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Page 24

Page 20





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The Newspaper for Radio Managers and Engineers

June 6, 2007

WTGB Is 'Green' Pioneer For CBS

Washington Station
Hopes to Catch on With
Eco-Friendly Format

by Randy J. Stine

SILVER SPRING, Md. CBS Radio is looking to put a cap on its carbon output in the nation's capital by launching a radio station that is environmentally friendly both on and off the air.

It will use renewable energy to supply its 50,000 watt signal and has an over-hauled on-air sound branded as "Go Green With the Globe."



If the effort is successful, some of the other 143 CBS Radio stations might go green, those involved say.

The station, 94.7(FM) The Globe, eventually will use only hybrid station vehicles and promote eco-friendly events.

It plays music like the Dave Matthews Band and Red Hot Chili Peppers, but CBS Radio managers say what happens between the songs and behind the scenes is just as important. The nation's increased concern about the environment is leading the broadcaster to do right by it, managers say; and hopefully they can capitalize on the movement with potentially higher ratings as well.

"This is a chance to do something that See GREEN, page 8



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Streaming Deadline **Postponed**

WASHINGTON The Copyright Royalty Board delayed a deadline for online stations to make music royalty payments under new rates. The deadline is now July 15.

NPR and the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System are among those that have filed appeals. SaveNetRadio welcomed the delay and lobbied lawmakers about what it calls the "devastating" new rates. The organization of artists, labels, listeners and Webcasters led a rally here in May to discuss a bill they say would vacate the rates and give Internet radio a royalty rate similar to those of satellite and cable radio.

Reps. Jay Inslee, D-Wash. and Don Manzullo, R-Ill. filed the legislation to vacate the royalty decision. The hike amounts to a 300 percent cost increase for the largest Webcasters and up to a 1,200 percent increase for smaller operations, bill proponents said.

"There has to be a business model that allows creative Webcasters to thrive and the existing rule removes all the oxygen from this space," Inslee said.

Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

NAB stated that it was reviewing details of the bill but called CRB's rate hike disappointing. NPR supports the bill, saying, "Since 1976, (Congress) has recognized that public radio has a very different mission from commercial media and cannot pay commercial-level royalty rates."

SoundExchange said proponents of the bill paint a distorted picture and that Internet radio is not going to "die" under the new rates. The organization, which collects digital audio royalties for artists and sound recording copyright owners, said the Webcasting music business is "dominated by 10 large, highly-profitable companies."

Under the bill, "large commercial serv-

ices like Clear Channel and Microsoft would experience a windfall in excess of \$10 million a year that otherwise would be paid to artists and labels."

DRM Eyes India For MW Test

GENEVA The Digital Radio Mondiale Consortium, All India Radio and the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union hoped to showcase DRM digital radio transmissions in the medium-wave band using single-channel simulcast and multi-channel simulcast technologies.

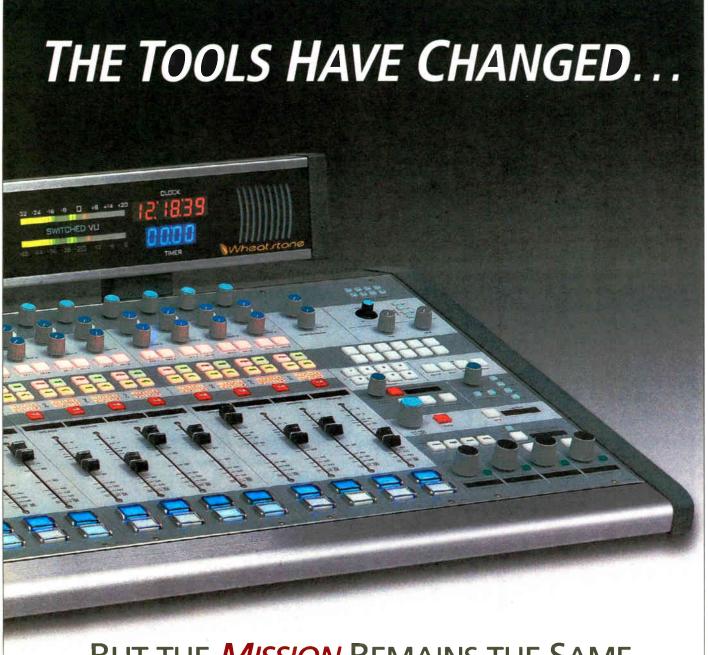
Proponents hope to demonstrate the feasibility of the SCS and MSC technology, while broadcasting analog and digital radio signals using only one transmitter, they said. A May trial was targeted to mediumwave broadcasters, transmitter manufacturers, receiver makers and retailers

