Audio at ISE 2020

The European destination for the global AV industry

Check your ISE map!
It's worth noting, though, that there are plenty of audio exhibitors outside the Audio and Live Events Zone. Why is this? Some larger exhibitors have chosen to remain in the positions they occupied at ISE before audio had its own dedicated location. Also, despite this zone spreading beyond Hall 7, not everyone can be accommodated there who might want to be (a situation that the move to Barcelona should resolve). So you'll find beyerdynamic and Harman in Hall 1, RTS and Sennheiser in Hall 2, Audio-Technica in Hall 3, Dolby in Hall 14.

Fortunately, there are numerous wayfinding screens (befitting an AV show), plus printed floorplans and a show app to help you navigate the show floor.

ISE also has a growing conference programme. The most relevant to Resolution readers is AudioForum, which takes place on Monday 10 February, the day before the exhibition opens. Organised by Italian media brand Connessioni, the theme is ‘Sound Democracy’ — that is, taking a people-centred approach to the delivery of sound. Elements under discussion will include acoustics, electroacoustics and psychoacoustics, plus cognitive and behavioural factors.

After the conference you can come to the ISE 2020 Opening Address, where former Disney executive Duncan Wardle will talk about how we can all rediscover our innate creativity, and enjoy drinks and canapes at the Opening Reception. Both are free to attend.

Resolution readers can register free of charge at www.iseurope.org, using the invitation code 434338.

Genelec: The Finnish loudspeaker maker will be showcasing two Smart IP loudspeaker models at the ISE show. The 4420 and 4430 loudspeakers combine both exceptional sound quality with single cable convenience, and their on-board Smart IP technology provides scalable power, audio and loudspeaker configuration, supervision and calibration features via a standard CAT cable.

Smart IP therefore offers system designers, integrators and installers an easy, powerful and cost-effective solution for guaranteeing enjoyable, high-quality audio across entire installations. The 4430 will be making its ISE debut alongside its new and even more compact 4420 sibling (page 12 this issue) with yet more Smart IP models expected to be added to the family in the future.

DirectOut: The German manufacturer recently became a Ravenna solutions vendor, and will show its new PRODIGY.MP audio processor, featuring a modular design and FPGA-based signal processing. Users can access matrix mixers, summing busses and flex channels with EQ, dynamics, delay and external plug-ins. Flex channels can be configured as input/pre faders or output/post faders.

PRODIGY.MP can simultaneously host two network audio modules that support Dante, Ravenna/AES67 or SoundGrid, and the two MADI slots can be equipped with BNC, SC or SFP modules. Four 8-channel converter slots complete the audio I/Os with analogue line level, microphone and AES3 module options, and increase the channel capacity to a total of 416 inputs/420 outputs. The PRODIGY series is based around DirectOut’s new RAV2 high performance network audio module, which can also be integrated into third party products. RAV2 offers 128x128 audio channels in up to 32 network streams, and sample rates up to 192kHz.

Lawo: The V__matrix (cloud) software-defined IP core routing, processing and multi-viewing platform will take centre stage. In addition, Lawo is presenting the powerful Ruby radio mixer at ISE 2020, with a customisable, context-sensitive screen operator in combination with the Power Core Audio Engine. The VisTool GUI Builder and the independent, comprehensive control system VSM will also be presented. Other highlights include the A__UHD Core with 1,024 fully equipped IP-DSP channels on 1U and Lawo’s WAN-capable live performance AoIP interfaces of the A__stage series.

DPA: In order to give customers as much choice as possible, DPA Microphones is unveiling new colour options for its powerful 6000 series of Subminiature Microphones so that they can be more closely matched to the wearer’s skin tone and clothing.

At ISE 2020, DPA will show its Red Dot Award-winning 6066 Subminiature Headset Microphone in brown as well as black and beige, and its 6060 and 6061 Lavalier Microphones in brown and white as well as black and beige. Already one of the smallest and most inconspicuous body-worn microphones on the market, the 6000 series will now be even less obtrusive, leaving presenters, artists and audiences free to focus on content and performance rather than technology.

Inte grated Systems Europe (ISE) holds its 17th edition at the RAI Amsterdam on 11-14 February. Last year’s exhibition attracted over 81,000 registered attendees, making it the world’s largest pro AV show. ISE has grown steadily since its inception. Its core audience remains audiovisual systems integrators, but it has gradually extended its reach into adjacent markets such as live events, and also attracts increasing numbers of technology users from outside the AV channel.

