact while maintaining compatibility across the company's wider loudspeaker ecosystem.

Analog Way Introduces CorePlay Tetra & Aquilon Cmini



Analog Way has expanded its media server and image processing portfolio with the introduction of the CorePlay Tetra media server and the Aquilon Cmini processor, extending its range of solutions for live events, corporate productions and fixed installation environments.

Designed to maximise operational efficiency, the CorePlay Tetra is a quad-output media server engineered to simplify multi-output productions while enabling users to deliver more content from a single system. Built around an operator-focused workflow, the platform is suited to applications ranging from breakout rooms and multi-screen presentations to large-format digital

canvases, combining four-output playback capabilities with an emphasis on ease of operation and streamlined production workflows.

Complementing the launch is the Aquilon Cmini, the latest addition to the company's Aquilon image processing family. Developed for both live event production and permanent installations, the compact processor brings the image quality, flexibility and reliability of the wider Aquilon platform into a smaller, space-efficient form factor, providing users with a versatile solution for applications where footprint is a key consideration.



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KLANG Announces KOS 6



KLANG has released KOS 6, the latest operating system update for its immersive in-ear mixing platform, introducing expanded console integration, enhanced workflow tools and broader compatibility across the KLANG ecosystem.

The headline addition is native integration with SSL Live consoles, allowing engineers to access KLANG's immersive mixing functions directly from the console surface. The integration also enables routing configuration, personal mixing management and per-channel EQ control within the SSL Live environment, streamlining operation during live productions.

KOS 6 further expands interoperability with the introduction of ADM-OSC support, enabling compatible immersive audio systems and mixing consoles to communicate directly with KLANG processors using standardised spatial audio control protocols.

The update also adds support for the recently introduced KLANG:1 and KLANG:1pro immersive processors. For KLANG:1pro users, Dante patching to third-party devices can now be managed directly within KLANG:app, eliminating the need to switch between multiple software platforms during system configuration.

A range of workflow enhancements has also been incorporated, including new Action Buttons that provide one-touch access to frequently used functions such as snapshot recall, mix loading and show preparation. A redesigned settings interface consolidates device configuration into a single view, while the new Batch Snapshot Editing feature enables engineers to simultaneously modify parameters such as gain, panning, mute states and Tone Filters across multiple snapshots.

KOS 6 also introduces compatibility with Bitfocus Companion, allowing KLANG processors and KLANG:app to be controlled via Stream Deck devices and other supported control surfaces.

Network management has been further simplified through new options that separate Dante audio and control networks while maintaining KLANG:kontroller connectivity without requiring VLAN configuration. In addition, the update delivers improvements to overall system performance, security and accessibility, including enhanced support for screen readers and other assistive technologies.

KLOTZ Introduces RC5HH High Flex



KLOTZ AIS has introduced the RC5HH High Flex, a rugged Cat5e network cable engineered specifically for mobile and touring applications where durability and reliable connectivity are essential.

The reelable cable is fitted with the company's H-Series RJ45 connector, housed within a stainless-steel shell to provide enhanced protection against mechanical stress. When used with the supplied silicone rubber protective caps—or mated with compatible connectors—the assembly achieves an IP65 protection rating, making it suitable for operation in dusty, damp and demanding outdoor

environments. The H-Series RJ45 connector is also fully compatible with standard RJ45 chassis connectors, enabling seamless integration into existing network and audio infrastructures.

Designed to withstand the rigours of repeated deployment, the RC5HH High Flex features a durable PUR outer jacket and an S/UTP construction with AWG26 stranded conductors, providing the flexibility and resilience required for frequent winding and unwinding. A transparent heat-shrink sleeve further allows individual cable identification, simplifying labelling and improving workflow efficiency during setup and operation.

DAS Reveals MIA Platform



DAS Audio has unveiled the MIA Series, a comprehensive installation platform that combines loudspeakers, amplification, signal processing and system control within a unified ecosystem for fixed installation applications.

The MIA Series comprises seven passive coaxial point source loudspeakers and two low-profile subwoofers, offering solutions for applications ranging from distributed background audio to installations requiring higher output levels and greater directivity control. The loudspeaker range spans 5-inch to 12-inch formats, with multiple coverage options tailored to different installation environments.

The MIA-X5 and MIA-X6 provide 120° conical dispersion, while the MIA-X8 offers 110° coverage. For applications demanding greater control, the MIA-X10 and MIA-X12 are available with either 70° × 50° or 110° × 60° coverage patterns via rotatable waveguides that can be adjusted to suit installation requirements. The MIA-X5 and MIA-X6 also feature a nominal 16Ω impedance, enabling up to eight loudspeakers to be driven from a single amplifier channel when paired with DAS Audio's recommended INTEGRAL-MA matrices.

Completing the loudspeaker range are the MIA-S110 and MIA-S115 subwoofers, housed in compact low-profile band-pass enclosures that can be installed either horizontally or vertically. The MIA-S110 additionally supports wall mounting through an optional mounting accessory, providing greater flexibility for space-constrained installations.

Powering the system is the INTEGRAL-MA series of amplified matrices, comprising six models available in two- and four-channel configurations with output ratings ranging from 250W to 750W per channel at 4Ω. Each unit integrates Class-D amplification, DSP, an audio matrix and 4×4 Dante/AES67 networking, enabling signal routing, zoning, priority management and output processing from a single hardware platform.

To ensure consistent system performance, DAS Audio has developed dedicated factory presets incorporating FIR filters and limiters for every MIA loudspeaker model, allowing multiple products from the series to be combined seamlessly within the same installation.

System configuration, monitoring and control are managed through DAS Audio's ALMA software, while the INTEGRAL-MA1002, MA1502, MA2004 and MA3004 models also feature an integrated web server supporting browser-based management via ALMAweb. The amplifier matrices are compatible with low-impedance, 70V and 100V loudspeaker systems, and support integration with third-party control platforms through OSC and GPIO interfaces.

Outline Announces ISAAC



Outline has announced the release of ISAAC Version 1.3.0, the latest update to its multi-platform control application for Newton, its patented FPGA-based digital signal processor.

The company says the update introduces significant enhancements to the DSP engine, with refined number-crunching routines delivering greater accuracy and efficiency across the EQ section. These improvements extend to phase response handling across all filter types, alongside an enhanced graphical interface and a deeper zoom function for more precise system tuning.

Beyond the processing enhancements, Outline has also focused on improving the overall user experience. The update introduces new dialogue functions for Input and Output Patch assignments, providing more responsive user feedback, as well as a new 'Ripple' feature that recursively cascades multiple channel elements, enabling faster and more streamlined system configuration.

The company has further expanded ISAAC's serviceability with two new support-oriented features. Users can now report software bugs directly from within the application via a dedicated web form, while a new Newton 'Status Dump' function exports a complete snapshot of a processor's operating parameters, allowing Outline's support team to perform detailed remote diagnostics without requiring a direct connection to the hardware.

Completing the update is a small but practical workflow enhancement, with the software's 'About' section now displaying a concise summary of the latest features and improvements. According to Outline, the addition provides users with immediate visibility of recent changes without the need to consult separate version log files, further reinforcing Newton's fast and efficient workflow for live sound professionals.

Riedel Expands SimplyLive Control Capabilities with Official SKAARHOJ Panel Integration



Riedel Communications has expanded the control capabilities of its SimplyLive production platform through a new collaboration with **SKAARHOJ** introducing official support for SKAARHOJ control panels in the latest SimplyLive 2.1 software release.

The integration adds a dedicated tactile switcher panel option to SimplyLive workflows, complementing the platform's touchscreen interface and existing RCU-based workflows. Designed in response to customer demand, the new capability provides live production operators with the speed, familiarity and confidence of a traditional hardware switcher panel, particularly in fast-paced production environments.

With SKAARHOJ panels, SimplyLive users can control a range of live production functions, including source switching, programme output switching, transitions, auxiliary output control, keying, graphics and macros.

To simplify deployment, Riedel and SKAARHOJ are also providing a curated

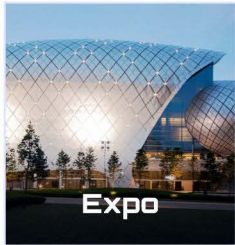
starting configuration that enables users to get operational quickly while retaining the flexibility to customise workflows to suit individual production requirements.

The SimplyLive 2.1 release introduces official support for SKAARHOJ panels through a gRPC API, enabling responsive communication between the control panel and the SimplyLive ViBox application. In addition to the new panel integration, the update includes several workflow enhancements and introduces a new Venue Gateway licence for SimplyLive Production Suite Flex customers, allowing the same server hardware to support Venue Gateway applications alongside All-in-One, Replay, Ingest and Review workflows.

Riedel has also made additional SimplyLive resources, including the curated starting configuration, available through the MyRiedel portal, while implementation guidance for the SKAARHOJ integration is included in the SimplyLive 2.1 user guide.

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Making Every Megahertz Count

Technologies, innovations and engineering philosophies driving the next generation of professional wireless microphone systems



Have you ever considered just how much technology is at work every time a performer steps on stage with a wireless microphone?

Once regarded simply as a cable-free alternative, today's wireless systems, especially flagship platforms, have evolved into sophisticated digital ecosystems that combine pristine audio transmission, intelligent RF management, low-latency networking, remote monitoring, encryption and increasingly software-defined functionality. As productions become larger, venues more RF-dense and audience expectations continue to rise, the wireless ecosystem has become a mission-critical component underpinning everything from stadium concerts and broadcast productions to theatres, houses of worship, corporate events and immersive experiences.

Nowhere is this evolution more evident than across the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions. The continued expansion of live entertainment, major sporting events, integrated resorts, broadcast infrastructure and premium corporate venues is driving unprecedented demand for dependable wireless audio solutions. Market analysts estimate that the Asia-Pacific wireless microphone market generated approximately US\$600 million in 2025 and is forecast to exceed US\$1.2 billion by 2033, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of ~9.7%. India, in particular, is projected to be among the region's fastest-growing markets, with an anticipated CAGR of ~10.8% through 2033 as investments in live entertainment, broadcast and professional AV continue to accelerate.

Yet growth alone tells only part of the story. The wireless landscape is becoming increasingly complex as available RF spectrum continues to shrink, productions deploy ever-higher channel counts, and users demand uncompromising reliability in environments saturated with wireless devices. Manufacturers are therefore investing heavily in innovations such as advanced digital modulation, wider tuning bandwidths, intelligent frequency coordination, networked control platforms, enhanced encryption, longer battery life and seamless integration with broader audio ecosystems. The objective is no longer simply to eliminate cables, but to deliver predictable, scalable and interference-resistant performance regardless of application or venue.

Against this backdrop, Entertainment Technology Asia spoke with four of the industry's leading manufacturers — **Audio-Technica**, **DPA Microphones**, **Shure**, **Sennheiser**, — to explore how they are redefining wireless microphone technology, the innovations setting their current portfolios apart, and the trends that will shape the next generation of untethered audio solutions.