News Roundup

HARRIS said broadcast revenue was down about 2.8 percent in its third quarter compared to the same period a year before. Revenue was \$139 million.

SAMSUNG plans to introduce a lowpower, high-performance chip for HD Radio receivers designed to support advanced features for HD Radio with applications in mobile phones, portable media players, portable navigation devices, table radios and home audiovideo components. Production quantities are expected in early 2008.

See NEWSWATCH, page 6



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Web Content Models Need Context

by Tony Ware

Business success on the Web is dependent on mastering not just content but context, according to Shen Tong, founder and president of VFinity, a Web-native workflow management technology.

Achieving success on Web 2.0 is mandatory to avoid becoming obsolete, Tong said during an NAB session, "Social Networking in the 21st Century."

note, offering a context-centric strategy with highly flexible metadata. Customers will dictate valuable content.
"Gatekeepers are dead," Tong said,

stressing people as an integration point of creativity, community and software. "It's not about how you can protect content, it's about how easy you can get content to the context aggregate system."

After Tong demonstrated VFinity's means of creating "dynamic circles,"

Gatekeepers are dead. It's not about how you



can protect content, it's about how easy you can get content to the context aggregate system.

- Shen Tong

"When I was running the news center for the student center in Beijing, reporters said my revolution would be televised, and it made the difference," said Tong, who was a student activist during China's Tiananmen Square movement and whose book on the subject, "Almost a Revolution," is still required reading.

Peggy Miles, session moderator and president and founder of Intervox Communications in Alexandria, Va., introduced the panelists. They included David Bankston, executive vice president and chief technology officer of Neighborhood America; Cynthia Francis, chief executive officer of Reality Digital;

People now have a digital life that travels conveniently with them, and allows for instantaneous feedback for strengthening all capabilities. Building affinity almost more than brands, locking in on a community of interest and the "mash-up" of applications and widgets on Web sites were bantered back and forth as the evolution of long-term collaboration.

'The power of social networking is available to everyone; it is not a threat," Tong said. "Like in 'Jurassic Park,' life finds a way. Now content finds a way.'

This story was prepared for the NAB Daily News and is ONAB.

Shen Tong

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Managed Web

"Now, the next revolution will be social networking," Tong said. "I want to thank NAB for organizing this panel, because it is the most challenging and important question for media business. It refers to massive growing interactivity."

Tong then introduced his concept of the managed Web. Tong proposed that everything — from the Amazon model of users reviewing products and users rating reviews to actual internal production - will become a network of harnessing context tools and tags.

Tong notes that content is no longer limited by access to the airwaves or shelf space. Everyone has access to everything, and the Web is taking the place of libraries and archives, traditional broadcasting and means of distribution, he believes.

Now the key is in the filters, he said. Customers desire a self-service, self-correcting mechanism more than a dictated product. Manufacturers need to take

Visit radioworld.com for CoolCast video demos of all the 2007 "Cool Stuff" Award-winning products.

Michael Gordon, co-founder and chief strategy officer of Limelight Networks; Suzanne Stefanac, director of the American Film Institute's Digital Content Lab; and Rex Wong, chief executive officer of Dave.TV.

Miles projected the cell phone-captured CNN.com video of the Virginia Tech shooting.

"News, user-generated, is no longer in the future," Miles said. "Right now it's cached video, but the next generation will be live, mobile Webcasting on the phone.

