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20 Years of *Radio* magazine, and current consumer media usage



SIX REMOTES IN EVERY BOX





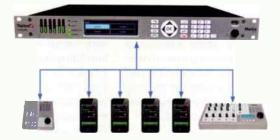




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6 bidirectional mono remotes



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GAO Issues Report on National Alerting Capability

Since 2009, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has taken steps to improve the capabilities of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and to increase federal, state and local capabilities to alert the public, but barriers remain to fully implementing an integrated system. One area where alerting has improved includes the IPAWS capability to receive and authenticate

Internet-based alerts from federal, state and local public authorities and disseminate them to the public through multiple systems. But state and local alerting authorities contacted by the General Accountability Office cited a need for more guidance from FEMA on how to integrate and test IPAWS capabilities with their existing alerting systems.

For mor info, visit RadioMagOnline.com.



Hubbard Radio Chair Ginny Morris to Receive National Radio Award

Ginny Hubbard Morris, chair of Hubbard Radio, will receive the National Radio Award during the

2013 Radio Show Luncheon on Sept. 20, 2013.
Morris has more than 30 years of broadcast industry, business and general management expe-

rience. As chair of Hubbard Radio LLC, Morris is responsible for managing the strategic direction for Hubbard's 21 radio stations throughout Chicago; Washington, DC; Minneapolis/St. Paul; St. Louis and Cincinnati.

As part of the company's growth strategy, in 2011, Morris led Hubbard's acquisition of 17 radio stations from Bonneville International.

NAB Releases AM IBOC-Only Test Results

The recent AM IBOC-only test (MA3 mode) tests that were conducted with CBS radio station WBCN-AM were discussed in detail during the 2013 NAB Show. The results are of great interest to many, so here's a look at how they were derived.

The test used an all-digital transmission, which places the digital carriers in the center of the carrier channel. In the hybrid mode, the analog signal is placed in the center of the carrier with the digital information on either side.

According to data from the Radio Advertising Bureau, radio plays a dominant role with people who are considering a vehicle purchase, or spending time in a vehicle. The closer listeners get purchase, the more important a part radio advertising plays.

iBiquity Digital reports virtually all 2013 aftermarket automotive in-dash receivers with HD Radio have been officially launched and available at retail.

Premiere Networks and private sector broadcasters, FEMA has added the nationally syndicated audio network that reaches more than 190 million weekly listeners as a Primary Entry Point station, delivering information and instructions to the public in an emergency. As part of the cooperative effort, Premiere satellite program receivers in thousands of affiliate radio stations will be another method to deliver EAS messages.

SBE Announces 2013 Election Candidates

The Society of Broadcast Engineers Nominations Committee has presented a list of candidates for the 2013 national board of directors' election. The list includes one candidate for each officer position and seven candidates for six available director seats. Candidates may still be nominated by voting SBE members and will appear on the ballot if received by July 9, 2013. Nominees must be voting members in good standing (dues paid) and hold an engineering level of SBE certification. Nominees are to be nominated by letter (written or electronic) and sent to SBE Secretary Jim Leifer at jimleifer@hotmail.com or 8553 Tourmaline Blvd.; Boynton Beach, FL 33437. The nominee must be endorsed by 10 voting SBE members

The nominees presented by the Nominations Committee follows.

President

Joseph Snelson, CPBE 8-VSB

Vice President

Jerry Massey, CPBE 8-VSB AMD DRB CBNT

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James Leifer, CPBE

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Andrea Cummis, CBT CTO

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Tom Ray, CPBE DRB AMD

Ted Hand, CPBE 8-VSB DRB AMD

Kim Sacks, CBT

Mark Heller, CPBE CTO

Ched Keiler, CPBE 8-VSB CBNT

Dennis Wallace, CBTE

There are six directors currently in the middle of their two-year terms. Half the directors are elected every year. Voting will take place in August.

For more info on these candidates, visit RadioMagOnline.com.



FIND THE MIC AND WIN!

Tell us where you think the mic icon is placed on this issue's cover and you could win Hosa HDC-800 headphones. Send your entry to radio@HadioMagOnline.com by July 10. Be sure to include your guess, name, job title, company name, mailing address and phone number. No purchase necessary. For complete rules, go to RadioMagOnline.com





harmonious tandem

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www.sonycreativesoftware.com



VIEWPOINT

Let Me Tell You About the Pick Hits



ach year near the end of the NAB Show, placards appear in exhibitors' booths indicating that the exhibitor has received a *Radio* magazine Pick Hit Award. If you attend the convention, I'm sure you've seen them. Perhaps you've seen me working my way through the exhibit floor on Wednesday afternoon to make the presentations.

The Pick Hit Awards were created even before *Radio* magazine was a standalone publication. The awards were launched in 1985, and *Radio* magazine, a spin-off of another publication, was first published in 1994. (We've been highlighting that first year of publication in Sign Off the past several issues.)

The Pick Hits are very popular, and quite coveted. But perhaps you don't know exactly what they are and why we're so proud of them. As we put the wraps on the 2013 NAB Show, you'll find all the Pick Hit winners starting on page 14. Here are the details on how they are decided.

First, the Pick Hits follow an established set of rules (see them on page 33). While the rules have evolved slightly over the years, the basic ideas from 1985 are still in place. In general, the products to be considered must be new, must fit a real need in radio, must be reasonably priced, and they must be available for purchase within the current calendar year. These items set the baseline. The price and availability are both based on the manufacturer's word, and we have to accept that. It's true that over the years there have been a few products that didn't ship within that time, but the judges can only act on the provided information.

The judges are an important part of the selection process. The *Radio* magazine staff has no direct part in selecting the winners. While I invite panelists to serve as judges, only I know their identities, which remain secret until the winners are chosen. The engineers I ask to serve are corporate VPs of engineering, network engineers, regional engineers, market chiefs, staff engineers and contract engineers. In previous years I've asked technically oriented managers to participate as well. My goal is to have a wide cross section of skill, experience and responsibility represented. Some are stronger in RF. Others are stronger in audio or IT. I also try to have geographic diversity.

The judges, who don't know who the other judges are, go about the convention like anyone else. They look for new products that interest them and apply to their needs of course, but I also ask them to look for items outside their usual scope. The anonymity prevents any persuasion or outside influence. Like you, the judges read the product previews in the trades and read the *NAB Show Daily*. If a manufacturer asks me how his product can be considered, I tell him do whatever he would do to attract attendees in general.

The judges gather on Wednesday afternoon to make their selections. I moderate that meeting, but I have no vote in the selections. Once the list of winners is created, I set out to present them. You'll see in our review, I also include some notes about what the judges had to say about the product. We do this so you have an idea about what caught the judges' eyes.

In 2011, I began shooting video of the winners on the show floor so the manufacturers could tell you about their winning products. It's frantic on Thursday as I run from booth to booth to capture the footage, but we think it all pays off in the end. Those videos are posted on our YouTube channel.

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Email | cscherer@RadioMagOnline.com Facebook | RadioMagazine Twitter | @RadioMagazine YouTube | RadioMagOnline Linkedin | /groups?gid=3210911 Pinterest | RadioMagazine We're proud of the Pick Hit Awards and the established process we have followed for nearly 30 years. And now I hope you can appreciate the effort we put into them as well. •

Chriss Scherer | Editor



June 2013 I Vol. 19 No. 6

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COMPLETE REMOTE STUDIO ON TWO WHEELS



We are pretty sure this is a first – an open-air moving studio broadcast on two wheels (well, six, technically).

proadcast on two
wheels (well, six,
rechnically).

in Perth, Australia

Breakfast hosts Paul Hogan

Dan Jackson, engineer for 92.9 FM in Perth, Australia was faced with a unique challenge. Breakfast hosts Paul Hogan and Lisa Fernandez would be cycling for hours in strong winds and pouring rain as part of the 92.9 Kids Appeal for Telethon.

The unique solution was to equip Dan's bike as a mobile production facility. The talent wore wireless mics AND inthe-ear monitors which communicated with receivers and transmitters in a rack bag on Dan's bike.



All audio was fed to a Comrex ACCESS Portable, complete with optional mixer, which Dan used to mix the live



on-air feed as the trio traversed the winding roads of Perth. How did it all work out? Absolutely flawlessly – the show

went on without as much as a speed bump!

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MANAGING**TECHNOLOGY**



Keeping the Copper Safe

by Kevin McNamara

ecently I offered some tips on site security, particularly in light of the myriad of copper thefts occurring around the country, especially in copper rich environments like communications sites. The reality is, if someone wants copper, he will get it, if given enough time with no other people around. But the few dollars a thief might realize selling this material is nothing compared to the cost of damage repair, or more importantly the costs incurred should a station be taken off the air for any period of time.

While scrap copper is paying nearly \$3 per pound, brass and some types of steel can bring about \$2 per pound. As it turns out, we have a lot of these at typical broadcast transmitter sites.

Tampering with a licensed communication facility is a federal offense; however, I'm not aware of any time when the federal government was directly involved with this type of theft. It has primarily been handled by local law enforcement. Many police departments have a copper theft task force. They tend to have good intelligence on specific activities going on within their jurisdiction. It might be worth a call to see if they would be willing to meet at your facilities to evaluate the level of risk for theft and perhaps offer some advice on theft proofing these sites.