Beyond Transmission

Today's wireless solutions are no longer judged solely by their ability to transmit audio wirelessly. Instead, they are increasingly evaluated on how intelligently they integrate into broader production ecosystems, simplify increasingly complex workflows and adapt to rapidly changing RF environments. And against this backdrop, manufacturers are no longer competing simply to build better wireless microphones; they are competing to create complete wireless ecosystems capable of delivering greater flexibility, scalability and intelligence across every stage of a production.



For **Francis Lai, Business Development Manager, DPA Microphones**, the industry's technological evolution should

never come at the expense of the one characteristic upon which the company's reputation has long been built: sonic transparency. Rather than introducing digital processing that alters or colours the original sound, DPA's philosophy behind its **N-Series Digital Wireless Microphone System** is centred on preserving the authentic character of the microphone capsule throughout the entire transmission chain.

"The DPA N-Series Digital Wireless Microphone System was developed with one primary objective: to preserve the renowned transparency and sonic accuracy of DPA microphones throughout the signal chain. Rather than introduce coloration or alter the character of the microphone, N-Series delivers a faithful representation of the original sound source—from capsule to receiver," explains Francis.



DPA N-Series Digital Wireless Microphone System.

Recognising that modern productions must increasingly contend with congested RF environments, DPA has combined wideband tuning with True Diversity reception to improve spectrum agility while maintaining stable RF performance. Native Dante connectivity further enables seamless integration into networked audio infrastructures, while AES256 encryption addresses the growing need for secure audio transmission in sensitive environments such as corporate installations, government facilities and broadcast operations.

Equally noteworthy is DPA's emphasis on operational simplicity. By streamlining frequency management and deployment, the N-Series allows engineers to spend less time coordinating wireless systems and more time focusing on the production itself—an increasingly valuable proposition as productions continue to grow in both scale and complexity.



Roland Lim,
Sales Director,
Sennheiser
Asia, believes the industry's next major leap lies in fundamentally rethinking how

wireless audio systems are architected. Traditionally, wireless microphones and in-ear monitoring systems have existed as two distinct infrastructures, each requiring separate RF planning, coordination and management. As productions become increasingly channel-intensive, this separation introduces unnecessary complexity that consumes both valuable spectrum and engineering resources.

Sennheiser's answer is **Spectera** — described as the world's first wideband,

bidirectional wireless audio ecosystem — which consolidates microphones, in-ear monitoring and control data within a single RF architecture. Rather than allocating fixed frequencies to individual devices, Spectera dynamically distributes bandwidth according to operational requirements, enabling significantly more efficient spectrum utilisation while simultaneously supporting two-way audio and data communication.



Sennheiser Spectera.

"Rather than treating wireless microphones and in-ear monitoring as separate systems, Spectera brings them together within a single RF channel, fundamentally changing how wireless audio is deployed and managed. By dynamically allocating bandwidth where it is needed, the system uses spectrum more efficiently while supporting both audio and data transmission in both directions," says Roland.

Bidirectional communication enables continuous remote monitoring and control of bodypacks, giving engineers unprecedented visibility into system status while significantly reducing setup times and operational complexity. Instead of dedicating valuable attention to frequency coordination and device management, engineers are free to concentrate on delivering exceptional audience experiences. According to Sennheiser, this approach represents a broader industry movement

away from isolated wireless products and towards intelligent, software-defined wireless ecosystems designed to simplify deployment while maximising operational flexibility.

Manufacturers are placing renewed emphasis on spectrum agility, deployment flexibility and intelligent workflow optimisation. And continued spectrum reallocation coupled with the proliferation of wireless devices have significantly increased pressure on available RF resources, making technologies that improve frequency coordination and spectrum efficiency increasingly critical to professional wireless operations.



To this effect, **Gerald Lee, Associate Manager, Market Development, Shure Southeast Asia & Pacific,** explains that one

of the most significant advances shaping modern wireless technology is the industry's move towards wide tuning, which allows engineers to access substantially larger portions of the RF spectrum and offers greater flexibility when coordinating multiple wireless channels and reducing the impact of local interference. Modern wireless systems can adapt to changing regulatory requirements while supporting deployment across a much broader range of venues and applications.

"Rather than being restricted to narrow frequency bands of 24 MHz or 36 MHz, modern wide tuning systems can cover ranges of 100 MHz, 138 MHz or even 184 MHz, depending on regional regulations and system specifications," Gerald explains. "The broader tuning range provides easier frequency coordination, improved

compatibility across different locations and greater confidence when deploying systems in challenging RF conditions."

These capabilities are reflected across Shure's professional wireless portfolio, including **SLX-D+, ULX-D, ANX4, Axient Digital and Axient Digital PSM**, all of which have been engineered to provide greater operational freedom in increasingly unpredictable RF environments. Wider tuning enables engineers to scan larger portions of the spectrum, increase available coordination options, rapidly move away from interference and deploy the same equipment across multiple venues and geographical regions.



Shure Axient Digital.

Beyond immediate operational benefits, Gerald also views wide tuning as an important means of protecting customers' long-term investments, allowing systems to remain viable even as spectrum regulations continue to evolve. In many respects, Shure's philosophy highlights an increasingly important reality: future-ready wireless systems are no longer defined solely by today's performance, but by their ability to adapt to tomorrow's RF landscape.

The benchmark for innovation, however, extends well beyond RF resilience; to include seamless integration into demanding



production workflows, according to **Tan Weixiang, Technical Application Engineer, Audio-Technica SEA.**

"We most recently launched the D50 Digital UHF Wireless System, which exemplifies our commitment to delivering exceptional performance, reliability, and user-focused design for demanding professional environments. The D50 combines robust RF performance with advanced networking and workflow efficiencies," says Weixiang. "By combining high-density RF performance, open network integration and Audio-Technica's renowned transducer expertise, the D50 delivers a wireless solution that is reliable, scalable and engineered for outstanding acoustic performance in professional AV, broadcast and live production environments."

The result is lower infrastructure costs, simplified cabling and significantly improved rack efficiency; factors that are increasingly important for rental companies, broadcasters and live production providers working within constrained technical spaces.

In tow, integrated per-channel DSP — including onboard EQ and compression — allows signal optimisation directly at the receiver before audio enters the network, while the native SideTrack function provides presenters with an instant talkback path to the audio engineer without requiring additional communications hardware. Complementing these workflow enhancements is the company's long-standing transducer-first philosophy, which recognises that superior DSP can never compensate for poor acoustic capture at the source. Combined with a proprietary low-latency 2.1 ms digital codec, MRC True Diversity reception and native 24-bit/96 kHz Dante output, the D50 exemplifies how contemporary wireless innovation increasingly encompasses every stage of the signal chain—from microphone capsule and RF transmission through to network integration and console workflows.



Audio-Technica D50 Digital UHF Wireless System.

Introduced as a solution for high-density, mission-critical applications, the **Digital UHF Wireless System** has been engineered to maximise channel density while reducing infrastructure requirements. Its High-Density mode supports up to 47 simultaneous channels within a single 6 MHz TV channel without intermodulation issues, while four receivers can be daisy-chained using a single antenna pair to deliver eight channels of Dante audio in just 1RU of rack space.

Collectively, the perspectives shared by DPA, Shure, Sennheiser and Audio-Technica reveal a defining shift in the evolution of professional wireless microphones. While uncompromising audio quality and dependable RF performance remain non-negotiable, today's leading manufacturers are differentiating themselves through intelligent ecosystem design, spectrum agility, network interoperability, cybersecurity, workflow simplification and long-term scalability; all designed to help engineers navigate increasingly complex production environments with greater confidence, efficiency and flexibility.

But it is against this backdrop that another equally pressing challenge emerges: how manufacturers are addressing the relentless pressures of spectrum congestion and ensuring dependable, interference-free operation across an increasingly crowded wireless landscape.

The Changing Face Of Demand

The market today is home to a new generation of users who are evaluating wireless microphone systems not merely as audio devices, but as intelligent, networked assets capable of supporting increasingly complex operational environments. And while each manufacturer identifies different demand drivers, all four agree that customer expectations have fundamentally changed. Organisations are investing not only in better wireless performance, but also in systems that simplify deployment, improve operational visibility and integrate seamlessly into modern networked production environments.

For **Francis**, the transition towards next-generation wireless systems is undoubtedly underway, although adoption across the region remains measured rather than immediate, as he notes "Manufacturers have introduced a new generation of digital wireless microphone systems that feature advanced digital technologies, such as ultra-wideband tuning, expanded frequency coverage that extends beyond 900MHz and higher channel counts within a single receiver. While these innovations represent an important step forward, adoption across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) has been gradual and we expect the market to continue evolving as users become more familiar with the benefits that these technologies provide."

DPA also observes an interesting distinction between market sectors. Broadcast

organisations, major rental companies, theatres, large-scale live productions and system integrators often demonstrate strong loyalty towards established wireless ecosystems, largely because of the operational familiarity and reliability demanded by mission-critical applications. Conversely, sectors such as houses of worship, education and commercial installations tend to evaluate systems more pragmatically, balancing performance, functionality and budget while remaining open to newer technologies.

Looking ahead, Francis expects continued spectrum limitations to accelerate demand for wideband platforms capable of delivering greater RF agility, improved spectrum efficiency and easier deployment across a broad spectrum of professional applications.

Roland sees similar momentum across Asia-Pacific, although from a different perspective, stating "Across the Asia-Pacific region, we are seeing growing interest in next-generation wireless technologies as customers look for more efficient ways to manage increasingly complex productions. There is strong curiosity around new approaches that improve spectrum efficiency and simplify operation. Customers are looking beyond pure audio performance and placing greater value on systems that reduce setup time, streamline monitoring and offer greater remote monitoring capabilities."

According to Roland, this demand is being driven by an exceptionally diverse customer base, including performance venues, houses of worship, broadcasters, corporate event providers and mid-to-large rental companies. Despite their varied applications, these users share a common challenge: managing more wireless channels than

ever before within increasingly congested RF environments. Consequently, spectrum efficiency, simplified coordination and scalable wireless infrastructures have become essential purchasing considerations. Roland believes this represents a fundamental shift away from viewing wireless microphones as standalone products and towards adopting intelligent wireless ecosystems capable of improving productivity while maintaining the high levels of reliability demanded by professional productions.

Shure similarly identifies growing demand for digital wireless ecosystems, although **Gerald** notes that the market's expansion is being fuelled by an increasingly diverse range of applications, as he points to the rapid growth of streaming, podcasting and content creation as important contributors to the adoption of advanced wireless technologies. Organisations are also placing greater emphasis on systems that deliver scalability, flexibility and robust RF performance while remaining capable of adapting to changing spectrum regulations.