As she spoke, someone circled the room with a cell phone, and its images were projected with a minor delay through ComVu, which enables live video broadcasts from cell phones.

Building a community

The panel discussed how the television networks are realizing the value of reaching out to and building the community of potential content providers in the general public.

But with the concept of the medium being available to all came the issues of minimizing risks from legal issues such as libel and copyright infringement. This brought up the importance of filters on both the back and front end.

NEWS WATCH

AUTOMAKERS: A technology manager at Chrysler told Reuters, "We're investigating HD Radio and we'll probably make a decision in six months. When you add up the cost, it's a lot of money." Reuters reports installing HD-R "would cost the struggling Big Three U.S. automakers as much as an estimated \$600 million annually to install." GM, Ford and Chrysler have not committed; HD Digital Radio Alliance President/CEO Peter Ferrara was quoted saying the Big Three have "made a conscious decision to wait and see."

SIRIUS said its quarterly loss narrowed and it had increased revenue from new customers. It reported a net loss of \$144.7 million, compared to a loss of \$458.5 million a year ago. Revenue increased 61 percent to \$204

WXPN(FM) launched its HD2 channel with an indie rock format, "Y-Rock On XPN." The Philadelphia station says it's the only station in the market airing the format.

Give Sat Translators to Stations

Our friend and contributor Jim Withers read my recent comments about the Sirius/XM merger including my "proposal" to reignite WLW's 500 kW blowtorch.

"Even though that idea gives me a warm glow," Jim e-mailed, "Î think Mexico might have a couple of things to say about a modern day 'Border Blaster,' so I have an alternate plan:

"I would propose, as a condition of merger approval, that the combined Sirius/XM entity set aside up to 50 or 60 of their 'gap-filler' translator channels in each Arbitron rated market for use by local broadcasters. Every station that could demonstrate 'significant market presence,' measured by some combination of signal and ratings, would get access to its own translator channel in its local market.

"Sirius/XM would apply for power increases for the relinquished translator channels so the coverage for local stations would roughly equal the average market coverage of all of the stations. Simultaneously, Sirius/XM would go dark on the 50 to 60 satellite channels that were co-channel with the translators.'

Jim thinks his plan has several advantages for broadcasters and does not significantly affect the business model of a combined satellite broadcaster.

"First, it levels the playing field by allowing local broadcasters access to satellite radio subscribers," he wrote. "As TV stations found out when cable began siphoning off viewers in the 1980s, once local stations got guaranteed access to cable homes through 'Must Carry,' viewers remained loyal to their local market stations. (In fact, the majority of viewing in cable homes still goes to local TV stations and affiliates of the five broadcast networks.)

"Second, it removes the monopolistic nature of a merged satellite company. With guaranteed carriage of all local broadcast signals, each in its own market, competition will dictate ratings and rates. Although it would still be true that the merged entity might ultimately try to charge higher subscriber fees, over-the-air radio would remain an economically viable free alternative, with full access to satellite subscribers, and that fact would help keep rates low.

Third, it does not impact the true advantage of satellite radio, that of a national service, well suited to over-the-road listening and national event programming.

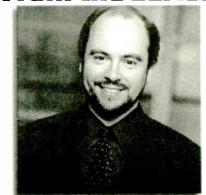
'Fourth, AM radio in particular would benefit from a huge technological improvement in quality," Jim continued. "I figure most stations would simply transport a studio-grade signal directly to the translator headend via IP/DSL or microwave. Full 20 kHz surround sound for everybody!

"Fifth, it takes our industry out of the protectionist mode. Radio works best as a local medium. We all know that and this is our chance to prove that we're not afraid of legitimate competition."

He invites feedback on this idea via the pages of RW. Write to me at radio world@imaspub.com.

Jim Withers is that rare radio owner with a passion for engineering - or is it "rare engineer with a passion for ownership"? Be sure to read his recent three-part series for prospective new station owners at radioworld.com.

From the Editor



Paul J. McLane

Tune In to RW's CoolCast Online

radioworld@imaspub.com.