CO-LOCATED SITES

Whether you share your transmitter site with other broadcasters and wireless tenants or lease space to wireless tenants on a company ownedtower, be aware that *all* combinations used on locks provided by wireless carriers are well known throughout the industry. Typically they daisychain their locks to others. Pretty much anyone with exposure to that industry has the cheatsheet. In my experience, I have seen several sites sustain damage by a thief, but no indication of forced break-in. This suggests the job was done by someone with a little knowledge about the site. Along the same lines, be careful hiring new





The owner of this site replaced the stolen ground strap on the pier, and then covered it all with a foundation cement.

employees, as part of your hiring practice, consider running a criminal background check on all applicants. This may give you additional insight into a prospective employee.

It is almost impossible to eliminate exposed copper or other metals. Copper isn't worth as much dirty as it is bare. Thieves usually don't want to take the time to clean it. This also applies to jacked transmission lines; however, going back to my previous statement, someone on the inside would know that it's easy to strip and this would not deter them. The simple answer is to use an industrial paint-on coating like roofing tar, Tammscoat, Rhino-Liner or equivalent material that can be painted on wet, adheres to the metal and basically makes it very difficult to clean. Using a tar-like product will also remain sticky to the touch and leave a lot of staining on the thieves hands and clothes. These materials may make routine repairs a little difficult, but it's a small price to pay in the big picture. Tammscoat is a material primarily used to waterproof concrete foundations. It's relatively inexpensive and as it turns out has some good conductivity characteristics that may be desirable in some applications.

In addition to coating the copper, when purchasing new copper wire or ground bars, make

sure they are tin-plated. This is what most wireless carriers are using. A knowledgeable thief might know that this is only tinning, but keep in mind the tinning also reduces the copper scrap value as well and may not be worth someone's efforts. The use of tamper-proof hardware to attach copper ground bars to buildings can also be an effective means to slow down the progress of a theft.

You can also purchase copper bars with wording such as "Stolen, please report to police." This would send a red flag to a scrap yard to alert police. Build partnerships with local scrap companies in the area. Many recycling centers will not accept copper that has been painted.

ALARM IT, WATCH IT, LIGHT IT

Sometimes simple solutions are the most effective. Run jumpers, in series, from different metal items (i.e. ground bars, ground strap, etc.) that you want to protect. Connect one end of the cable to one side of a relay coil and the other end of the coil to a low-voltage power source sized to the relay. Now attach the remaining side of the power supply to the other cable and you have an alarm that will trip if anything in the current path is removed. This is actually a product that was patented in 2007 and is being used on several

MANAGINGTECHNOLOGY

SOUND OFF

How do you thwart copper thieves? Tell us at radio@radiomagonline.com

wireless sites, but it's easy enough for anyone to implement.

The use of surveillance cameras with body detection is an effective solution to deter theft. Cameras can be placed at all points around the perimeter of a site, as well as inside the building. Even the cheapest camera systems provide alarms should someone enter its field of vision. The sentinel can sound alarms and/or trigger strobe lights as well trigger a remote control system or alert an alarm company. The cameras can be adjusted to disregard smaller animals or birds that might send false triggers. Even better is adding a local DVR to record events at the site. The video could also be sent back to a monitoring location with the proper dedicated (typically T1) line. Clips of the video could be emailed to select persons if Internet access is available.

If budget is a problem, consider adding deer cameras at strategic locations. Similar to traditional surveillance systems these cameras are triggered by bodies within their field of vision. They

are cheap and can either record video or clips of pictures it takes and records to an SD card. The downside is that someone needs to visit the site to exchange SD cards periodically. There are some more sophisticated deer cams available that use an Internet connection to email clips, but these can be pricey and probably more than a basic low-cost camera/DVR system.

STORAGE DURING CONSTRUCTION

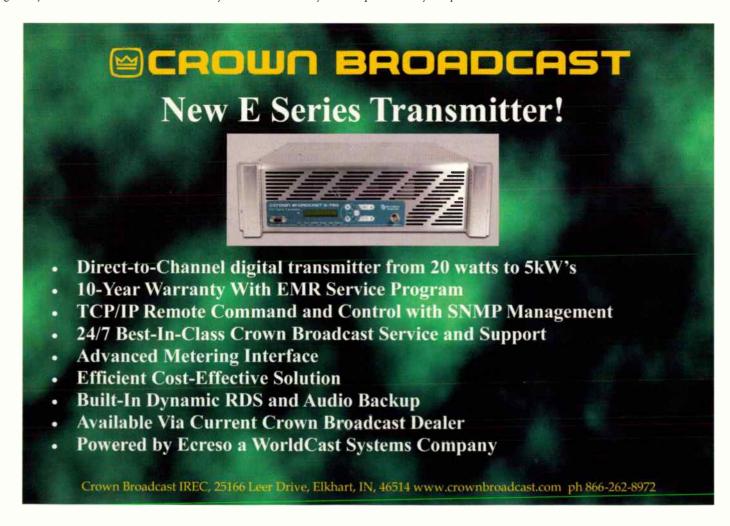
Ninety percent of all theft takes place on weekends, so have someone check the jobsite several times during the weekend. Provide sufficient lighting at night as a potential deterrent. A thief might enter the premises with the intention of stealing copper but may find other objects to take.

Consider pre-cutting the wire and delivering what you need at a jobsite on a daily basis. This will avoid large quantities sitting at a job waiting to be used. I typically instruct my antenna/line vendors to take any cable not used back with them each day. I also require that they complete

(i.e. into the building and attached completely to ice bridges, etc.) any cables runs worked on that day. Inform law enforcement about construction sites and provide after hour and emergency contact information. Sometimes you could request additional patrols in the subject area; this is where developing a relationship with members of the appropriate law enforcement agency can pay off. Avoid storing copper wire, pipe, fittings and other components at remote jobsites. Even securing a parts trailer with a lock is not a deterrent to motivated thieves.

If you sustain a loss, consider the following steps in your investigation: take pictures, protect the crime scene, preserve the evidence, talk with people who may have witnessed the crime, and identify the cable markings. They reveal the cable's original location and can assist in identifying the suspect or provide an affirmative lead. •

McNamara is president of McNamara Associates, Cape Coral, FL.



FCCUPDATE



The Settlement/Amendment Process for FM Translators

by Lee Petro

n May 21, 2013, the FCC opened a two-month window for applicants with pending FM translators that are mutually exclusive with other

FM translator applications to enter into settlement negotiations, or to submit minor-change technical amendments to their applications to eliminate conflicts with other applications. Since there are many moving parts to this window, the following is a brief summary of the major issues.

Identification. First, if you know that you have a pending FM translator application filed in the 2003 window, the first step will be to identify whether the FCC has placed the application into an MX Group. Attached to the FCC's May 21 Public Notice was a list of all the MX groups, which identifies the conflicting applicants with whom you will have to reach an accommodation, or against whom you will have to compete in the auction. This list also serves to limit the pool of potential conflicting applicants as well. In particular, while the FCC will permit the submission of technical amendments, such amendments may not create new MX situations with applicants outside of the applicant's current MX group.

Technical Amendments. As noted above, an applicant may submit a technical amendment in an attempt to extract itself from its respective MX group. The amendment must eliminate all technical conflicts with the MX groups,

and must avoid creating new

technical conflicts. In addition, any amendment that proposes a transmitter site within 39km of an Appendix A Market grid, or a site within a Top-50 Spectrum Limited market, must also provide a new preclusion showing. This showing demonstrates that the grant of the FM translator will not prevent the future licensing of low power FM stations.

Settlements. In addition to the option of filing a technical amendment to eliminate mutual exclusivity with other applicants in a particular MX group, two or more parties also can enter into a settlement agreement by which some applicants agree to dismiss their application in exchange for compensation. The FCC's rules, however, limit the amount of compensation that a dismissing applicant may receive to an amount equal to the legitimate and prudent expenses associated with submitting and prosecuting the application, which may include legal and engineering expenses. As with the submission of technical amendments, while the settlement agreement may not include all of the parties to the MX group, the effect of the settlement agreement must be that at least one application in the MX group becomes a singleton, i.e., has no technical conflicts with the other members of the MX group.

FCC Filings. The deadline for filing a technical amendment or a settlement agreement is July 22, 2013. The technical amendment must be filed through the Commission's CDBS filing system,

and should indicate that the submission is an amendment to the pending short-form application. In addition to filing the settlement agreement, the parties to the agreement must also file a Joint Request for Approval of the Settlement Agreement, along with affidavits from the parties demonstrating that the agreement complies with the FCC's rules. A copy of the filing should also be sent to the Bureau's staff, so that the request can be reviewed and processed expeditiously.

Primary Station Notification. Finally, the FCC will permit amendments to modify the designation of the primary station that will be carried by the FM translator. The need for an amendment arises from the FCC's prior filing window for noncommercial educational applications, whereby NCE applicants converted their filing statuses from noncommercial to commercial so to be able to participate in a future auction. Since the FCC's rules confers upon the FM translator the same status of the primary station to be carried, an applicant that previously converted to commercial status still will face dismissal prior to the auction if its 2003 short-form application specifies a noncommercial station. So, the FCC will permit parties to change their primary station by July 22 to avoid dismissal under these circumstances.

The foregoing is a brief overview of the considerations that must be taken into account for applicants listed in the public notice. Since each applicant has unique circumstances, consultation with an engineer or communications attorney is important to ensure that all options are considered.

Petro is of counsel at Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP. Email: lee.petro@dbr.com.



DATELINE

June 1: Stations in California commence running license renewal pre-filing announcements, continuing on June 16, July 1 and July 16.