"Customers are increasingly standardizing on digital wireless ecosystems that offer wide tuning ranges, enhanced security, remote management and easier frequency coordination," Gerald explains. "We are also seeing stronger demand for scalable platforms that can be deployed across multiple venues, regions and applications, helping organisations future-proof their investments."

From Shure's perspective, purchasing decisions increasingly reflect broader operational priorities, including long-term investment protection, simplified system management and the ability to deploy common wireless infrastructures across multiple venues and geographical regions.

This emphasis on future-ready platforms mirrors the wider transition towards software-defined, network-enabled wireless ecosystems first highlighted in the previous section.

On the other hand, **Weixiang** notes that over the past 18 months, customers have been evaluating wireless microphones less as isolated audio devices and more as critical network endpoints within integrated digital infrastructures. This convergence has accelerated demand for Audio-over-IP, centralised system management, enhanced cybersecurity and highly efficient RF architectures capable of supporting increasingly dense deployments.

"Wireless microphones are no longer evaluated as standalone acoustic tools, but as critical, networked endpoints within modern enterprise and campus infrastructure," says Weixiang. "Overall, buyers across Southeast Asia are prioritising spectral efficiency, network compatibility and remote IT manageability above all else."

Weixiang identifies several sectors driving this transformation, including corporate enterprise, higher education, live events and houses of worship. Across each of these verticals, users are increasingly prioritising high-channel-count digital UHF systems, Dante and AES67 compatibility, enterprise-grade AES-256 encryption and lithium-ion charging ecosystems that improve sustainability while reducing operational costs. Equally significant is the continued rollout of 5G services across Southeast Asia, which is compressing traditional UHF spectrum and encouraging integrators to adopt high-density digital RF architectures capable of accommodating more simultaneous channels within increasingly limited spectral resources.



Future wireless microphone systems must deliver greater channel density, improved interference immunity and enhanced operational flexibility using progressively less spectrum. This pix was generated using ChatGPT for illustrative purpose only.

Engineering Reliability

If there is one challenge that unites every wireless microphone manufacturer today, it is the relentless pressure on usable radio frequency spectrum. Across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, the explosive growth of mobile broadband, expanding 4G and 5G deployments, Wi-Fi proliferation and the ever-increasing number of wireless production devices have transformed RF coordination into one of the most technically demanding aspects of modern live productions. Thanks to this, the practical implication for audio engineers is clear: future wireless microphone systems must deliver greater channel density, improved interference immunity and enhanced operational flexibility using progressively less spectrum. This challenge, however, has become one of the industry's most powerful catalysts for innovation.

Francis shares that maintaining RF reliability begins with giving engineers greater flexibility to operate beyond increasingly congested portions of the spectrum; as he explains, "Reliability is equally important. N-Series combines wideband tuning with True Diversity reception, giving users greater flexibility

to find clean frequencies while maintaining stable performance in increasingly congested RF environments. Its wide tuning range provides access to additional spectrum when conventional frequencies become crowded."

DPA's approach reflects a broader engineering philosophy that prioritises stability without adding unnecessary operational complexity. Intuitive frequency coordination enables engineers to deploy systems quickly while reducing the likelihood of interference-related issues during live productions. Native Dante networking further simplifies integration into modern Audio-over-IP infrastructures, while AES256 encryption ensures secure audio transmission where confidentiality is essential. Francis believes that reliability should not come at the expense of usability; rather, sophisticated RF technologies should remain largely invisible to the user, allowing engineers to focus on the production rather than the wireless system itself.

Roland, on the other hand, believes the industry must fundamentally rethink how spectrum itself is utilised, as he notes, "Solutions that simplify deployment while maximising spectrum efficiency will define the next generation of professional wireless

audio. By dynamically allocating bandwidth where it is needed, the Spectera system uses spectrum more efficiently while supporting both audio and data transmission in both directions."

Instead of assigning fixed frequencies to individual devices, Sennheiser's Spectera dynamically allocates bandwidth according to real-time operational requirements, enabling microphones, in-ear monitors and control data to coexist within a single wideband RF channel. The significance of this architecture extends beyond simply increasing channel counts. Bidirectional communication enables continuous monitoring of connected bodypacks, remote parameter adjustment and enhanced system diagnostics without requiring separate wireless control infrastructures. This not only reduces RF congestion but also gives engineers unprecedented visibility over system health during complex productions; allowing them to manage system parameters and respond quickly to changing production conditions without interrupting performers.

Rather than asking engineers to continuously adapt to changing RF environments, Spectera enables the wireless ecosystem itself to respond dynamically; an approach that Roland believes represents a fundamental shift in how professional wireless systems will be designed in the future.

Gerald, notes that effective spectrum management begins long before a production starts. As regulators continue to repurpose valuable UHF spectrum for other wireless services, professional users require systems capable of operating across much broader tuning ranges than ever before. Shure's response has been the continued evolution of wideband wireless platforms such as SLX-D+, ULX-D, ANX4, Axient Digital and Axient

Digital PSM, supported by sophisticated coordination software that simplifies large-scale deployments.

"The broader tuning range available in modern wide tuning systems provide several practical benefits, including easier frequency coordination, improved compatibility across different locations, and greater confidence when deploying systems in challenging RF conditions. Ultimately, wide tuning technology gives users greater operational freedom. It enables deployment in a wider variety of environments, provides flexibility to address interference issues, supports system expansion, and helps protect technology investments" observes Gerald.

Complementing these hardware innovations is Wireless Workbench, Shure's professional RF coordination platform, which enables engineers to scan, coordinate and continuously monitor hundreds of wireless channels from a single interface. Combined with the intelligent spectrum management capabilities of the Axient ecosystem, Gerald believes these technologies reduce both deployment time and operational risk while ensuring long-term investment protection as regional spectrum allocations continue to evolve. Rather than simply adding more frequencies, Shure's strategy is centred on helping engineers make better use of the frequencies that remain available.

Approaching the topic from an engineering efficiency perspective, **Weixiang** points to the fact since that high-channel-count productions increasingly operate within constrained RF environments, Audio-Technica's D50 Digital UHF Wireless System incorporates a dedicated High-Density mode capable of accommodating up to 47 simultaneous channels within a single 6 MHz television channel, while eliminating

intermodulation concerns that have traditionally complicated dense wireless deployments.

Weixiang notes, "High-Density mode combined with MRC (Maximal Ratio Combining) True Diversity technology and our low-latency digital codec allows the D50 to deliver exceptional RF stability in demanding professional environments. Built-in AES256 encryption, TAA compliance, and EU cybersecurity compliance ensures signal privacy for sensitive environments; while integrated onboard spectrum analysis, built-in DSP (EQ/compression), and A-T's Wireless Manager software let engineers coordinate, monitor, and optimize channels before interference ever impacts a performance."

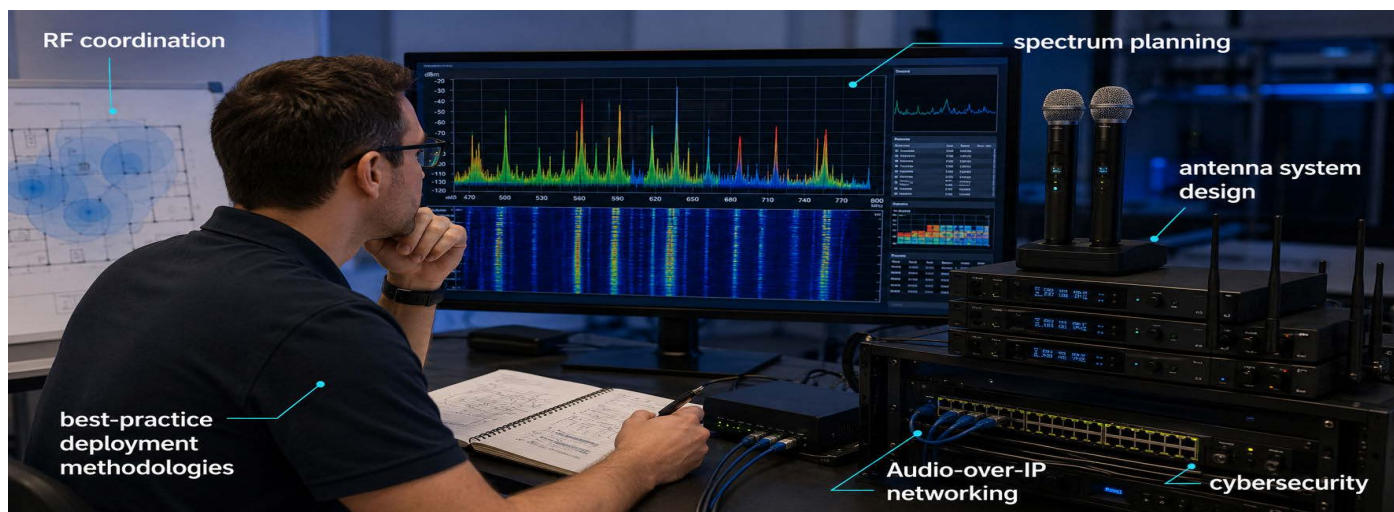
Beyond raw channel density, Audio-Technica has focused on reducing the infrastructure typically associated with large wireless systems. Four receivers can be daisy-chained using a single antenna pair, significantly reducing rack space, antenna distribution hardware and cabling complexity while delivering native 24-bit/96 kHz Dante audio. The company's proprietary MRC True Diversity architecture

continuously combines signals from multiple receiver paths, improving reception stability in environments prone to multipath interference. Complemented by a low-latency 2.1 ms digital codec and enterprise-ready networking, the D50 demonstrates how intelligent RF engineering can simultaneously improve reliability, workflow efficiency and overall system scalability.

The Human Connection

The remarkable technological progress witnessed across today's wireless microphone landscape has undoubtedly expanded the capabilities of professional audio systems. Yet, one equally important reality remains: even the most advanced wireless ecosystem is only as effective as the engineers responsible for deploying it. Wideband tuning, high-density channel coordination, networked audio, remote device management, encrypted transmission and software-defined workflows all offer tremendous operational advantages; but only when users possess the technical knowledge to harness their full potential.

In response, manufacturer-backed training and education schedules now are no longer



Educating engineers is no longer confined to basic product familiarisation. They should encompass RF coordination, spectrum planning, Audio-over-IP networking, cybersecurity, antenna system design and best-practice deployment methodologies. Image created via ChatGPT for illustration purpose.

confined to basic product familiarisation. Instead, they encompass RF coordination, spectrum planning, Audio-over-IP networking, cybersecurity, antenna system design and best-practice deployment methodologies.

According to **Francis**, the successful deployment of even highly intuitive and user-friendly platforms like DPA's N-Series Digital Wireless Microphone System ultimately depends not only on understanding the system's functionality, but also on appreciating the RF principles and deployment strategies that underpin reliable performance.