For all but two years of its history, ISE has been held in Amsterdam, but 2020 will be the last time, as it has outgrown the RAI; from 2021 it moves to the more temperate climes of Barcelona, at the Fira — Gran Via, which is most famous for hosting the Mobile World Congress.

Back to ISE 2020. Mike Blackman, Managing Director of show organiser Integrated Systems Events, comments: “AV is all about great experiences, and you can’t have great experiences without great sound. The audio chain, from microphones to loudspeaker systems and headphones via networks, mixers, processors and amplifiers, is a prominent force at ISE. Developments such as immersive audio continue to push the envelope for what’s possible.”

To impose some structure across 15 halls and 1,380 exhibitors, the show floor is organised into six Technology Zones, plus generic space. The area of most interest to us is the Audio and Live Events Zone, which occupies Hall 7 as well as adjacent areas in Halls 1, 5 and 6. We’ve put together a brief taster of a few of the 300 or more companies exhibiting here.
Stage Tec: The NEXUS audio network, manufactured by Stage Tec in Berlin, was previously designed exclusively for networking using a proprietary fiber optic cable protocol. At ISE Stage Tec will demonstrate that NEXUS can now also communicate with remote single or multiple Base Devices based on IP. Bidirectional AES67 streams are set up in which audio and control data are transmitted together. This feature is implemented via the NEXUS XFIP or RIF67 interfaces, both of which are equipped with the DirectOut AES67.IO module. Using an XFIP or RIF67 interface, up to eight IP links to other NEXUS Base Devices are possible. Thanks to this feature, NEXUS networks are independent of proprietary cabling and enable remote production and wide area networking through IP-based connectivity.

Trinnov: The French company continues to expand its platform by offering DTS:X Pro as a free-of-charge update to all new and existing owners of Altitude32 and Altitude16 processors. Promoted by Trinnov Audio throughout 2019 in partnership with DTS, Trinnov will demonstrate DTS:X Pro for the first time as a publicly available technology in a purpose-built 15 seat 15.3.10 channel immersive audio theatre in Hall One, stand 1-N100, in partnership with co-exhibitors Procella Audio and Kaleidescape at ISE 2020 in Amsterdam February 11-14. An Altitude32 processor and Amplitude8 power amplifiers will be utilized for the playback system, along with 28 Procella loudspeakers, Procella amplifiers, a Kaleidescape Strato and a Sony VPL-W5000ES projector.

Listen EVERYWHERE is a wi-fi streaming solution for personal and assistive listening from Listen Technologies. The system, which can be added to a venue’s existing wireless network, enables visitors to stream audio from TVs and other venue audio sources directly to their smartphones or tablets via the free dedicated app. Another range, ListenTALK, includes a variety of systems, receivers and accessories to accommodate customers' different sound environments, communications and budgets. Specific products include the ListenTALK LK-1 transceiver (combination transmitter/receiver) for simple, mobile, wireless group communication, as well as the ListenTALK LKR-11 and LKR-12 one-way, receiver-only solutions.

Clear-Com: On show will be some of its latest intercom solutions, including the new FreeSpeak Edge. This operates in the 5GHz band and delivers clear 12kHz audio quality with ultra-low latency and advanced RF performance — including in high multi-path environments. The system is scalable to accommodate the largest productions and can also be combined seamlessly with FreeSpeak II 1.9GHz and 2.4GHz systems, providing three bands across a single unified intercom system.

RTS will be showing the Odin digital intercom matrix, which delivers up to 128 channels of Dante, AES67 and 16 channels of RVON compatible audio over IP as well as analogue connectivity in a single rack unit. The new SMPTE ST 2110-30 standard is also supported. Odin is flexible enough to work with any major IP networking standard; in keeping with the principles of ‘forward thinking and backwards compatibility’, it can integrate into the most sophisticated large-scale intercom operations.

Introducing the 2028 VOCAL MICROPHONE

Built for life on the road

- The renowned DPA sound
- Natural vocals – from folk to metal
- Reduces feedback issues
- A sturdy mic designed for live
- For wired or wireless use

MSRP £500 excl. local VAT

dpamicrophones.com/2028