Our judges weigh in with their picks throughout this issue. And we've added something new this year: CoolCast Videos give you a first-hand look at this year's "Cool Stuff" winners.



Peter Burk explains the Burk AFD-1 for the RW camera. You can learn about this year's 'Cool Stuff' winners via video on the RW Web site.

A great Radio World deal of sweat and imagination goes into creating any new product. What makes for an award winner? What do these products offer for radio station users? Hear about it from the source with personal demos from the manufacturers and product gurus who brought their exciting technology to market at the NAB convention.

Visit radioworld. com, click on the 'Cool Stuff' logo and choose a thumbnail screenshot to see RW's "on the floor" CoolCast video demo

for each product.

For a discussion about how awards are picked, see the 2006 story "A Cool Stuff Judge Talks" at radioworld.com/coolfaq.

The Winners

Broadcast Bionics PhoneBOX Solo Broadcast Electronics TRE Revenue Center Broadcast Tools ProMix 12 Console Burk AFD-1 Arc and Flame Detector Burk Watchband Remote AM/FM/RDS Receiver Comrex ACCESS Portable

DaySeguerra Model M3 HD Radio Precision Multi-Monitor Digital Radio Express Aruba FMeXtra Receiver Global Security Systems Alert FM USB Henry Engineering USB-AES Matchbox JK Audio Daptor Three Wireless Audio Interface Kowa PX10 Flash Memory Audio Player Nautel Nautel Reliable HD Transport Suite NewTek TriCaster Studio w/Pizazz Productions' AutoSwitch Omnia Audio Omnia ONE Multicast Processor Roland RSS S-1608 Digital Snake System Sierra Automated Systems Dees Digital Rubicon-SL Retro Telos Zephyr/IP TowerSwitch Talking Alert-Mini

"Cool Concept": Inovonics BandScanner, Model 512 NDS RadioGuard

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Think Before You Send a Fax

Unsolicited, Unwanted, Advertising Faxes Are 'Junk'

by Henry A. Solomon

Have you ever been on the receiving end of a fax solicitation you didn't want and felt like your privacy was being invaded? Have you ever sent to a stranger a fax advertising your business or organization? The answer to both questions is probably yes.

In each of theses cases the sender transmitted and the recipient received a so-called "junk fax," for which you are open to private causes of action, which could result in statutory damages of up to \$1,500 per fax. Junk faxers also may be subject to monetary forfeitures or citations by the FCC.

Junk faxes are unsolicited advertisements transmitted over a telephone facsimile machine, a computer or other device, to a business or residential fax machine. In the usual case the fax spammer and the advertiser are one in the same.

The 1991 Telephone Consumer Protection Act made unsolicited advertising faxes illegal unless the sender first obtained the recipient's explicit consent. Congress recently amended the TCPA's unsolicited advertisement provisions by enacting the Junk Fax Protection Act. In August 2006, the FCC amended its rules to track the JPFA's provisions.

Junk faxes, anyone?

The FCC has tried to discourage junk faxes, but it has failed to analyze junk fax data, or do a good job articulating longterm or annual goals for junk fax monitoring, enforcement and consumer education. The General Accounting Office so concluded in its April 2006 report to Congress titled "Weakness in Procedures and Performance Management Hinder Junk Fax Enforcement."

The FCC has the power to levy monetary forfeitures of up to \$1,500 for each illegal advertising fax. Though the FCC's Enforcement Bureau has issued numerous citations (i.e., written warnings) against junk faxers, the agency has

found it extremely difficult to collect the fines or count on the Department of Justice to bring collection actions in federal courts, as opposed to sending threatening letters.

The GAO's report notes that between 2000 and 2005, junk fax enforcement actions at the commission remained the same, and that out of 46,000 complaints recorded in 2005, very few of them resulted in fines. GAO statistics also revealed that between 2000 and 2005, the FCC issued only six forfeitures.

The report does not mention one important fact: The vast majority of fax spammers do not hold broadcast licenses and are not otherwise regulated by the FCC. Consequently, the FCC can't pressure spam scofflaws to pay up or risk having their license applications or requests "frozen" under the commission's "Red Light" policy. In addition, the FCC lacks the authority to impose penalties or charge interest for late payment or nonpayment of monetary forfeitures.