"DPA's Microphone University is one example of how our company helps customers build knowledge through free educational resources that cover wireless microphone technologies, RF best practices and troubleshooting. Our comprehensive six-part guide on wireless microphone and RF troubleshooting provides practical information that takes users from theory to real-world deployment. In addition, DPA's regional offices offer technical support, product training and hands-on education for everyone from first-time users to advanced wireless systems integration and rental experts," says Francis.

To support this objective, DPA works closely with its distribution partners and system integrators to deliver technical product demonstrations, hands-on workshops and practical application training across multiple market segments. Rather than concentrating solely on product features, these programmes focus on real-world deployment scenarios, helping engineers develop confidence in configuring networked audio systems, coordinating frequencies and optimising wireless performance across applications; thereby enabling users to spend

less time troubleshooting technology and more time focusing on delivering exceptional productions.

In the same stead, **Roland** affirms that education has become even more critical as wireless systems evolve from isolated RF devices into integrated software-driven ecosystems; especially considering technologies such as Spectera which require engineers to think differently about wireless architecture.

"Introducing new innovations is only one part of the equation; ensuring that users understand how to design, deploy and optimise these systems is equally critical. With Spectera, education takes on an even greater role because it introduces a new way of thinking about wireless audio. Helping users understand the benefits of wideband, bidirectional operation enables them to fully leverage the system's capabilities and rethink traditional wireless workflows" Roland explains.

Sennheiser has therefore invested heavily in structured training initiatives delivered through regional demonstrations, workshops, technical seminars, certification programmes, and hands-on training sessions delivered by their technical application engineering teams and supported by the brand's distribution partner network across the Asia-Pacific region.

These initiatives extend beyond product instruction to encompass RF planning, workflow optimisation and practical deployment strategies for large-scale productions; hence equipping engineers, consultants, system integrators, rental companies, broadcasters and end users, with a deeper understanding of modern wireless

ecosystems and greater confidence to improve production efficiency.

According to **Gerald**, the accelerating pace of technological development makes continuous learning essential for every professional working with wireless audio, as he notes, "Expertise and best practices are essential for ensuring consistent performance, and to help industry professionals develop these skills, Shure invests in a broad range of educational and training programs. By pairing technological innovation with continuous learning opportunities, Shure aims to help customers and partners maximize system performance, streamline operations, and gain long-term value from their wireless audio investments."

Supporting customers throughout this journey, Shure offers an extensive portfolio of educational resources that includes online courses, certification pathways, instructor-led workshops, webinars, and regional training sessions tailored to the needs of AV practitioners, integration partners, consultants, and end customers that are delivered in collaboration with distribution partners. These initiatives address subjects ranging from as RF planning, wireless system optimization, and networked audio technologies, to Wireless Workbench software, spectrum coordination and large-scale system deployment.

Gerald emphasises that education is as an ongoing process that evolves alongside both technology and regulatory developments, ensuring users remain equipped to manage increasingly sophisticated wireless infrastructures.

Weixiang, on the other hand, notes that engineers today are expected not only to understand microphones and RF principles,

but also Dante networking, IP addressing, cybersecurity, AES67 interoperability and broader enterprise infrastructure — disciplines that traditionally existed outside conventional audio engineering.

"Technical training and certification play a crucial role in maximizing wireless systems reliability, minimizing RF dropouts, and ensuring seamless operation for system integrators, operators, and end-user administrators alike. At Audio-Technica, we believe the most effective learning takes place through hands-on, interactive training. We offer webinars and in-person training sessions and by working directly with our customers and partners, we foster open communication, practical knowledge sharing, and collaborative problem-solving to ensure participants gain the confidence and skills to deploy wireless microphone systems successfully" says Tan.

Audio-Technica addresses these evolving requirements through comprehensive technical seminars, certified training programmes and application-focused workshops designed for consultants, system integrators, broadcasters and live production professionals. Particular emphasis is placed on practical deployment techniques, Dante/AVoIP networking & routing, RF optimisation and system troubleshooting, enabling engineers to translate technical theory into real-world operational expertise.

Tomorrow Starts Today

With radio spectrum continuing to shrink in many parts of the world, while productions simultaneously demand higher channel counts, lower latency and greater operational flexibility; manufacturers are reimagining wireless architecture from the ground up. And central to this is

WMAS (Wireless Multichannel Audio Systems), a technology framework that promises significantly more efficient use of available spectrum through wideband operation and dynamic resource allocation. Rather than treating every microphone as an isolated wireless device, future systems will intelligently distribute bandwidth across entire productions while simultaneously supporting audio, monitoring and control data.

Industry experts believe that WMAS will be a critical in ensuring that future systems won't simply coexist with increasingly crowded RF environments; but actively manage, optimise and intelligently utilise every available resource. It is a vision shared by all four manufacturers, although each envisages that future from a distinctly different perspective.

Francis anticipates continued advances in digital transmission, wider tuning bandwidths and increasingly sophisticated RF management, but believes these developments must always support the core philosophy of uncompromised sonic transparency.

"Wireless microphone technology will continue to move toward systems with greater agility. Ultra-wideband tuning and extended frequency coverage beyond 900MHz (where regulations permit) and improved spectrum efficiency will likely be the trend going forward as users look for greater flexibility in changing RF environments. Beyond RF performance, users will expect wireless systems to integrate seamlessly into networked audio infrastructures, provide robust encryption for security-sensitive applications and simplify frequency coordination through more intelligent monitoring and management tools. Ultimately, the industry's focus will

be on helping users achieve dependable performance in increasingly complex RF environments while also developing systems that are easier to deploy, manage and scale across applications" says Francis.

On the other hand, **Roland** believes conventional point-to-point wireless systems will gradually give way to unified wireless ecosystems capable of dynamically allocating resources according to real-time production requirements.

"Over the next five years, we expect systems to become increasingly intelligent, connected and software-driven, giving users greater visibility and control throughout an entire production. We believe the industry will continue moving towards integrated wireless ecosystems that bring together wireless microphones, in-ear monitoring and system management, while enabling remote monitoring, real-time diagnostics and more streamlined operation. Interoperability and scalability will also become increasingly important. Ultimately, the future of professional wireless audio will not be defined solely by sound quality, but by how intelligently systems integrate into modern production workflows, helping users work with greater confidence, flexibility and efficiency" observes Roland.

Gerald expects a healthy mix of software, automation, intelligent spectrum management, and AI among other to become defining characteristics of next-generation wireless ecosystems.

"Technologies such as expanded tuning ranges, smarter frequency management, and enhanced RF reliability are expected to play an increasingly important role. Another major area of development will be the convergence of wireless audio with IT and networked AV

ecosystems. There's a greater emphasis on centralized control, remote system monitoring, and seamless interoperability across devices and locations. As a result, future wireless platforms are likely to incorporate stronger cybersecurity measures, cloud-based management capabilities, and data-driven tools that simplify system administration. AI-powered capabilities could help automate tasks such as frequency planning, interference mitigation, system diagnostics, and performance optimization. These advances will allow users to deploy and manage complex wireless setups more efficiently while improving overall reliability," notes Gerald.

Weixiang shares a similar perspective, while pointing to the possibility of autonomous operation, stronger cybersecurity and increasingly efficient resource management; as he shares, "Wideband Multichannel Audio Systems (WMAS) will redefine wireless audio by enabling bidirectional bodypacks capable of simultaneously supporting microphones, in-ear monitors (IEMs), and control data within a single RF channel, improving spectrum efficiency and operational flexibility; while AI and machine learning will automate real-time frequency coordination, predict potential RF conflicts before they occur, and deliver intelligent, sound-specific noise reduction for clearer, more reliable audio."

Weixiang further adds, "On the other hand, centralized cloud platforms will enable AV and IT teams to remotely configure, monitor, update, and troubleshoot entire wireless microphone fleets from a unified dashboard, providing real-time system insights, proactive alerts, and simplified management across multiple locations. Finally, DECT NR+ is a next-generation wireless technology offering reliable, low-latency and high-density private communication that Audio-Technica could utilise for future wireless conference systems, intercoms and other networked audio products. Its first practical application would be conference and corporate audio, with potential expansion into professional wireless systems as technology matures."

Although each manufacturer approaches the future from a unique technological perspective, their visions converge around a common destination. Whether through software-defined RF architectures, AI-assisted optimisation, cloud connectivity, enhanced networking or increasingly efficient spectrum utilisation, tomorrow's wireless systems will be judged not merely by how well they transmit sound, but by how intelligently they support every aspect of a production. For engineers, integrators and production professionals across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, the future promises not simply better wireless microphone systems; but smarter ones.

— “ —

Today's wireless solutions are no longer judged solely by their ability to transmit audio wirelessly. Instead, they are increasingly evaluated on how intelligently they integrate into broader production ecosystems, simplify increasingly complex workflows and adapt to rapidly changing RF environments.

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INDIA

Cinema Meets Light

Claypaky Fixtures Drive Cinematic Lighting Across India's Latest Film and Music Productions



Claypaky lighting fixtures continue to feature prominently across India's entertainment industry, with a range of the manufacturer's luminaires helping shape the visual identity of several recent music videos and feature films. Lighting Designers Imran Shaikh and Naresh Bhutedia of **Light Craft & Sound Pvt. Ltd.** Mumbai deployed an extensive selection of Claypaky fixtures across multiple high-profile productions spanning music, cinema and live performance.

Naresh Bhutedia served as Lighting Designer for singer-songwriter Anuv Jain's music video *Arz Kiya Hai* and the feature film *Deva*, utilising Claypaky luminaires to create distinctly different visual environments tailored to each production.

For *Arz Kiya Hai*, which combines studio and live performance sequences, Bhutedia specified 15 Claypaky Tambora fixtures alongside 10 Sharpy X Frame luminaires to complement the intimate tone of the ballad.

"The approach was minimal yet emotionally immersive," he explained. "We used Claypaky fixtures to create soft, atmospheric looks that complemented the music style. The precision in beam control and color consistency helped us achieve clean transitions and subtle mood shifts without overpowering the artist's presence on stage."

For the crime drama *Deva*, the lighting design shifted towards a more energetic visual language, with 40 Sharpy X Frame fixtures delivering dynamic aerial effects and high-impact beam work.



"The requirement was more dynamic and high-energy, and Claypaky lights were instrumental in delivering sharp beams, fast movements and impactful aerial effects," Bhutedia said. "The reliability and output of the fixtures allowed us to execute complex cues seamlessly, especially during high-intensity sequences."

Reflecting on both productions, he added that the fixtures provided the versatility required to transition between cinematic subtlety and concert-style intensity. "They gave us the flexibility to move between cinematic, soft looks and powerful concert visuals with ease." Lighting Designer Imran Shaikh also relied extensively on Claypaky fixtures across several recent film productions, including the music video Bijuria from the romantic comedy Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, the musical romance Saiyaara and the title track of Son of Sardaar 2.