June 3: Stations in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming file License Renewal Application and EEO Program Report, and noncommercial radio stations file Ownership Report (323-E). Commence running license renewal post-filing announcements, continuing on June 16, July 1 and 16.

July 10: Stations place Issues/Programs Lists for 2Q2013 in public inspection file.

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BE's Next Great Exciter

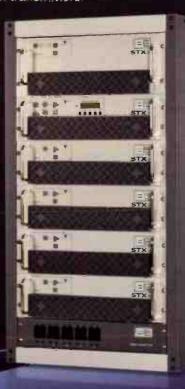
Providing unparalleled audio performance, the new STXe exciter will continue BE's dynamically engineered excellence, STXe exciters have a small footprint, are operational in FM, FM + HD Radio™, HD Radio only, DRM+, or FM + DRM+ modes, are IP connectable and range in power from 5 W to 60 W with higher power levels coming soon. The STXe exciter is now standard in BE's S and T Series FM transmitters.



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FROM THE JUDGES

"The front-panel USB gives me the data feed I needed." "Data logging — I can really use that."

FM/RDS monitor receiver I Inovonics

INOmini 633:

This sensitive and selective FM and FM/RDS receiver ranges from a simple confidence monitor to a rebroadcast receiver in FM translator (rebroadcast) service. The 633 also decodes and displays data from most RDS/RBDS data groups. In addition, it supplies a raw RadioData stream from a front-panel USB port to be used with supplied software and any PC for further monitoring, logging, qualification and analysis of the RDS/RBDS data groups. It features alarm tallies for carrier and audio loss, analog L/R and AES digital line outs, and displays and exports important RDS info for logging.

inovonicsbroadcast.com



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life by allowing the loss of individual LEDs up to the 25 percent limit per the FAA. It exceeds IEC 61000-4-5 Surge Immunity specification for power surges and transient voltage. Optional Wi-Fi allows any Wi-fi enabled device wireless connectivity on site for diagnostics, programming and lighting inspectins.

flashtechnology.com

FROM THE JUDGES

of wires — simplifies installation,"
"Reporting via Wi-Fi makes it so
easy to check the light operation,"

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...looking forward to the next 50 years, thanks to you.



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IP audio codecs I WorldCast Systems

Horizon NextGen: The WorldCast Horizon NextGen will be the first IP audio codec to feature the company's SmartIP



package of advanced IP techniques that include SureStream technology. Utilizing packet re-sequencing methods, SureStream enables broadcasters to obtain the audio quality and link reliability traditionally associated with T1 and

E1 links utilizing only inexpensive public Internet connections such as ADSL, wireless 3G and 4G, LAN, WAN and Wi-fi. Any combination of these can be used in a dual-streaming configuration to provide additional levels of redundancy.

aptcodecs.com

FROM THE JUDGES

"Multiple streams provide great backup potential." "Plenty of connectivity in 1RU."





Automation control app I Broadcast Software International

Simian Remote for iPhone:

With this remote access, users can connect to Simian 2.2 Pro on a PC at the studio using an iPhone to control live playback, edit program logs, perform live assist functions, initiate hot-key playback, adjust mixer levels, record voice tracks, load trigger sets and more. It shows the complete program log. When used on a remote broadcast, songs can be remotely loaded as needed. Triggers can be used to remotely fire events or control equipment, such as turning a console channel on to enable a codec feed. Remote voice tracking provides the intro and segue cuts so the voice track can be adjusted to customize the finished voice track.

bsiusa.com



Announcing the new MOSAIC

Logitek's flagship console is now even better with enhanced styling and functionality.

Updated for use with today's advanced audio streaming and networking technologies, the Mosaic gives you fast, easy access to sources and smooth, consistent operation no matter where it's used.

The Mosaic provides anywhere from four to 24 faders in a durable, attractive tabletop enclosure that can be placed anywhere or moved out of the way when not needed. OLED screens are used throughout the console and have been added to the Softkey module for easier source selection. We've made access to controls more intuitive and have illuminated key controls for use in any type of studio lighting.

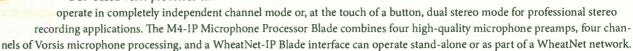
Available now, the Mosaic is perfect for operation with our JetStream Networked Audio platform.



Microphone processor I Wheatstone

M-4 IP: This four-channel,

DSP-based voice processor can



FROM THE JUDGES

"It talks WheatNet, but it also works with AES3 I/O." "Four powerful processors in 1RU — fantastic." Equipped with four, matched Super-Quiet (SQ) microphone preamplifiers, 24-bit A/D converters, 96kHz base sample rate, a four-section equalizer with high and low shelving EQ and two bands of fully parametric EQ, high and low pass filters, de-esser, expander, and up to three bands of processing. Adjustable from anywhere on a network the M4-IP offers the security of password-protected TCP/IP-based remote control and no front panel controls.

wheatstone.com



AM array monitor I Dalke Broadcast Services

All-digital Antenna Monitor: A new, graphic display for AM antenna systems, the company says it's likely the first significant change in AM antenna monitoring since 1932. Sample loops

FROM THE JUDGES

"A long overdue update to antenna monitoring."

"No more need for equal-length monitor lines."

are connected viafiber optic cables to the monitor. All the towers are shown on a graphic display, with boxes to represent the correct phase and ratio within $\pm 1/3$ degrees and $\pm 1/3$ percent. An out-of-toleracne tolerance shows as a red dot, and an in-tolerance tower shows as a green dot. As the array is tuned, the dots will visually move in an out of tolerance. The length of the sample line can be digitally measured to account

for variations in line length. The controller can be accessed via Wi-fi, so the display can be remotely displayed, whether it's in front of the phasor or at a tower ATU. A GPS receiver provides the frequency reference stability. Digital sample filters can be applied for diplexed antenna systems. **jim@dalke.com**



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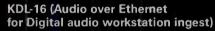






Symphony Suite

of Networked Audio Products



- 32 Bi-Directional Channels over EtherNet
- Utilizes Layer 3 Dante and Layer 2 AVB (IEEE 802.1) IEEE standard protocols
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KEL-16 (Audio over IP Codec)

- 16 Stereo Channels of AAC-LD. AAC-LC bit rate reduced encoded/decoded signals over IP (Layer 3)
- Also accommodates G.711 and G.722 for high quality communications
- Easily interconnects SAS 32KD between locations
- Can directly interconnect to any other multiple CODECs with same algorithm (AAC)

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World Radio History



Touch-screen remote control I Burk Technology

ARC Plus Touch: The new flagship of the ARC Plus remote control line, adds a touchscreen interface to simplify access to functions. Macros can be triggered in a single touch. It operates

> with Auto Pilot for a convenient studio in-



//////ARCPlusTouch

BURK

to connect to ARC-16, GSE3000 and Sine RFC-1 remote control systems. burk.com

FROM THE JUDGES

Good effort on further identifying the

weaker points of the processing chain."

"I like having another way to put the pro-

cessing back at the studio with a digital link."



Digital exciter | **Broadcast Electronics**

STXe: Built on the performance of Broadcast Electronics FM exciters

from the FX30, FX50 and FXi series, the STXe continues the outstanding audio performance with an exciter that can deliver analog FM, HD Radio and DRM outputs. It can be configured for analog only, digital only (HD Radio or DRM) or hybrid (analog and HD Radio or DRM) use. Via an IP connection, the exciter can provide a GUI to monitor various operating parameters. SNMP

> ity is also provided.

> > bdcast.com

Digital composite interface I **Omnia Audio**

Omnia Direct: In pursuit of the fully digital transmission chain that doesn't sacrifice loudness.

Omnia is working with Nautel to introduce

this fully digital composite interface. The technology is initially available in the Omnia.11 and Nautel NV series transmitters. To replace an analog composite signal and avoid the A/D conversion used to create discrete left/right inputs to a digital exciter, the Omnia Direct interface uses a single AES3 cable between the Omnia 11 and the Nautel NV transmitter to carry the baseband signal in digital form. This 100 percent digital path eliminates the noise and distortion of A/D converters and reduces potential overshoots, while ensuring full FCC mask compliance.

omniaaudio.com

FROM THE JUDGES

"Analog, HD Radio, DRM and any combo of the three." "Good evolution of an outstanding exciter family."

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Solid-state FM transmitters I **BW Broadcast**

V2: V2 transmitters include multiband DSPX audio processing, so

stations without a dedicated processor work right out of the box. Those who already have external processing benefit from unique dual-loop virtual VFO exciter and ultra-low distortion. "Gold clamp" transistors can be changed in minutes with only

a screwdriver and without needing a soldering iron. Slide-in universal power supplies make replacement easy and heatsink design ensures ultra-long life thanks to ingenious airflow. Carefully chosen fans are rated with more than 10-years life at 120 degrees F. An Ethernet connection is on every V2 with smart phone apps for remote management. Features include alarms and email alerts, a real time clock, comprehensive logging, and a high resolution OLED display for metering processing. Models are available from 5W-1500W.

bwbroadcast.com



Audio switcher | Infomedia

IBS 200: This audio switcher has four inputs (XLR balanced or AES3), one digital output and one analog output. The fourth input can be an external audio source the on-board audio player. The unit automatically switches to the secondary input if the primary

putting this at my transmitter. "I like the built-in sample-rate conversion."

source fails (loss of audio or loss of digital clock or data error, etc.), then third and then fourth. The priority of source and time delay before action can be set by the user. The threshold of silence detection is also user definable. The unit can also be controlled from a PC on an IP network or from the push buttons on the front panel. Switching can also be set on a timed schedule. It has redundant power supplies. In case of power failure an internal direct relay bypass is provided between digital input and output and between analog input and output. Sources are sample-rate converted and up to 24-bit/48kHz inputs can be used. All inputs and outputs can be monitored and metered via IP and the front panel. The unit also has a GPIO and RS-232 port on the rear panel. infomedia.com.cn

FM radio modulation analyzer I Deva Broadcast

DB4004: DB4004 is a second-generation digital FM radio modulation analyzer with an easy-to-read, high-resolution OLED graphical display and ultra-bright bar graph LED 60-segment indicators that allow reading the main signal param-



capability in 1RU. "It can scan multiple stations and report back."

eters at a glance. The processing power of the device enables all measurements to be refreshed simultaneously and synchronously, thereby allowing for detailed readings of all the multiplex FM signal components. It supports USB and LAN communication interfaces, allowing flexibility of the remote connection and control of the unit. The built-in FTP system manages the files by an assigned schedule and all the collected information is centralized in a database and can be revised, played back, and sent automatically to the qualified staff if need be. The band analyzer function of the DB4004 presents an overview of all FM signals available, plus the RF signal strength of these stations.