Surprisingly, during the five-year period beginning in 2000, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued only approximately 260 citations against junk faxers. Moreover, the GAO found that enforcement efforts at the FCC have been hindered by management deficiencies, and the rising sophistication of junk faxers in hiding their identities.

Now that the JFPA is law and the FCC has a final set of rules covering junk faxes, the shortcomings identified by the GAO

are likely to be addressed by the bureau.

Junk faxes are illegal regardless of the time of day (or night) they are transmitted. They do not fall within the "safe harbor" exemption relating to telephone solicitations of parties who are not on the nationwide do-not-call list.

Moreover, unsolicited ad faxes that are sent to strangers are illegal even if the recipient does not own a fax machine. They are particularly annoying because calls ringing to telephone lines that are not connected to fax machines tend to make a high-pitched computer noise.

'Opt-out' notice essential

However, not all unsolicited advertising faxes are illegal. The JFPA and the FCC's rules now recognize that unsolicited faxes may be permissible where sender recipient have an Established Business Relationship (EBR). For there to be an EBR, a recipient and the business or organization sending the fax must regularly transact business.

Additionally, the recipient's fax number must have been voluntarily disclosed to the sender. The law also requires each fax, not simply the cover sheet, to contain a plain English "opt-out" notice. The notice must set forth a toll-free telephone number, Internet address or other no-cost means by which the recipient can call a halt to further faxes.

What about senders of unsolicited mass faxes to strangers? Most ad faxes See JUNK, page 6

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: TRE Revenue Center Company: Broadcast Electronics

TRE Revenue Center is a module for BE's TRE Message Manager to track Messagecasting advertisers, campaigns and messages. It includes management tools for selling on-air support text such as advertiser phone number, coupon code or Web site address.

"The tool can also be used with any over-the-air flight of message impressions not associated with audio content," BE

states. TRE Revenue Center offers printable reports on revenue-generating messages for billing purposes, including details on when each message aired, graphs showing daypart distribution and additional statistics.

Jim Roberts of BE is shown.

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Price: A no-charge add-on to TRE Message Manager, which starts at \$1,100 Design: The Radio Experience development teams in Quincy, Ill., and Seattle Contact: (217) 224-9600, e-mail bdcast@bdcast.com or visit www.bdcast.com

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Recently, we were surprised to hear that a couple of our former customers thought that Bradley had gone out of business.... mostly because they hadn't seen any Bradley advertising for years. OK... this is something we can fix - today! Since 1983, Bradley Broadcast and Pro Audio has been providing the friendly personal service of a small company... backed by the technical expertise of a staff with many years in the business. The next time you have a project coming up, we'd surely appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you.

www.bradleybroadcast.com



1-800-732-7665

Junk

Continued from page 5

sent by so-called "fax broadcasters" are illegal and the fax broadcaster may be subjected to statutory damage lawsuits and/or, as noted, FCC citations. Many fax broadcasters use auto dialers and are known as "war dialers." They employ computer programs that can target and bombard thousands if not hundreds of thousands of fax machines simultaneously. Unfortunately, it's often difficult to contact the advertiser or the fax marketer and demand that the faxes cease.

Unsolicited advertising faxes may be lawful even if the EBR and explicit consent exemptions aren't present. For example a business may have implicitly consented to receive unsolicited faxes if it provides its facsimile number in a directory or advertisement or displays it on its Web site. Conversely, where a recipient's fax number appears in a directory or any other source of information that has been compiled by third parties (such as an alumni newsletter or trade publication), the sender must take reasonable steps to verify that the recipient consented to have its fax number made available to the public at large, and had no objection to receiving fax solicitations.

Curbing unsolicited advertising faxes is not an easy job. Private litigation is costly and time consuming, and judgments or settlement amounts are often uncollectible.

Likewise, the FCC's enforcement actions leave much to be desired. However, nature abhors a vacuum.