For Bijuria, Shaikh specified 30 Claypaky Mythos and 25 Sharpy X Frame fixtures to create an atmospheric visual aesthetic.

"The lighting approach was rooted in creating a rich, atmospheric visual tone," he noted. "Claypaky fixtures helped us achieve precise beam control and smooth color transitions, allowing us to enhance the depth and mood of the frames while maintaining a cinematic aesthetic."



The larger-scale production *Saiyaara* employed 116 Mythos, 56 Volero Wave and 24 Tambora Flash fixtures to deliver expansive lighting effects suited to the film's energetic musical sequences.

"The scale and energy of the project required powerful output and dynamic versatility," Shaikh reported. "Claypaky lights played a key role in delivering strong beams, wide coverage and fast movements, which were essential for executing large-scale sequences and high-impact visuals. Their reliability during long shooting schedules was especially valuable."

Meanwhile, the title track for *Son of Sardaar 2* utilised more than 70 Mythos fixtures to create stylised cinematic looks across a variety of shooting environments.

"The focus was more on stylized visuals and controlled lighting environments," said Shaikh. "Claypaky fixtures allowed us to craft clean, defined looks with excellent color consistency, helping us maintain continuity across different setups and shooting conditions."

Summarising his experience across the productions, Shaikh concluded that the lighting systems "gave us the flexibility to move seamlessly between subtle, mood-driven lighting and bold, performance-oriented visuals."

AUSTRALIA

Workflow Without Limits

DiGiCo Quantum Consoles Anchor Global Workflow for Laufey's A Matter of Time Tour



DiGiCo Quantum mixing platform is underpinning the global touring workflow for Grammy-winning Icelandic singer-songwriter Laufey, with both front-of-house and monitor engineers relying on Quantum consoles to deliver consistent performance throughout the worldwide A Matter of Time tour.

Supporting the album of the same name, the tour began in 2025 and concludes in August 2026, with **Sound Image** a **Clair Global** brand, supplying the audio control package. At **front of house**, engineer **Matt Grabe** is mixing on a DiGiCo Quantum 338, while **monitor**

engineer **Sebastian Mut** began the tour on a Quantum 338 before expanding to a Quantum 5 for later dates.

For Grabe, who has worked with Laufey since 2024, the decision to standardise on DiGiCo was driven by reliability and worldwide availability, alongside features that support his workflow.

"Having a reliable desk that can be sourced anywhere in the world is non-negotiable," he explained. "I started specifying Quantum consoles due to the clarity of the screens. I have minimal vision in one eye and a



transplant in the other. From day one, my top-tier Sound Image, a Clair Global Brand, representative Kim Sawaya, made sure that one was always available. I didn't start using Quantum features until recently, but now MSE and Spice Rack are in use on every file."

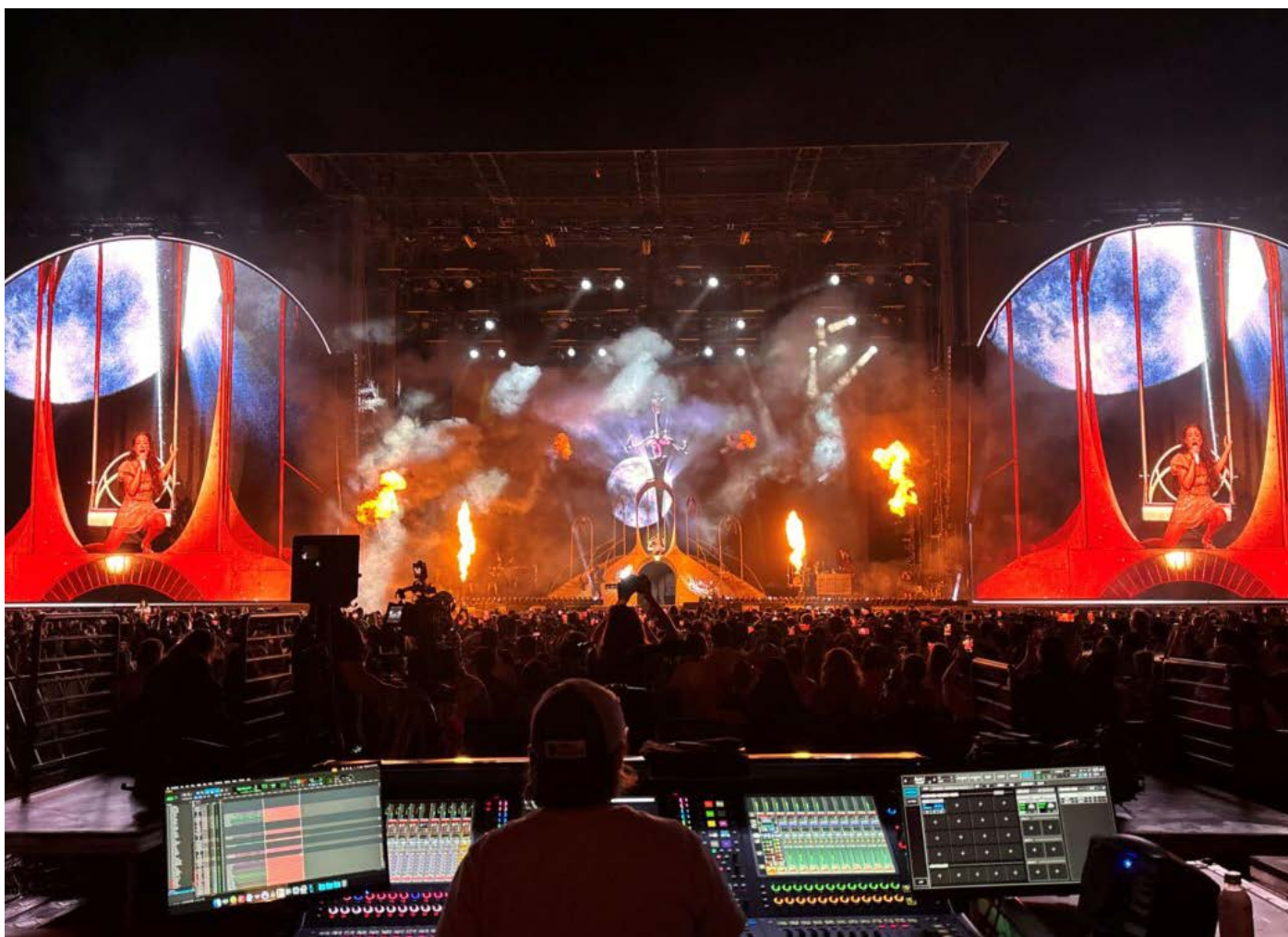
Mut, who also joined the production in 2024, has relied on DiGiCo consoles throughout his touring career and cites their processing capabilities, global availability and manufacturer support among the reasons for their continued use.

"We swapped to the Q5 for Laufey's Coachella performance," he recalled. "The Q338 and Q5 are fantastic monitor consoles, the layout of both surfaces makes getting anything done very quick and efficient! The most useful features for me have absolutely been the powerful Snapshot and automation functionality, as well as the Spice Rack,

specifically Naga 6. With all the international travel on this tour, being able to keep everything in a slim package that can be replicated in a new region quickly has been important for us."

The touring production features an extensive audio system supporting a string quartet, a jazz trio performing on a secondary stage, more than 50 channels of RF, four SD-Racks, a MiniRack and even a moving Steinway grand piano. Despite the scale and complexity of the production, the engineers note that DiGiCo's platform enables them to recreate their workflow quickly, whether travelling with their own control package or integrating locally supplied systems.

"We travel with the control package, desks, I/O, mics and instrument DIs," said Grabe. "On occasion, we fly into a duplicate of that



system. It's daunting to recreate as we are near fully loaded on four SD-Racks, a MiniRack, and over 50 channels of RF. The set has a string quartet, a jazz trio on the B-Stage and even a moving Steinway grand piano. Our brilliant technicians make that all possible. For solo dates, it's very simple to convert the show file to whatever SD or Quantum desk is provided locally."

Reflecting on the demands of a global touring production, both engineers emphasised the flexibility and consistency offered by the DiGiCo Quantum platform. "We've chosen DiGiCo due to logistics, and the power of the

desk," said Mut. "Being able to replicate this package anywhere in the world, quickly, and without much fuss is a huge selling point for us. And with the powerful Snapshot and automation functionality we can nimbly do anything we're asked to deliver the best product for our artist."

"There are scenarios where you jump on a red-eye flight to mix a new band with nothing but a festival changeover," concluded Grabe. "Equipped with SD Convert and a punt file, any DiGiCo will do. That doesn't just make my life easier, it makes the task possible."

CHINA

L1 Takes Flight

L-Acoustics L1 Makes World Tour Debut on Joker Xue's Record-Breaking EVOLUTION Stadium Tour



L-Acoustics L1 makes its global tour debut on Joker Xue's EVOLUTION World Tour.

L-Acoustics' new flagship L1 line source system has made its world touring debut on Chinese Mandopop superstar Joker Xue's EVOLUTION stadium tour, where the company's latest loudspeaker technology is supporting one of the most ambitious live productions ever staged in China.

Regarded as one of China's most successful singer-songwriters, Joker Xue launched the

EVOLUTION tour in March 2026, performing on a monumental four-sided stage measuring 93 metres wide, 53 metres deep and 36 metres high. Spanning approximately 5,000 square metres and surrounded by a 5,600-square-metre LED display, the production has already drawn hundreds of thousands of fans, with multiple stadium runs in Guangzhou and Changsha selling out within seconds.



In March 2026, Joker Xue opened his fourth and most ambitious tour yet, 'EVOLUTION' debuting L1, L1D and CS1 in the first large-scale L1 deployment on the Asian continent.