NEW...

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Arrakis leads the way again !!! The #I selling ARC-IOBP & ARC-ISBP advanced Radio consoles have gone 'Blue'... Bluetooth enabled that is! This means that the last channel on the console can be paired to any Bluetooth enabled audio device such as your Cell phone, MP3 player, MP3 recorder-editor, and more. Just pair your cell phone to the console and answer your incoming calls with the 'Call' button and drop them with the 'Drop' button, just like a standard phone hybrid. The Caller receives the console bus mix ('minus' the caller audio) so there is no feedback. OR... you can pair any Bluetooth enabled audio device such as an ipad, Tablet device, or MP3 player and stream full bandwidth, high quality stereo (A2DP) audio to the last channel on the console. If a paired Cell phone call comes in, then the stereo stream is dropped and the call can be answered. Arrakis does all of this while still allowing an external phone hybrid to be connected to the same channel at the same time. Your imagination is the only limit !!!

ARC-108F-011 \$2,795

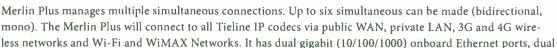
ARC-15BP-Blue \$3,795



Multi-connection IP codec I Tieline Technology

Merlin Plus:

A 1RU codec for the studio, the



redundant power supplies, audio silence detection and IP network backup to ensure reliable connections. Automated network failure detection provides switching to a backup IP LAN connection. SmartStream provides automated jitter buffer management, forward error correction (FEC) and error concealment. The Merlin Plus supports IPv4 and IPv6 protocols. It can communicate with linear PCM, Apt-x Enhanced, LC-AAC, HE-AAC v1 and v2, Opus, MPEG II, MPEG Layer-3, Tieline Music and MusicPLUS, G.722 and G.711 algorithms.

tieline.com



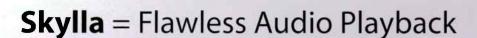


Portable recorder I ATS (Nagra)

Mezzo: This handheld recorder brings the Nagra quality to a compact and affordable package. It has 8GB of internal Flash memory, built-in cardiod microphones for X-Y recording, an external microphone connection and line in and out connections. Recording quality is possible up to 24-bit, 96kHz in linear PCM or MP3 formats. An

automatic gain control, voice-operated record function and low-cut filter assist in capturing the best recording. On-board editing allows for field editing. A built-in speaker and tripod thread mount round out the device.

nagraaudio.com



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internal storage.



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- 3 stereo Output buses
- Control coom & Studio manitars
- Cat5 cabling for today's infrastructure
- Analog & digital with USB sound card modules
- Dual conferencing Mix minus buses for telephone hybrids

the next generation of Analog-digital Radio console





very low profile tabletop design & fast access to level adjustments and cabling

conductive plastic faders and LED lighted switches for reliability Socketed ICs for fast on site repair.

The MARC is a next generation analog console that mixes analog and digital technologies with USB PC sound card modules (on air software included) for Windows & Apple *PCs.

For today's cable infrastructure the MARC uses CATS cabling and RJ45 connectors (cables included). Three stereo buses, Studio monitor modules, digital Timer, plus dual conferencing phone hybrid mix minus buses handles the big jobs.

*USB sound card supports USB HID compatible PCs

list price from







AoIP interface card I Sierra Automated Systems

KEL v2: An AoIP interface for the 32KD marries the stability and low latency of the synchronous TDM network with WAN-based asynchronous AoIP. The interface provides 32 channels of AoIP I/O for the 32KD network. The KEL module provides AAC, G.711 and G.722 codecs and AVB connectivity along with high quality sample rate conversion. **sasaudio.com**

FROM THE JUDGES

"32 channels of AoIP on a card Amazing." "Good transition to allow AoIP."



Colors Statle Sing Sing out 178 Sing to 178 Sing out 178



Internet radio monitor I Inovonics

Model 610: The 610 is the first dedicated hardware solution for uninterrupted monitoring of online radio quality and performance. It provides balanced analog and AES-digital outputs, selflogging alarms that constantly check for audio loss, stream loss and Internet loss, and an easyto-use tuner that decodes audio and displays live metadata for MP3, Ogg Vorbis and AAC formats. Rear-panel alarm tallies provide local alarms, and online notifications alert personnel with e-mail or instant text messages when any of the three alarms occur. The front panel displays left and right audio metering, local LED alarms and an LCD screen with jog wheel for advanced control and editing of all tuning and monitoring parameters. The 610's Web interface allows complete setup and control of the unit from a PC, tablet or smartphone, and two-way connectivity is ensured with a built-in Dynamic DNS utility.

inovonicsbroadcast.com

FROM THE JUDGES

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Experience the convenience and flexibility of IP. Z/IP ONE: the best way to hear from there.™

High-quality remotes are right in your pocket. Z/IP ONE now connects to LUCI LIVE smartphone apps for wideband audio on-the-go.





Audio codec I Harris Intraplex IP Link 200:

The new IP Link 200 adds a second bidirectional stereo input for multi-channel capability and an intelligent front panel user interface offering simple steps to change audio settings and establish IP addresses for network transport. This gives engineers and technicians the freedom to use the IP Link 200 for multiple purposes, from remote broadcast contribution to studio-to-studio or studio-to-transmitter links. The codec otherwise offers entirely analogous audio and streaming capabilities to its predecessor, including

support for multiple audio formats and its unique multicoding ability. This feature enables simultaneous delivery of audio in many formats for efficiency in streaming bandwidth.

harrisbroadcast.com



FROM THE JUDGES

Multiple connection paths ensure I'm always connected," Running multiple encoders for the best use of the available bandwidth is great.'

Audio editor I Audion Laboratories

VoxPro5:

VoxPro5's new features, a Multi-Track View (MTV) and on-screen Hot Keys, provide an



all-in-one broadcast production tool experience. Users now have the ability to record, edit, and add sound effects and music to a recorded bit as well as assigning it to an on-screen HotKey for replay and broadcast. An updated screen layout makes it easy to switch from Classic VoxPro view to one showing MTV and HotKey banks with the click of an icon and provide the user with the option of setting up their preferred layout when using VoxPro. Users can add multiple tracks underneath their master recordings with a drag and drop feature. Each separate multi-track has its own popup edit window for additional editing of that file as needed and includes all the features of the master recording window.

audionlabs.com

FROM THE JUDGES

"The simplicity of VoxPro with more features, like support tracks." "The classic view is still available; good for my jocks who don't like change

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- Variable BW Composite Filtering
- Digital Stereo Demodulation with 100dB L/R Separations
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2013 PICK HITS JUDGES

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Don Danko VP of Engineering Cincinnati Public Radio Cincinnati

William

Harrison Assistant Chief Engineer WETA-FM Arlington, VA

Marshall Rice Engineering Director **Hubbard Radio** St. Louis

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2013 PICK HITS RULES

- 1. Products must be new and not shown at a previous NAB spring convention. In some cases, distinguishing a new product from a modifled older one is difficult. For "Pick Hits" purposes, a new product is one with a new model number or designation. Software, firmware and operating system updates are eligible, but the new revision must carry an obvious designation (1.0 to 2.0 for example) and the feature set must provide clearly identifiable changes or updates.
- 2. Products must have some positive impact on the intended user's everyday work. Judges search for equipment intended for use on a regular basis. Products should provide new solutions to common problems.
- 3. Products must offer substantial improvement over previous technology. Unique circuit architecture need not be included, but some new approach or application must be involved in the product's design.

- 4. The price of the product must be within reach of its intended users. The judges seek products appropriate to a wide range of facilities.
- 5. The products must be available for purchase within the 2013 calendar year. Equipment must be on display on the show floor, currently (or imminently) in production, and some type of product literature must be available. Judges take the exhibitor's word on availability dates. Products demonstrated in private showings do not qualify.
- 6. The Pick Hits Judges operate independently and remain anonymous to everyone including other judges until the selection meeting. This ensures that the products chosen are truly representative of the industry, that the judges were not persuaded in any way, and that the entire selection process is as fair as possible. The judge's identities are published in the June 2013 issue.

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e didn't set out to break any records when we moved from our 108-year-old building on Jasper Ave. in Edmonton to our new address at the restored, historical Alberta Hotel in October 2012. But after 57 years in the old building, we were bound to break something.