The vacuum is now being filled by companies that aid individuals and businesses that want to combat fax spammers. Typically, these bounty hunters advertise their services on the Internet and usually charge clients a fee, generally \$100, for each monetary settlement they're able to exact.

States enacting laws

Speaking of enablers, tort lawyers have discovered that junk fax lawsuits — class actions in particular — can generate multimillion-dollar verdicts. These junk fax "specialists" often negotiate handsome monetary settlements simply by sending out demand letters and, in some cases, including a draft of a court complaint.

Although the FCC has cited or fined junk faxers, some state and federal courts

have taken a more proactive role in curbing this problem. For example, the grand-daddy of all junk faxers was California-based Fax.com.

A coalition of California activists sued the company, its affiliates, individuals connected with the companies, and advertisers. Plaintiffs sought damages of \$2.2 trillion. Yes, \$2.2 trillion.

The State of Indiana intervened in the case and its share of a \$51 million settlement was approximately \$6.6 million. The State's Attorney General has recognized that the judgment may never be collected from the defunct companies.

Nevertheless, following the California model, Indiana has enacted its own junk fax law. It was to become effective in January.

In another class action against the Dallas Mavericks, the team actually paid \$650,000 to settle junk fax litigation in Texas.

Junk faxes are classic nuisances. They use 20th century technology to invade consumers' privacy and waste their paper and toner.

It also seems clear that junk faxes can backfire by generating ill will toward the advertisers whose messages are transmitted. Indeed, it may be argued that junk faxes are even more of a nuisance than unwanted telephone solicitations.

Pardon the pun: As a matter of fax, you can't hang up on a fax.

Solomon is an attorney with Garvey Schubert Barer. Reach him at hsolomon@gsblaw.com.



Continued from page 2

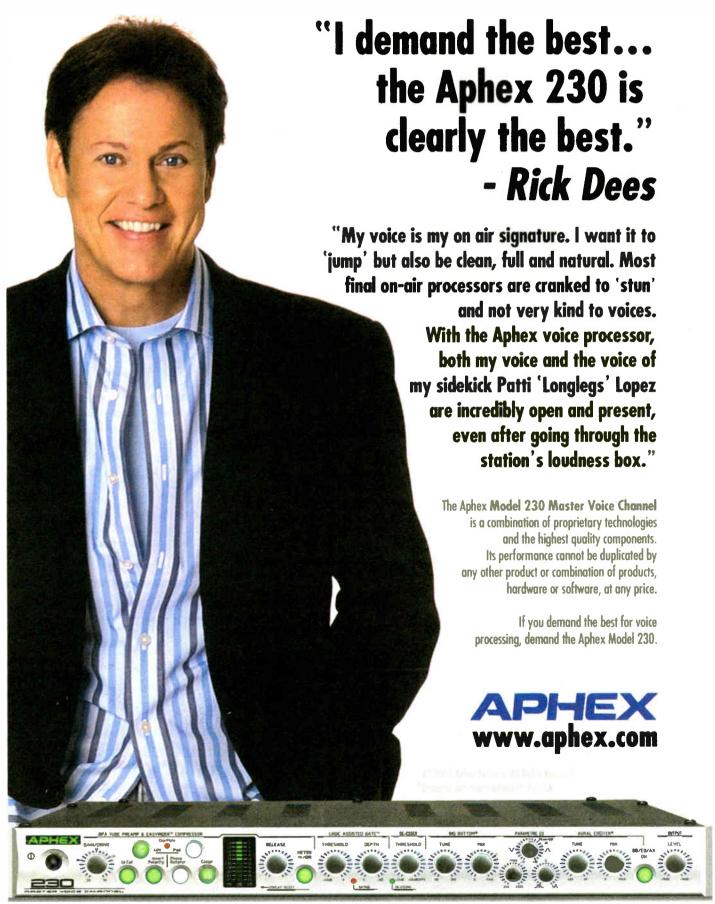
PPM: The Philadelphia Radio Organization is launching a marketing campaign to help smooth the transition from radio diaries to the Portable People Meter system in the city. Arbitron agreed to provide seed money. In May, the city became the first market in the U.S. to be measured by the PPM, replacing diaries.