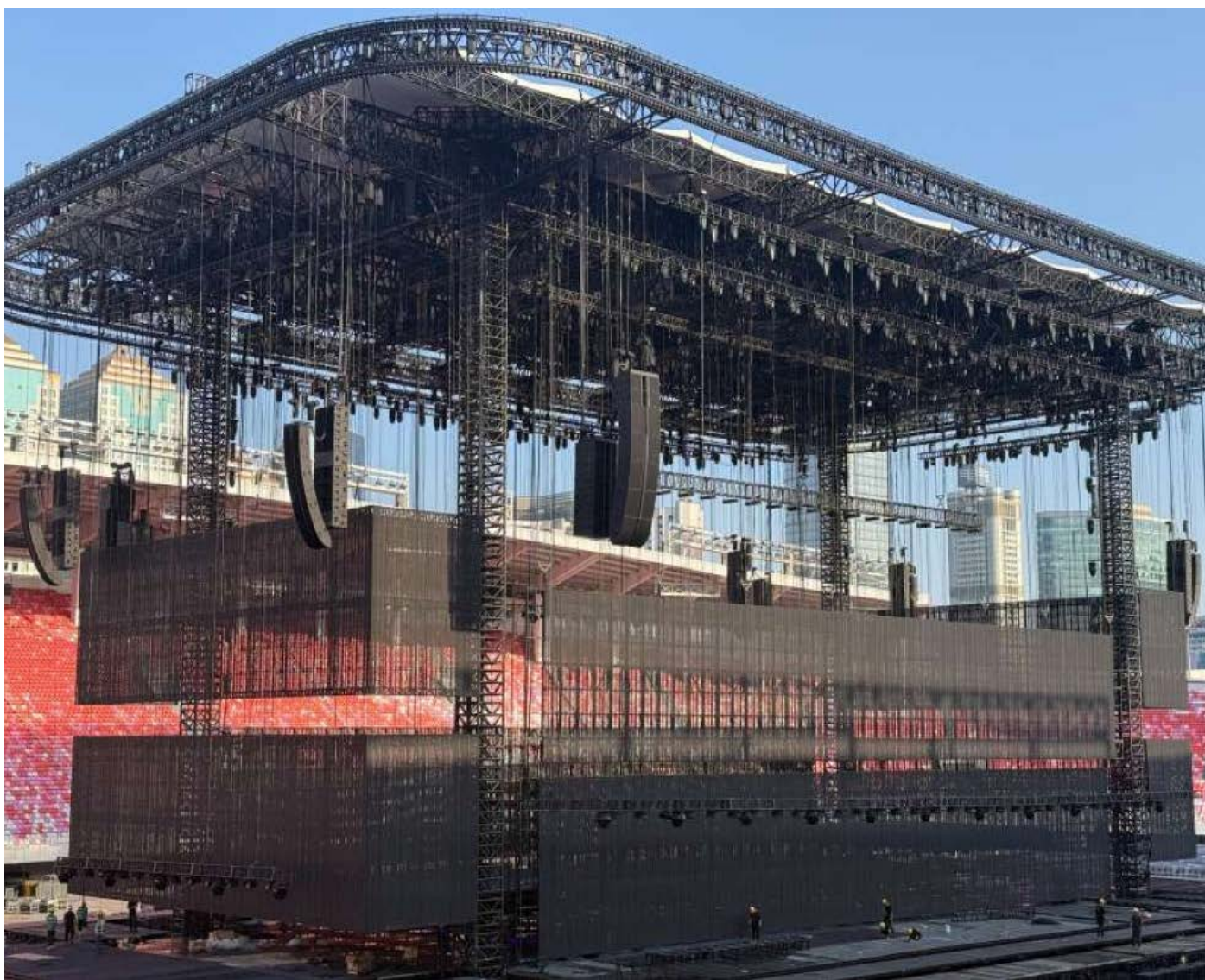
The tour also marks the first live deployment of the newly launched L-Acoustics L1 line source system and its companion CS1 cardioid subwoofer. Months before the product's official unveiling, Shanghai-based production specialist **MRT**—Asia's only L-Acoustics-certified L1 pilot partner and one of just four worldwide entrusted with the system ahead of its commercial release—was selected to deploy the technology throughout the tour, supported by regional distributor **Rightway Audio Consultants (Racpro)**.

Designed around L-Acoustics' patented Progressive Ultra-Dense Line Source (PULS) technology, L1 was selected to address the unique acoustic challenges presented by the production's four-sided stage configuration, where consistent coverage was required in every direction without a conventional front-of-house orientation. According to

L-Acoustics, a main array comprising four L1 enclosures and one L1D delivers performance comparable to a traditional 15-box K1 array while reducing rigging operations by approximately two-thirds and significantly lowering system weight—valuable advantages on a production already carrying extensive staging and LED infrastructure.

The system design was modelled using L-Acoustics Soundvision software, with its latest Autofilter algorithm employed to optimise array geometry and three-dimensional low-frequency behaviour across the stadium. The integrated cardioid design of the L1 and CS1 systems was also utilised to minimise low-frequency energy on stage while maintaining consistent coverage throughout the audience.

The deployed system comprises four main hangs of four L1 and one L1D, supported



The Joker tour featured a four-sided stage that Chinese media billed as the largest ever built for a concert: 93 metres wide, 53 metres deep and rising 36.

by four hangs of eight CS1 subwoofers. Additional reinforcement includes 12 L2 and four L2D side-fill arrays, 80 KS28 subwoofers, 82 Kara II loudspeakers, 36 LA7.16 amplified controllers and 52 LA12X amplified controllers.

Reflecting on the system's performance, **Front of House Engineer Zhang Junjun** said: "From my very first listen, I thought the high frequencies were absolutely beautiful. It has a sweet top end that never gets tiring. It's comfortable any way you listen."

Audio Director Zhang Xiaonian added: "The biggest thing I noticed was how sonically clean everything was. There was no low-end rumble, or stray reflections to distract the artist. During soundcheck and mic setup, the whole audio experience was exceptionally clean."

Music Director Liu Zhuo also praised the system's headroom and clarity, noting that it exceeded his expectations while allowing him greater confidence in his mixes.



A 5,600-square-metre ring of LED wrapped the audience on every side, and the production played to crowds of tens of thousands each night.



L1 is the flagship of the L-Acoustics L Series and the most advanced expression to date of the company's patented Progressive Ultra-Dense Line Source (PULS) technology.

The EVOLUTION tour continues with a further 12 performances scheduled at Beijing's National Stadium before expanding internationally. By the conclusion of its China leg, the production is expected to have

reached well over 2.5 million concertgoers, providing L-Acoustics' flagship L1 system with a high-profile global debut on one of the largest touring productions in the region.

ABU DHABI

Illuminating Legacy

grandMA3 Drives Landmark Lighting Design for Zayed National Museum Opening



MA Lighting International's grandMA3 lighting control platform played a central role in the opening celebrations of the Zayed National Museum in Abu Dhabi, where an extensive networked control system was used to realise an ambitious lighting design for one of the UAE's most significant cultural events.

Designed by **Foster + Partners** and named in honour of the UAE's founding father, Sheikh Zayed, the Zayed National Museum officially opened during a landmark celebration that coincided with the country's National Day and featured the inaugural public performance of the newly formed UAE National Orchestra. The ceremony transformed the museum's striking architecture into the centrepiece of a large-scale multimedia production incorporating lighting, projection and live performance.

Lighting Designer Bruno Poet was tasked with illuminating the museum's distinctive façade while integrating lighting with projection content created by **Moment Factory** and supporting performances taking place across the venue.

"This extraordinary museum was effectively our set," explained Poet. "Within it, we were to visually enhance the drama of the music and the storytelling of the show, as well as celebrate the building in its own right."

The production's lighting system was programmed using a networked grandMA3 control platform by **programmers Max Narula and Aria Hailey**. The setup comprised two grandMA3 full-size consoles for programming and two grandMA3 light



consoles for show operation, enabling multiple programmers to work simultaneously within the same session.

"grandMA3 is really suited to this kind of ceremony, this large special event, where you need to allow multiple programmers to work simultaneously in one session on an extremely large lighting rig," said Narula. "One of the great things about how grandMA3 works is that you don't have to separate things out. You can have different things going on at different times, depending on each other's workflows."

Narula also highlighted the platform's My Virtual Rig (MVR) import capability and Selection Grid tools, which streamlined the programming of the extensive lighting system by importing three-dimensional fixture data directly from the production's CAD model. He noted that these features significantly reduced programming time when working with complex fixture layouts.

The production also incorporated a substantial quantity of LED tape integrated

into the museum's architectural structure, requiring the lighting control system to process a large number of pixels. According to the programming team, grandMA3's pixel handling capabilities proved particularly valuable after the LED tape installation was completed later than planned, leaving limited time for programming before the event.

Reflecting on the project, Poet also praised the evolution of the grandMA3 software from a designer's perspective. "It feels like it's moving towards a more designer-focused workflow, more helpful for designers like me, who aren't programmers and who haven't come from a programming background," he said.

The event showcased grandMA3's ability to support complex, multi-operator workflows on large-scale architectural and ceremonial productions, where lighting, projection and live performance are required to operate as a single, synchronised visual experience.

Photo Credit Zayed National Museum © People

NEW ZEALAND

Venue Audio Unified

JBL Professional Powers Venue-Wide Audio Infrastructure at New Zealand International Convention Centre

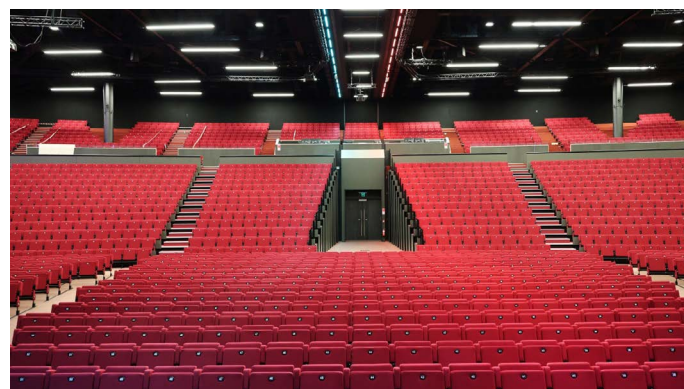
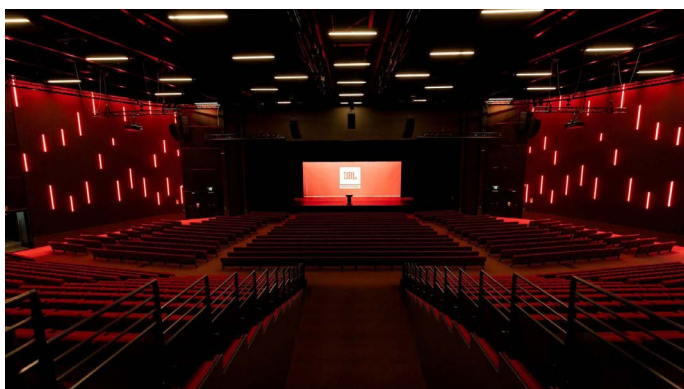


Designed to host conferences, exhibitions, banquets and live performances on an international scale, the New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC) has been equipped with a comprehensive **HARMAN Professional Solutions** audio ecosystem centred on **JBL Professional** loudspeakers delivering a flexible, venue-wide solution capable of supporting a diverse range of event formats.

As New Zealand's only venue with official International Convention Centre status, NZICC comprises hundreds of spaces with varying acoustic demands, from meeting rooms and exhibition halls to its flagship Te

Paepae Theatre. To support this wide range of applications, the venue required an integrated audio solution capable of delivering consistent sound quality while remaining flexible enough to accommodate multiple room layouts and event formats.

Working alongside integration specialists **JPRO** and **Vega Global NZ** the venue deployed a HARMAN Professional ecosystem comprising JBL Professional loudspeakers, **Crown** amplifiers, **Soundcraft** mixing consoles and **BSS** Soundweb processing, providing a unified technology platform across the facility. At the centre of the installation is the



Te Paepae Theatre, a highly adaptable auditorium that accommodates up to 2,850 seated guests or 3,300 banquet attendees. The venue can also be divided into two independent theatres, requiring an audio system capable of maintaining consistent coverage, tonal balance and speech intelligibility across multiple configurations.