As it is, CKUA Radio Networks holds the record as the first educational broadcaster in Canada, dating back to 1927. We are a non-profit organization and rely on our listeners and volunteers for funding and support. The move set us up with a few firsts, including moving more than 60,000 CDs, 72,000 LPs, 11,000 78s and several hundred Edison discs that go back to 1912 — the largest vintage music library we know of in broadcasting. We estimate the entire collection consists of 1.6 million tracks, which would take about 11 years to play back to back in its entirety. We hired professionals to help us move it, and yes, we did break a few in the process. (Hint: never stack records for moving. One speed bump and the whole stack of records could crack.)

Our irreplaceable music collection was one reason why we decided to make the move — that and the Jasper building had seen better days. Through the years, we wired, rewired and patched things together as best we could, building a patchwork of studios stacked on many floors to feed 17 provincial transmitters, streaming as the public broadcaster for the Alberta province.

The old Jasper building had seen more than its share of disasters. Some years ago, a fire broke out that jeopardized the music library, the majority of which has since been digitized and now sits on 67TB of digital storage.

Part of the reason for the move was to give our music library the kind of temperature- and moisture-controlled environment it deserved. We wanted to preserve that history, and we also needed a state-of-the-art facility, not only providing good radio programming, but the ability to showcase live performances, inviting listeners to participate.

We found the perfect building that struck that balance between old and new. The Alberta Hotel is a restoration of its iconic namesake in Edmonton.

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- 3 great reasons to buy ackslash
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FACILITY SHOW CASE

The five-story building was taken apart and the original stonework was put in storage until a local architect restored the building. Our CEO Ken Regan thought it would make a great location

We purchased the building with 50,000 square feet of open canvas, working closely with architects and consultants. We had to make some

changes; for example, on the second floor we had to lower the concrete slab to accommodate the air studios.

All the while we were up against the clock. The tired, old Jasper building was crumbling around us; we had one of the oldest boilers in the province, and it wasn't a healthy building to work in, both physically and creatively.

ALL ABOUT WORKFLOW

We weren't about to compromise on the layout of our new facility, though. We didn't want to leave one layout nightmare scenario for another. In the old building, for example, our main recording Studio A was on the sixth floor, but production facilities were on the fifth. Not only did we lack visibility, but wiring throughout the facility had accumulated



Studio A

over the 50 years in the building. We just couldn't make it work without a major rebuild. No amount of modern technology could make up for a patchwork workflow. The new broadcast environment has changed and required a total rethink of how things are done.

For the new facility we took the time to lay out a working workflow.

We also needed the right technology to make this facility as plug and play as possible. The direction in the industry — the new reality — was AoIP.

We invited two major AoIP providers to our facility for product demonstrations, and based on many factors we chose Wheatstone. We already had one of their first-ever AoIP blades as part of our iMediaTouch automation integration and a mix of Vorsis audio processors at various transmitter sites.

For this move, we would become the first station to receive the new LX-24 large-format WheatNet-IP AoIP control surfaces.

As we began facility design, Wheatstone's new LX-24 was still in development. We took one look at the surface and knew we had to have one — actually, we acquired four. A large format surface with modular fader strips, it has

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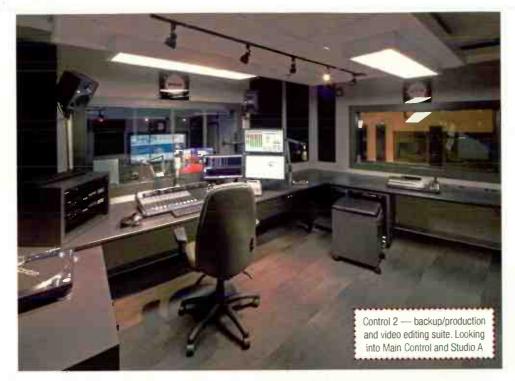
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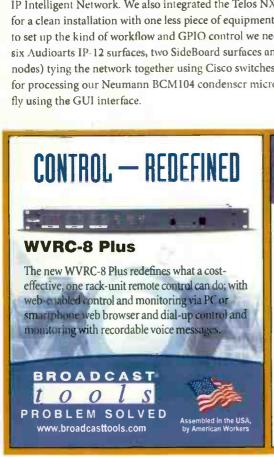
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a large meter bridge with eyebrow metering making for great visibility. Our announcers — some of whom have been with the station since practically day one — preferred a traditional meter bridge over having another monitor in the mix. However, it is available for those who prefer more information at hand.

This feature was not available on other consoles we initially considered, but Wheatstone obliged us. The new LX-24 was an exact fit for our combination vintage and modern facility. My millwork contractor also loved the fact that he didn't have to cut holes in the millwork. The LX-24 is a very low-profile control surface, so it sits on the table, and your hands aren't perched way up high to operate it.

Best of all, the LX-24 is a WheatNet-IP control surface. All controls are available on the surface, with access to almost unlimited source and destination points all connected through the WheatNet-IP Intelligent Network. We also integrated the Telos NX6 call director as part of the surfaces, making for a clean installation with one less piece of equipment cluttering the desk. We would finally be able to set up the kind of workflow and GPIO control we needed. Our system list included four I.X-24s, six Audioarts IP-12 surfaces, two SideBoard surfaces and 20 some WheatNet-IP Blades (IP access nodes) tying the network together using Cisco switches. A combination of M1s and M2s were used for processing our Neumann BCM104 condenser microphones, allowing changing of settings on the











FACILITYSHOWCASE

THE TOUR

When it all came together, we were amazed at the workflow built into the physical, as well as the IP layered, infrastructure. Unlike the multi-floor studio layout of the old building, the main recording studio (studio A) became the center surrounded by four primary control rooms with clear sightlines to one another (main control, backup control/video editing, and two primary production suites with sharable voice booth). A news booth finishes the core. The beauty is in the flexibility an IP system gives us. Any of these rooms can be used for any purpose without re-wiring or re-configuration.

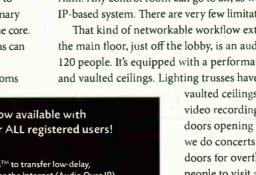
We now not only have visibility from our four primary control rooms

into Studio A, but we also have full network access and control of elements in each. From our LX-24 IP control surfaces in any room, for example, we can pull up sounders and source feeds from all over the complex, or record an interview or instrument ensemble happening in Studio A or our auditorium. Any control room can go to air, as well. That is the true beauty of an IP-based system. There are very few limitations at this point.

That kind of networkable workflow extends throughout the facility. On the main floor, just off the lobby, is an auditorium seating approximately 120 people. It's equipped with a performance stage, acoustical clouds and vaulted ceilings. Lighting trusses have been installed integral to the

> vaulted ceilings to accommodate lighting for video recordings. The auditorium has huge doors opening to a park next door, so when we do concerts or special events, we open the doors for overflow into the park. We encourage people to visit and be part of the experience.

The Wheatstone AoIP network allows us to











EQUIPMENT LIST Adderlink KVM Adobe Audition

Behringer X32 Denon DN-C620 Furman PL-8 C Henry Engineering Multiport Middle Atlantic PD-815R-PL Neumann BCM104, KH 120 OMT iMediaTouch Stanton STR8.150 Torpey CLK-26 Wheatstone LX-24, IP-12, SideBoard, WheatNet Blades, GP16, M1, M2 Yellowtec Mika



broadcast live performances to air, or record them for later broadcast, really from anywhere in the facility. For larger performances, we use a Behringer X32 console. It also has IP based properties. Instead of the traditional bulky multi-wire snake, it uses a CAT 6 cable from console to stage. For broadcasts, a smaller IP-12 console is used. A Blade handles all interfaces between the two, including GPIO tally control.

Bulkheads are installed at key locations throughout the facility, making operations plug and play. These bulkheads are CAT-6 patch panels able to not only accommodate the AoIP network but Internet and VoIP connections. These are also color coded to avoid confusion. Red is for AoIP, white for telephone, blue for Internet, and green for anything else that might be required. All these can be patched in the TOC (technical operations center).

For special events we essentially built a control room on wheels. It has all the gear required for broadcast from anywhere in the building, including our fifth floor patio terrace overlooking the North Saskatchewan River. All that is required is one CAT-6 cable plugged into the bulkhead patch-bay and we're on the air. Phone, laptop, automation control can also be patched in the same way. If we happen to be doing a remote broadcast for example, the audio codec or phone hybrid can be dialed up on the surface.

We worked closely with Kelly Parker, Wheatstone's systems engineer, to set up standardized talkbacks between all studios, so any studio or control room has talkback capability. If we record out of Control Room 3, for example, we can talk to the performance center, or if we record to air, we can also talk to the

View of one of the four listening/editing suites using IP-12 surfaces.

performance center or Studio A — GPIO control just follows. It's all universal. In the old Jasper building, something like this would have been a nightmare to put together, and would have required an engineer on staff to pull off. Now if there's a Saturday performance, I no longer have to ask one of my staff to be available on his day off.

The beauty of WheatNet-IP AoIP is that announcers can dial up the equipment they need from the surface. If an announcer in a production room wants to dial up a specific microphone or other room, it's just a matter of calling it up on the LX-24 console. WheatNet-IP is not just a routing system. That control layer in WheatNet-IP gives us control of all the elements. We can route and control

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FACILITYSHOWCASE

through the system any of the audio codecs we use for remotes, for example. We can route and turn on/off any of the BBC satellite feeds that we need, anywhere. We have total flexibility. The WheatNet-IP





has custom scripting capability, and eventually I want to use that to mirror the two primary control rooms for backup purposes. The two have GP16 panels, and we can write scripting so that if one control room fails, the other will take over automatically.

Another important design consideration was the location of essential computers. Because of the networking, all computers critical to on-air operations are connected via Adderlink KVMs to TOC. This allows for monitors, mice, and keyboards to be extended to the appropriate control rooms. This lets us control the noise (computer fans), control the dust and more easily manage the computers should they develop problems or require patch around.

We also decided to go with Wheatstone AoIP audio drivers on all broadcast-related computers, including our automation play-out systems. There's not a soundcard in the entire facility. The sound quality is astounding even to this day; there's no A/D/A conversion, and therefore





no buzzes and other noises resulting from soundcards. Essentially we are fully digital to the input of the station's processor.

Across the hallway is a bright open work area for announcers, traffic, copy, Web and content directors (here we don't call them program directors — it's all about the content). Each announcer has his own work space to listen to CDs and prep his show. In addition, four multi-use editing suites are available, equipped with IP-12 consoles, Adobe Audition, CD players, turntables and phone hybrids — everything needed for phone interviews, voice tracking or just listen to CDs. Even these smaller studios could go to air if needed or provide a secondary Internet program feed.

The lower floor houses our vast music library, all temperature- and humidity-controlled and indexed for safekeeping. Currently all CDs have been digitized on 67TB (and growing) of Isilon clustered storage. The database is browser-based, owned by and custom-designed for CKUA. Announcers can easily access the browser (from anywhere) for songs, sounders and taglines they need for their show. They access what they want, preview, and send the results to the automation system. This kind of access is important as we don't use music scheduling software at CKUA. Announcers select what they want to play that day. This database is crucial to our operations, as we employ many contractors who provide shows to us, making this resource a critical requirement. It also allows for announcers to perform show prep from anywhere, pre-loading their selections or remote voice-tracks.

We occupy four floors in our new building, including the third that holds senior management, administration and support offices for engineering, marketing, and sales, and several board rooms. The fourth and fifth floors of the Alberta Hotel will be leased — with the exception of the fifth floor terrace, which can be used for broadcast or live performances as well. We've even had requests for wedding ceremonies. The views are just spectacular. Part of the main floor is also leased out and restored as the original tavern of the hotel.

Unlike the old Jasper studios, we have a central TOC that is open for viewing through glass. It really makes you realize and appreciate what is required to operate a modern broadcast facility. It's the heart of all systems (not only broadcast) fully integrated and working as one. We use Cisco switches throughout the facility with adequate balance and redundancy. In the four primary control rooms we use smaller Cisco switches, allowing each to operate as its own island in case of complete network failure.

Remember your entire operation in essence now runs on a CAT-6 cable, which requires careful consideration, planning and layout. The best advice: First, have all network cables run, installed and terminated with each run certified by professionals. Second, invest in the best true on-line UPS you can afford. This will allow for clean power and prevent your system from re-booting during power bumps, which takes time and costs money in lost revenues. ①

Rodts is director of engineering, IT and facilities at CKUA Radio Network, Edmonton, AB.

FACILITY FOCUS

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TECHTIPS



Better Coaxial Cable Runs

by Doug Irwin
CPBE DRB AMD

n last month's Tech Tips I finished by mentioning that antenna installations should use a flexible jumper (pigtail) to transition between a stiffer coax and the antenna connector itself. The reason I gave was that the transition, done with coax only, usually forms some sort of a loop that has a lot of leverage on the connector itself, making it susceptible to damage from the wind over a period of time.

That's not the only problem with outdoor coax installations though, when it comes to dealing with the elements. Let's look at a couple of others.

The coax itself always seems rather robust when one rolls it off a spool and runs it up a tower or wooden pole. However, in reality, apply the right amount of wind and rain, and failure of the coax is practically a given.

Figure 1 shows a ⁷/8" Heliax that comes out of the transmitter building, has a horizontal run, and then makes a 90-degree bend to run up a wooden pole.



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In this case the actual bend is run through a piece of PVC piping, which is a good idea in this case especially, because it makes for a convenient way to secure the cable to a steel messenger cable. The PVC also helped in forming a reasonable bend in the Heliax. It should be noted, however, that PVC will not last long exposed to sunlight. I will become brittle and break. ABS and other materials are better suited for outdoor use.

The messenger cable is a device used to provide support and strain relief to cables that run across from the transmitter building to the pole. I also want to note that this wooden pole has been treated with creosote, which will make it stand up to the elements for much longer than those without creosote. (The railroads learned that lesson 150 years ago.)

Figure 2 shows a run of several coaxes across from the building to a different wooden pole.



Aside from the fact that this pole is not treated with creosote, it's also obvious that the cables are just hanging there, ready to be damaged in the wind. (The wind turbine in the background is a clue as to how windy this site can be.)

Fortunately, riggers we hired (ComPlus of Frazier Park, CA) were able to fix the original installation after the fact by adding a messenger cable. Figure 3 shows the results.

Finally, one point I want to make about running coaxes in to a building. It seems pretty



obvious that you don't want water coming in on a cable run. Figure 4 shows that this wasn't considered very well.



This cable runs in to the building pretty much horizontally. Any water running down the cable will run right into the building. The preferred way is to provide a drip loop (still supported by the messenger cable of course) that would make the water try to run uphill to get in to the space. That's a much more logical way of keeping water out.

The finer details of coax installation are important to consider when it comes to long-term use and reliability. •

Irwin is RF engineer/project manager for Clear Channel Los Angeles. Contact him at doug@dougirwin.net.





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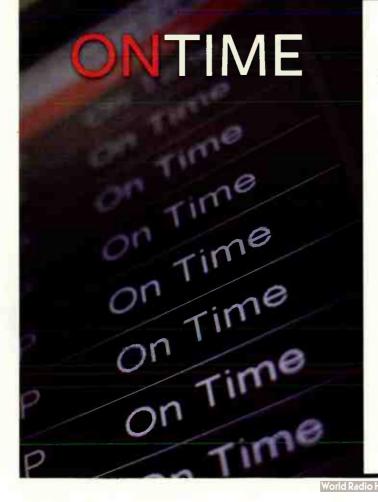
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SIDEBYSIDE

Headphones

by Chriss Scherer, editor

he most personal pieces of equipment in a studio are the announcer's or producer's headphones. I have always believed an announcer should have his own pair. It's like a musician choosing an instrument or an artist choosing a brush. They are worn for long periods, so comfort is important, but over the long-term it's the consistent sound they deliver.

Besides consistent monitoring, if an announcer owns his own pair of headphones, he's more likely to take care of them. There are better things for the engineering shop to do than repair headphones all day.

There are lots of different headphone choices available, thanks in part to club DJs and other audio users, but even consumers are choosing better headphones for personal use. For this Side by Side, we looked at closedback designs. The closed design reduces the potential for feedback and also eliminates much of the room noise. We chose a street price of \$100 or less with the idea that this was a compromise price point between very good quality and affordability. Some of the models below can be purchased for much less. Q

Audio-Technica ATH-M40fs

These professional headphones offer a flat, extended frequency response and can deliver a high SPL. Features include a sturdy strain-relief cable, comfortable circumaural earpieces that can be rotated 180 degrees for one-ear monitoring, 40mm drives with neodymium magnets and

copper-clad aluminum wire voice coils, an 11' straight cable with a 1/4" connector. Elements, cables and earpads can be replaced in the field. 5Hz - 28kHz; 60Ω. audio-technica.com

Hosa Technology HDC-800

Featuring an extrawide headband, this design provides lateral pressure to maximize the ear cushion placement for best isolation. The headphones are collapsible to fold flat for convenient storage. The cable is terminated in a 3.5mm plug and includes a 1/4"

adapter. The efficient drivers provide a linear frequency response. 20Hz - 20kHz; 32Ω. hosatech.com

Koss Pro4AA Probably the most popular headphones in the 1970s and 1980s. the Koss Pro4AA delivers full-frequency, high-fidelity performance with outstanding noise isolation. This design, retired in the late 1980s. has returned. The headband is made of steel and padded with rubber. The adjustable slide bars en-

sure a snug fit. The 8' coiled cord has a 1/4" stereo plug. 10Hz - 25kHz; 250Ω.

koss.com

Sennheiser HD280 PRO

These circumaural headphones are designed for professional monitoring. They are collapsible for storage and include swiveling ear cups. They attenuate 32dB of external noise, and the 10' coiled cable terminates in a 3.5mm connector. A locking 1/4" adaptor is included. 8Hz -25kHz; 64Ω

sennheiser.com

Shure SRH440

The enhanced frequency response delivers accurate audio across an extended range, and the closedback, circumaural design reduces background noise. An adjustable headband and collapsible construction provide comfort and portability. A bayonet clip securely locks the cable into the replaceable ear cup. The 10' coiled detachable cable terminates in a 3.5mm connector. A 1/4" adapter and carrying bag are included. 10Hz - 22kHz; 44Ω. shure.com

Sony MDR-7506

These headphones fold for storage and transport. The coiled cable terminates in a 3.5mm connector and includes a 1/4" adapter. The 40mm diameter drive units deliver deep bass, low distortion and wide dynamic range and are mounted with Neodymium magnets. A carrying bag is also included. 10Hz -20kHz; 63Ω. pro.sony.com

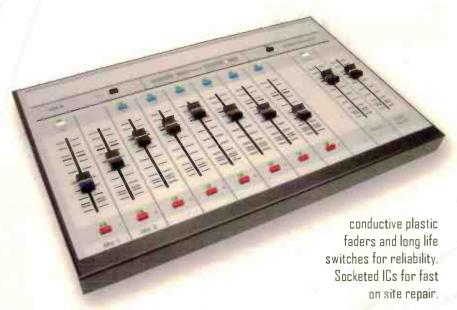


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FIELD**REPORT**

Røde iXY

by Ben Weiss, CPBE

early everyone carries a smart phone. That's no secret. And with so many apps available, we barely use them as phones any more. So as we condense our various appliance needs to be run on a smart phone, why not unload the handheld recorder, too? The Røde iXY is an XY mic that plugs into an iPhone 4 to make the iPhone a practical handheld recorder.