To meet these demands, the theatre has been equipped with 40 JBL Professional VTX A8 line array loudspeakers deployed in scalable configurations, supported by JBL Professional VTX G28 and VTX B18 subwoofers, JBL Professional VTX F15 delay loudspeakers, JBL Professional VTX M20 stage monitors and JBL Professional AC18/95 loudspeakers providing front-fill coverage.

The system is powered by 34 Crown I-Tech 4x3500HD amplifiers and managed via BSS Soundweb London BLU-806DA processors with Dante networking, while front-of-house control is provided through dual Soundcraft Vi3000 mixing consoles paired with 64/32-channel stage boxes.

To optimise performance across the theatre's multiple operating modes, JBL Venue Synthesis 3D Acoustic Simulation software was used to model full-theatre, dual-theatre and hybrid room configurations. System tuning and calibration data are stored directly within the Crown amplifiers, enabling venue staff to recall preconfigured system settings

quickly, reducing setup time and simplifying transitions between events.

Beyond the main performance venue, JBL Professional loudspeakers have also been deployed throughout meeting rooms, exhibition halls, public spaces and back-of-house areas, ensuring consistent voicing and audio performance across the entire convention centre.

The resulting installation provides NZICC with a scalable audio platform capable of supporting everything from keynote presentations and international conferences to banquets and live productions. Within the Te Paepae Theatre, the JBL Professional VTX A8 system delivers uniform coverage across changing room layouts, maintaining both speech intelligibility and musical clarity regardless of seating configuration.

Combined with Crown amplification, BSS Soundweb networked processing and Soundcraft mixing consoles, the integrated HARMAN Professional ecosystem streamlines venue operation while enabling rapid changeovers between events. The deployment equips the New Zealand International Convention Centre with a comprehensive audio infrastructure designed to meet the demands of international conventions, exhibitions and performances while delivering consistent sound quality throughout the facility.

INDIA

Sound Meets Sophistication

Meyer Sound Delivers Premium Hospitality Audio Upgrade at Mumbai's OTR Bar



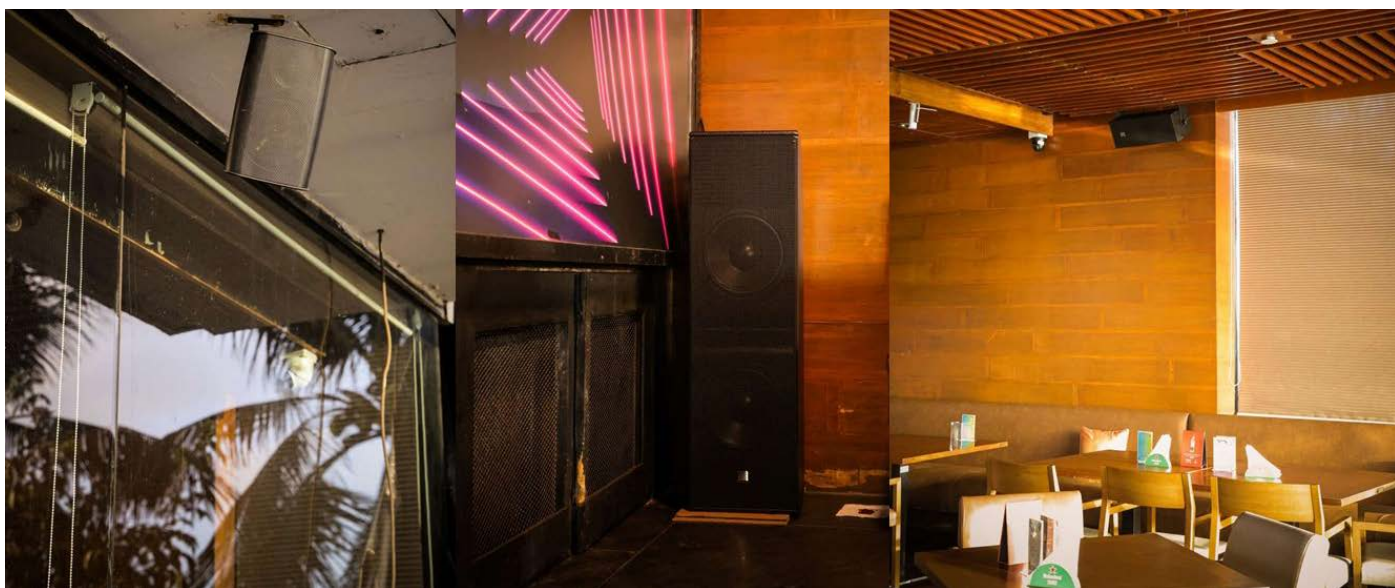
OTR Bar at Otters Club in Bandra, Mumbai has enhanced its hospitality offering with a Meyer Sound audio system designed to deliver consistent, high-quality sound for both background music and live entertainment while seamlessly complementing the venue's upscale interiors.

Delivered by **Sun Infonet** the official distributor of **Meyer Sound** in India, the installation replaced the venue's existing sound system with a compact solution engineered to provide balanced coverage, high speech intelligibility and powerful musical performance without compromising the bar's aesthetic appeal. Following a live demonstration and detailed technical evaluation, the Meyer Sound system was

selected for the project after impressing stakeholders with its output, clarity and performance despite the loudspeakers' compact form factor.

The installation was completed while the venue remained fully operational, requiring the integration team to work around daily hospitality operations with minimal disruption. Additional challenges arose from the venue's existing false ceiling, where limited clearance demanded careful rigging, cable routing and meticulous installation planning to preserve the interior design.

To optimise system performance before deployment, the installation was modelled using Meyer Sound's MAPP 3D prediction



software, enabling detailed analysis of room acoustics, loudspeaker placement and coverage patterns. The system design prioritised uniform sound distribution and discreet loudspeaker positioning, ensuring consistent audio performance throughout the venue while maintaining a minimal visual footprint.

The completed installation comprises three Meyer Sound ULTRA-X20 compact full-range loudspeakers, two UP-4slim loudspeakers for fill coverage, one USW-210P powered subwoofer, two USW-112P powered subwoofers and a Galileo GALAXY 408 processor for system management, optimisation and tuning. Together, the system delivers a combination of compact design and high-output performance suited to the venue's varied operational requirements.

According to the project team, one of the defining moments came during the evaluation phase, when an initial comparison with larger competing loudspeaker systems quickly shifted in favour of the Meyer Sound solution after the live demonstration showcased its clarity, coverage and output capabilities.

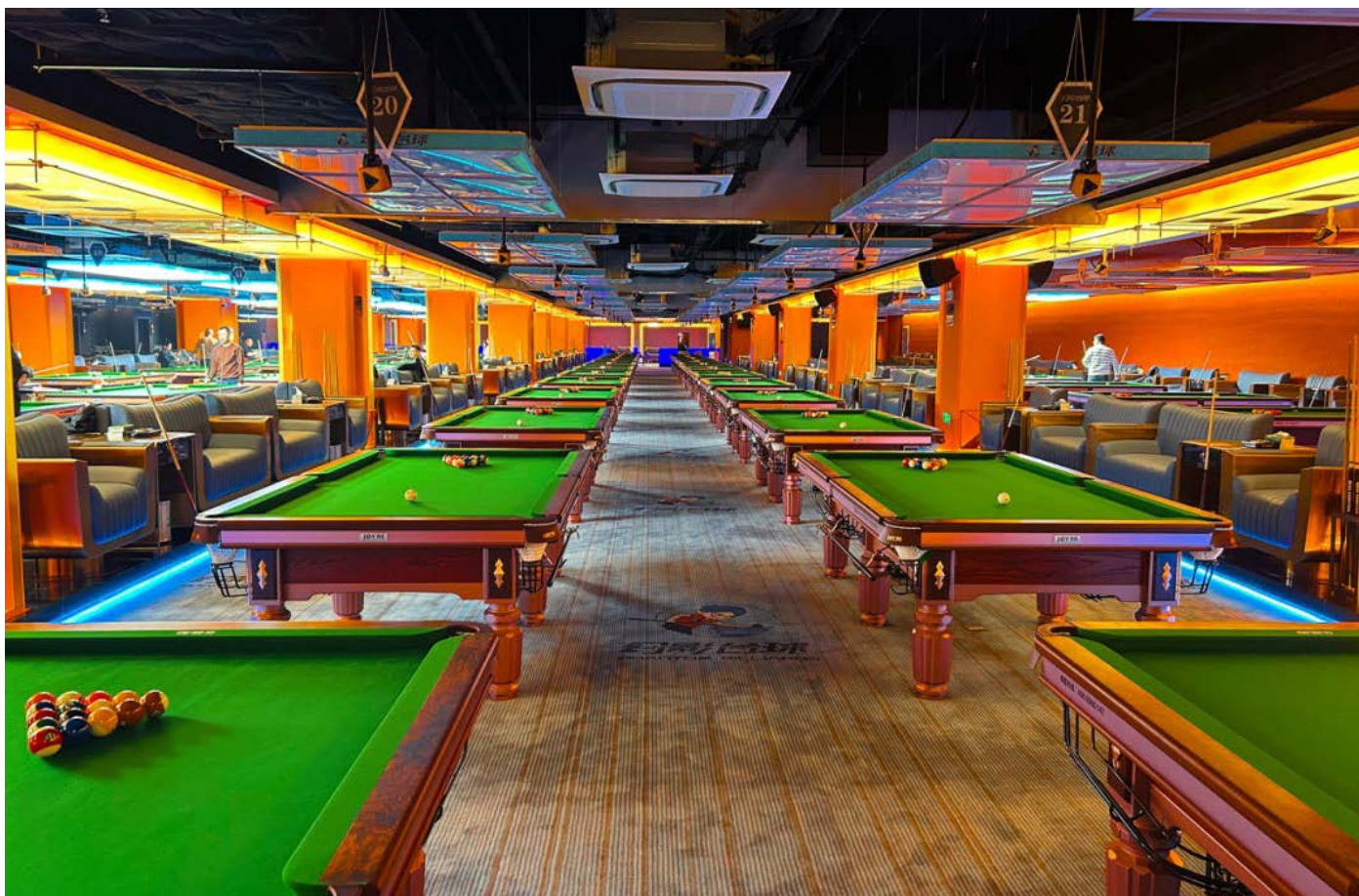
The installation, including rigging, wiring, commissioning and cable management, was completed in approximately five days by the **Star Professional Audio (Roger Drego)** team led by **Ajay Cordozo**, alongside **Suren Gamre, Sajjad Waghela** and **Neil Dharmai**, working in collaboration with the Sun Infonet team, including **Jeremy Rana** and **Yatin Tawde**.