The stereo mic has two cardioid elements arranged in a coincident XY pair. It plugs directly into the socket on an iPhone 4. Yes, I know the current phone is version 5, but with the 5, Apple changed the connector. The iXY has the larger connector that fits the iPhone 4 and earlier. There are adapters available to connect 4 accessories to a 5, and that's what I did. The iPad still uses the larger connector.

The mic feels like a quality piece of equipment. It's sturdy. Out of the box I felt like this was a serious tool. When I plugged it into my iPhone, the phone immediately recognized that a stereo mic was attached and switched to stereo from mono and turned off the internal mic.

I also installed the Røde recorder app called Røde Rec. My first use of this recorder setup was at church to record a band with piano/keyboard, bass, guitar and drums. I then recorded some interviews.

Overall, the mic sounds very good. When used close for an interview, I had to use the included foam windscreen or the breath would cause obvious pops. The windscreen eliminated that. The band sounded very good; at least as good as my usual handheld recorder with its built-in XY mics.

The Røde Rec app can record and edit on the iPhone. This is handy for those limited to working in the field. Like any program, once you learn your way around it you'll be editing and tweaking

fast and on the fly.

Using the iXY and Røde Rec app on my phone was very much like using a dedicated handheld recorder. For a reporter on the go, it would be easy to learn and use, and the quality would be about the same as the handheld recorders. A benefit would be that most reporters will not lose their phones. We can't always say that about a handheld recorder.

In addition to the windscreen, the mic includes a padded and sturdy carrying case.

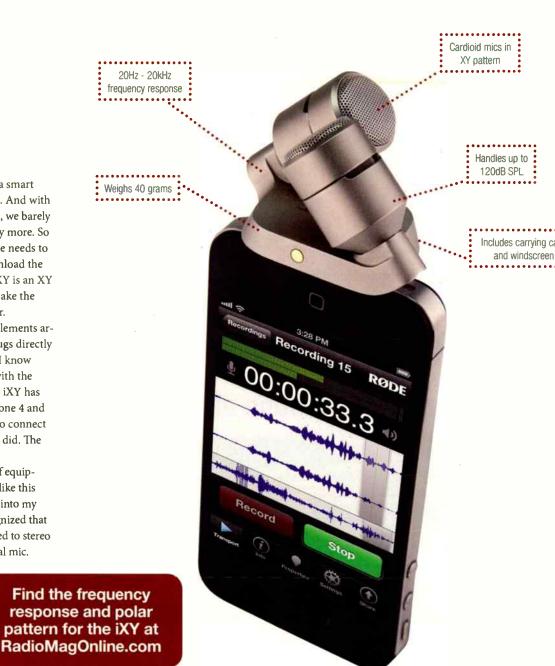
I noted that the mic has a connector for an iPhone 4 earlier and that I used an adapter to connect it to my iPhone 5. While this works, it puts some weight on the phone connector. Directly attached to a 4 it would be a sturdy connection. I'm skeptical about the long-term use of the adapter on the 5. Røde says it will

release a version with a connector for the 5.

With the adapter on my iPhone 5 I also have to remove the phone's case to make a solid connection. I can connect the mic to my iPhone 4 without removing the case. And since Apple decided to move the headphone jack on the 5 to the bottom, I can't connect a pair of headphones with the adapter connected.

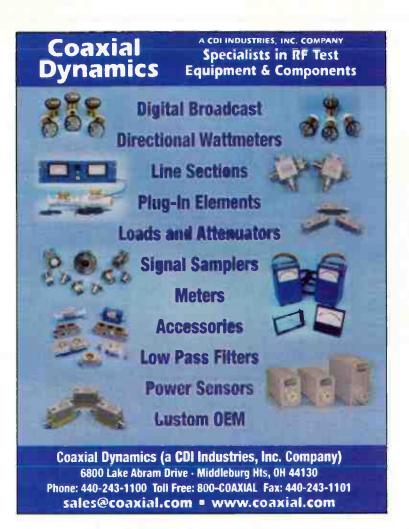
Overall, I'm impressed with the iXY and its performance. It captures recordings equal in quality to dedicated handheld recorders. If the goal is to reduce what you have to carry, the iXY eliminates one more device from your kit. •

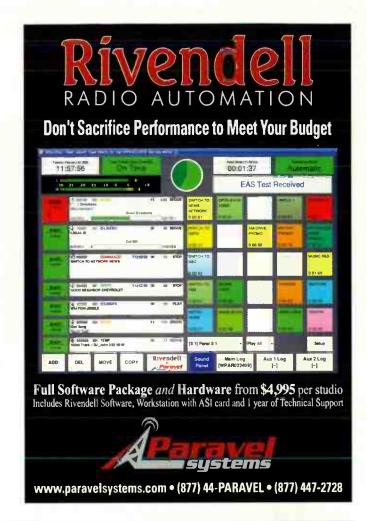
Weiss is a contract engineer in Kansas City.



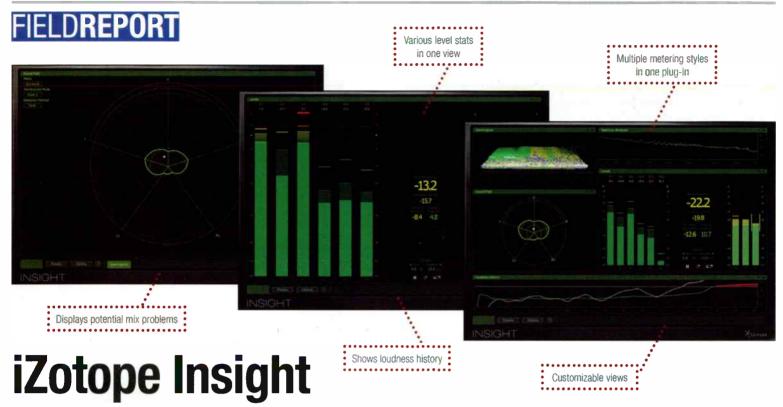
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16 JUNE









by Chris Wygal, CBRE

uring a busy NAB Show this year,
I attended a session on loudness
specific to TV engineers concerned
about the CALM act. So what was

I, a radio engineer doing there? It's simple: I don't trust machines. In this case, machines being the needles or LED lights that bounce up and down on our audio consoles. Over the years I've learned the difference between electrical amplitude measurement and perceived loudness. Granted, the radio industry has long had a better grip on loudness control and processing than our TV counterparts. But, in the production studio, especially in critical scenarios where music mastering is of concern, are VU and PPM meters really showing us how loud our mixdowns are? You can decide for yourself, after a brief introduction to iZotope's brand new Insight plugin.

Sadly, tried-and-true metering lacks the ability to show us the nuances of audio mixing. Much more is involved in audio mastering than amplitude levels. iZotope Insight has a complete lineup of mind-blowing meters that have changed the metering game. Insight works as a Direct-X, VST or VST3 plugin on most DAWs and non-linear editing software. It has endless presets that allow the user to see metering

IZOTOPE

izotope.com support@izotope.com scenarios for different environments. I'll start with a description of each meter.

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S METER BRIDGE

Out of the box, Insight is loaded with metering settings divided into three categories: audio analysis, loudness metering and music production. Within these default settings are numerous metering layouts that display user-customizable windows for displaying each of the meters. Insight works as a real-time plugin and floats on top of current workspace. Increased multiplescreen desktop space is encouraged. Each default preset includes momentary, short term and integrated level meters that appear as garden variety LEDs. The difference, however, lies in each meter's behavior.

The momentary meter measures levels over a period of 400ms. The short-term meter measures over a period of three seconds and the integrated meter uses complex algorithms enforced by loudness standards (legislated by the United States, EU or Japan, depending on the setting used) to calculate loudness over and indefinite period of time. Insight provides presets for television broadcast and production found in the Loudness Metering section, and for radio, those may be somewhat irrelevant. They are, however, usable to establish a perceived loudness measurement that supersedes the measuring abilities of standard VU and PPM meters. The Audio Analysis and Music Production default settings provide the same

aforementioned metering and will be more at home in a radio production environment.

From an audio analysis perspective, Insight features a 3D Spectogram crawl or waterfall. This psychedelic display shows audio response on a colorful three-dimensional real-time plane that shows sound as it happens with what harmonics are present and their amplitude. The spectrogram essentially draws a picture between 100Hz and 20kHz, or a selectable range. As the audio file is played, the display begins to appear as a mountainous Martian landscape. Brightly colored peaks indicate a higher response than a darker, cooler color. The 3D Spectogram draws the history of frequency and amplitude response as it happens. If it looks too psychedelic, a familiar spectrum analyzer is also available that shows RMS and peak frequency response.

The Averaging Spectrum Analyzer holds the response curve over the frequency range, and shows the constant state of the audio as it is played out. In a situation where an individual track from a mixing session needs analysis, Meter Taps allow the user to route specified audio tracks to Insight. This is useful when isolating one source track for analysis is necessary instead of listening to the entire mix.