Commenting on the project, **Roger Drego, Proprietor of Star Professional Audio**, said, "While the dimensions and surfaces of the room were not ideal for sound reproduction, the installation team's choice of ULTRA-X20 speakers was excellent. The compact size of the units complements the room's décor, and the SPL levels produced are impressive. Given that the OTR Bar hosts live entertainment, speaker positioning was critical to ensure maximum intelligibility throughout the audience area. Although management had restrictions regarding subwoofer placement to prioritize guest seating, the performance of the ULTRA-X20s remains amazing. Regular guests are now enjoying a high-quality audio experience. Ultimately, the system's performance speaks for itself, and I would encourage you to hear it in person to judge the results for yourself."

CHINA

Cueing Sonic Excellence

NEXO ePS System Ups The Sonic Ante at World's Largest Joe's Billiards Club in China



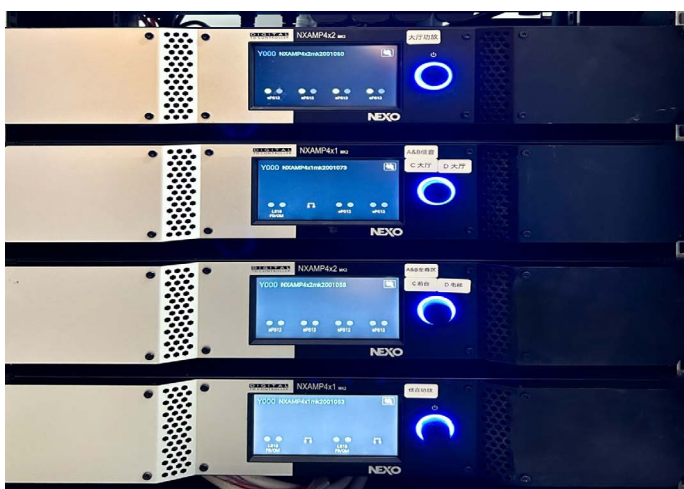
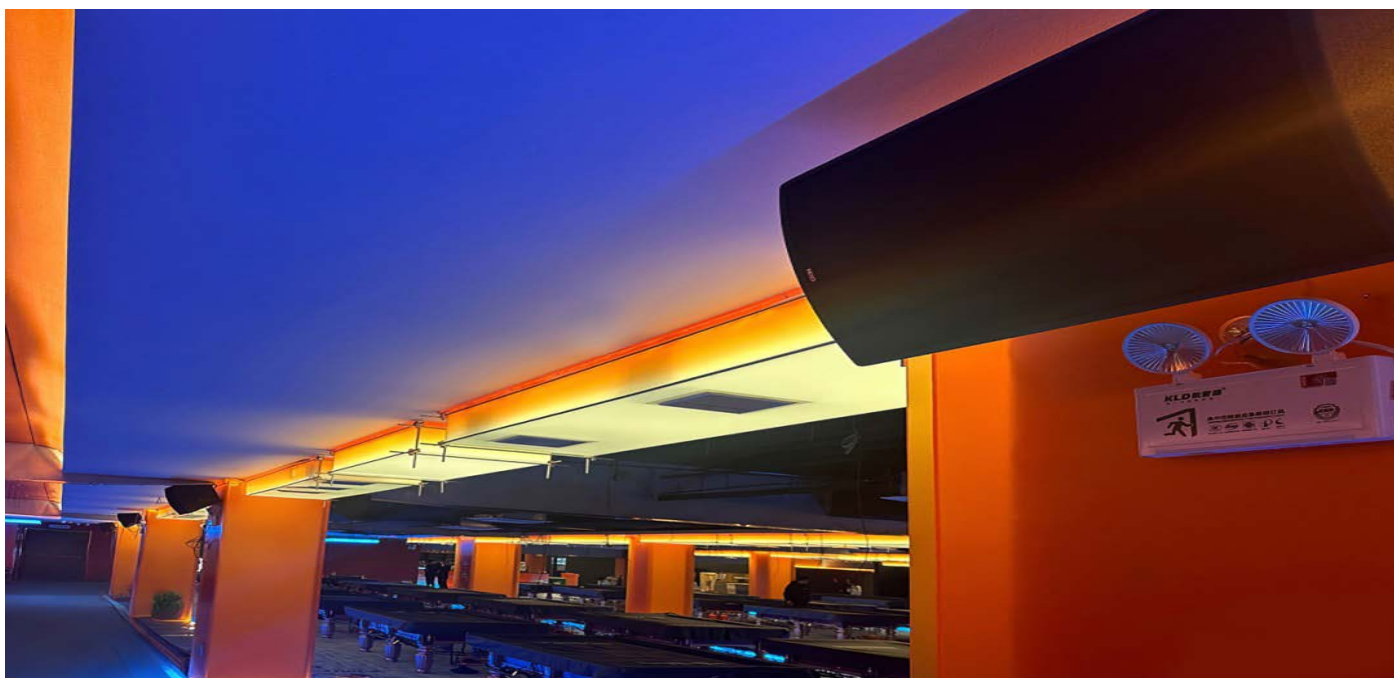
NEXO's ePS Series loudspeakers have been deployed at Phantom Billiards in Changzhou, China, where a distributed audio system has been installed to complement what is claimed to be the world's largest billiards club dedicated exclusively to Joe's tables.

Recently opened in Changzhou, the 7,000-square-metre venue features 115 Joe's billiards tables alongside a reception area, lobby, VIP facilities and a large public playing hall. With billiards continuing to enjoy significant popularity across China, the venue

was designed to offer visitors a premium entertainment experience extending beyond the playing environment.

To support this objective, the club's owners commissioned **Shanghai Haoyun** to design and install a professional sound reinforcement system capable of delivering consistent, high-quality audio throughout the expansive facility.

"For the industry benchmark Phantom Billiards, the sound reinforcement system is not an accessory in the background, but a



controlled coverage, dynamic performance and suitability for commercial installation environments.

System control is provided by a **Yamaha Professional Audio** DM3 compact digital mixer, offering venue staff an intuitive interface for day-to-day operation while supporting the flexibility required across the club's various spaces.

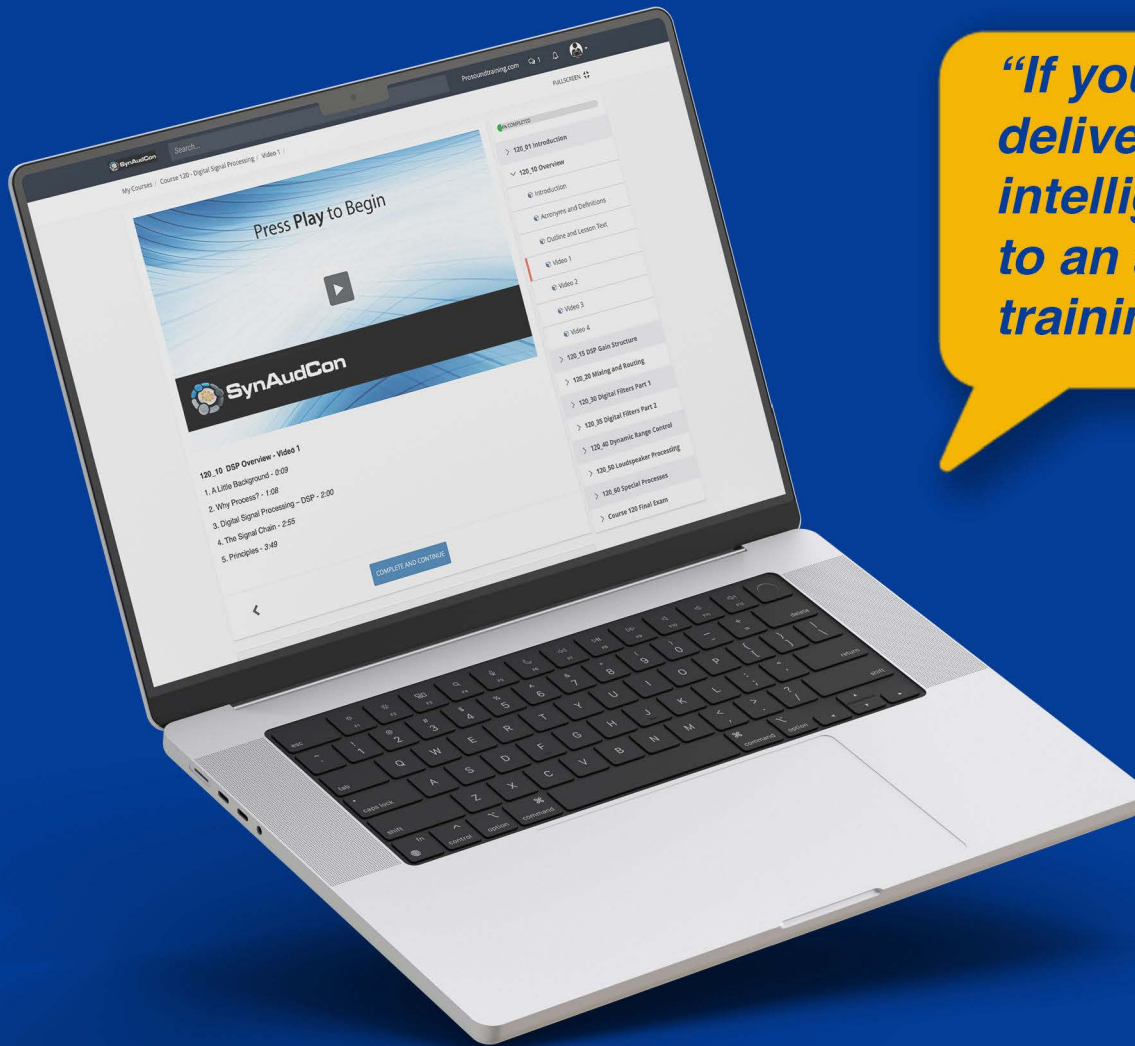
According to Shanghai Haoyun, the distributed loudspeaker design ensures consistent sound quality from the entrance and reception areas through to the lobby and main playing hall, creating a cohesive audio environment throughout the venue.

Commenting on the installation, Lu added: "From the initial encounter at the front desk to the immersive atmosphere in the lobby and large hall, visitors enjoy the same precise and consistent sound quality. With its reputation for excellence in the world's top performance venues, sports stadiums and high-end commercial projects, NEXO is the perfect choice."

core experience component that shapes the overall atmosphere, inspires the competitive spirit and serves high-end customers," explained **Alvin Lu, Sales and Marketing Manager at Shanghai Haoyun.**

The installed system comprises 34 NEXO ePS12 point source loudspeakers distributed throughout the venue and powered by four NEXO NXAMP4X2 powered controllers, with two loudspeakers assigned to each amplifier channel. Based on NEXO's PS platform, the ePS Series was selected for its

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