Insight also draws a Wall of Sound that looks very akin to spectrum displays found in many editing platforms. As opposed to a waveform, the Wall of Sound shows the audio response in

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- Secure access to your system





FIELDREPORT

a colorful 30Hz to 20kHz scroll. Much like the 3D Spectogram, the hotter colors represent more amplitude at a certain frequency.

INTENSE MUSIC PRODUCTION

If production suffers in any way the most, it's from inconsistency. An engineer's mood, head congestion or environment can dictate what kind of sound he or she is producing. While best efforts are made in uniform referencing standards and DAW and console presets, mixing and mastering is by nature very subjective. To ward off inconsistent production levels that may ebb and flow over time, Insight allows the user to create pre-defined parameters in which levels must remain. Alarms will alert the user when parameters have been breached.

While the integrated LUFS meter operates within confines of legislation concerning television perceived loudness, the meter is actually very helpful in music and radio production in that it shows the pattern of loudness from the

start of an audio clip to the end. For example, the first few seconds of a popular music track played with Insight monitoring real-time begins with a level of -13.2 LUFS (loudness units relative to full digital scale). The waveform seemingly indicates consistent mastering all the way through. However, by the end of the song, we're seeing -8.0 LUFS. The perceived loudness of the song increased considerably over the duration of the track. Insight will bring to light this kind of information by way of using loudness targets that allow producers to achieve consistent loudness goals over the duration of one project or several.

Stereo imaging and phase control are vital aspects of audio production for radio TV production folks alike. Insight's Sound Field uses several different display schemes on a 180-degree field to show where audio is present in relation to left and right. The sound field can also be used for 5.1 surround monitoring. If audio is out of phase, too far left or too far right, Sound Field will display it by way of real-time animated lobes

or a spray of pixels that dot the graph, giving a spectacular image of stereo placement.

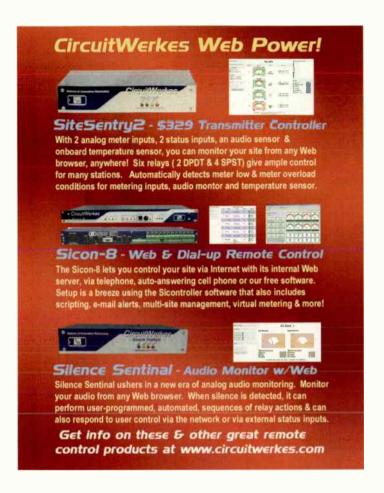
Insight's metering can be toggled between dB and dB_{FS}. Buffers can be set to optimize CPU usage during real-time metering. The Loudness Overflow Automation feature can be utilized with DAWs to mark on a track when loudness parameters were exceeded. This is a major time saver and indicator of where level infractions happened per the user's loudness targets. Additionally, the Preset Manager offers several starting points for Insight's metering displays and customized user presets can also be saved and recalled. iZotope's Insight is a handy tool for any production team that is concerned with creating consistency and maximizing perceived loudness. As a plug-in that hangs out nicely with software and DAWs, Insight goes the extra mile to deliver top-quality mastered audio to listeners. 0

Wygal is the programmer and engineer for Victory FM at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA.

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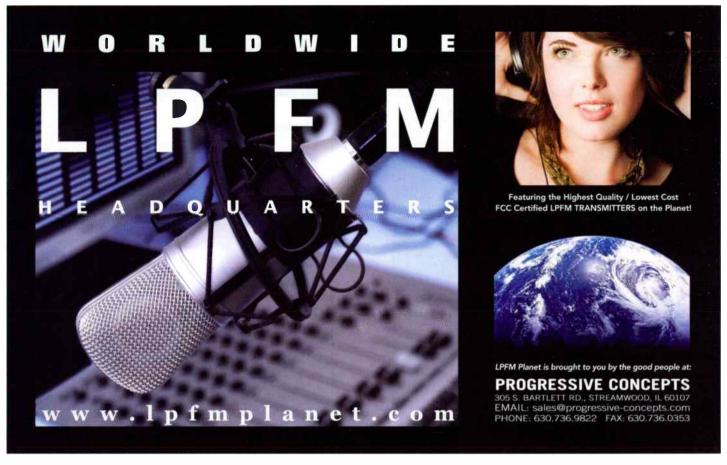
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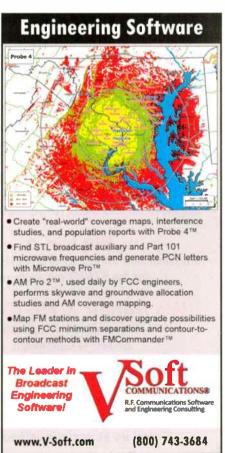
There are too many features to mention in this small ad space, so please visit us on the web or contact your distributor for details and pricing for the Audio-Pod System and many other innovative products for the broadcaster.

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SIGNOFF

20 years

of Radio magazine

by Chriss Scherer, editor

he first issue of *Radio* magazine (originally titled *BE Radio*) was published in January 1994, but its roots go back much farther. In 1959, *Broadcast Engineering* magazine was launched to cover the technology of radio and television. By 1994, it was realized that while the two services are related broadcast efforts, the needs of their specific audiences warranted splitting the content into two publications.

Radio magazine, now part of the NewBay Media group of publications, continues to cover the technology of radio broadcasting. Now in our 20th year, we'll look back at the first year of publication, which had six issues.

Features of the July 1994 issue:

- > The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) released a study revealing that while consumer awareness of RBDS was not very high (20 percent), more than 25 percent said they would listen to the radio more if their radio offered the service. 35 percent said RBDS would increase their radio listening enjoyment. More than 60 percent were interested in the program-associated data capability.
- > One column dove deeper into RBDS, which

was still a relatively new technology in the United States. It was introduced in 1993.

- > Our cover story discussed the factors to consider when buying a new transmitter, which included ideas about tube or solid-state designs.
- > What's right before the transmitter? The audio processor. Our

second feature talked about FM audio processing and ways to get the maximum performance. We also looked at the concepts behind the (then) new digital audio processors.

- > We went inside program syndicator MJI Broadcasting in New York City.
- New products covered included Modulation Sciences RDS-X RBDS generator; Modulation Sciences PRD-3000, RBDS decoder, monitor and analyzer; Timeline Studioframe DAW-80 DAW; Digidesign Session 8 DAW; Fidelipac Dynamax DCR1000 update to play 25MB

floppy discs; and Otari B-10 on-air radio console.

> Advertisements touted new products including Pioneer CAC-V3200, a 300 CD storage and playback jukebox; Aphex Systems Audiophile Air Chain, which included the Compellor 320, Aural Exciter Type III, Dominator II and Digicoder stereo generator; Nautel Ampfet ND 10 solid-state transmitter; Computer Concepts DCS; and Dolby Spectral Processor Model 740.



Jacobs Media Survey: Radio is Transitioning to Digital

Jacobs Media's Techsurvey 9 of core radio listeners shows that consumer listening may not only be high-tech, but also high-touch, According to Jacobs Media President Fred Jacobs, "Techsurvey 9 shows that while gadgets and new media continue to occupy the headlines, radio's ability to uniquely connect with consumers on their preferred platforms is the secret sauce for future success in the digital space."

The media usage pyramid shows how consumers are accessing media. The data includes hardware, type of service and online connection. In-car listening is still dominant, and 11 percent of respondents drive a vehicle equipped with a digital dash system such as Ford Sync.

Techsurvey 9 results were gathered online from Jan. 29 to Feb. 19, 2013. 264 broadcast stations across the U.S, and Canada participated, contributing 78,111 respondents.

Source: Jacobs Media Techsurvey 9. Jacobsmedia.com



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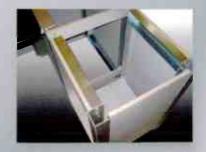


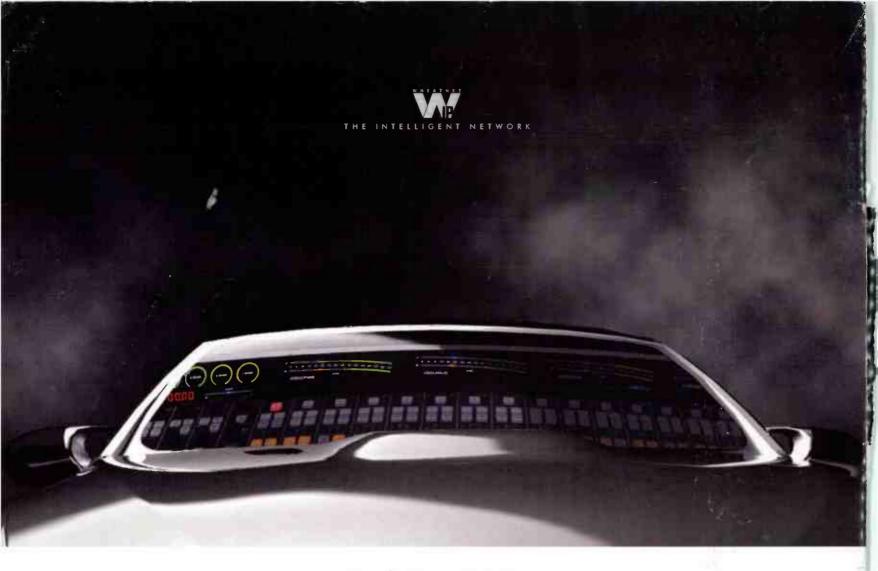
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