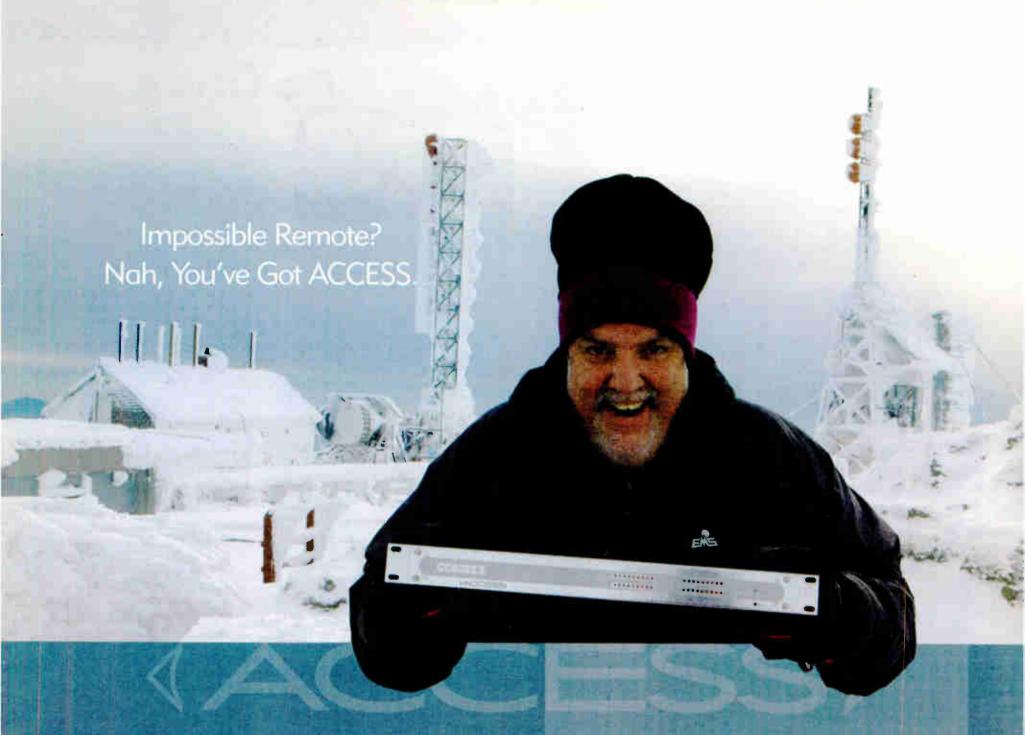
BRAZIL'S minister of communications was upbeat about the future of radio and HD Radio at an NAB breakfast sponsored by Broadcast Electronics and Ibiquity. He has advocated adoption of digital radio in Brazil, which has been conducting trials since 2005. Spurring IBOC there is a two-year tariff waiver on imported HD Radio transmitters.

GRETCHEN: Organizers called it the first HD Radio preview of a release by a major recording artist. The premiere of Gretchen Wilson's "One of the Boys" was on multicast station "Gretchen 99.9 HD2" in Miami six days before the album's release.

AM DA: The AM Directional Antenna Coalition filed its paperwork with the FCC, trying to get the commission moving toward allowing computer modeling as a means of verifying AM directional antenna performance. Numerous radio ownership groups and consulting engineers participated.

AAS: French codec manufacturer Aeta Audio Systems (AAS) is seeking to increase its U.S. presence by setting up a distribution network here. Based in the Paris area, AAS produces a line that centers on portable codecs, studio codecs and ENG mixers.





Meet Some Real-World Super Heroes...

Mark Ericson and the WOKQ morning team, along with Steve Vanni from Technet, recently used ACCESS to deliver a three hour remote from the top of Mt. Washington. For mere mortals, this would have been an impossible task. The height, the weather, the distance – all conspired to prevent a successful remote. But because they carried ACCESS, they became real-world super heroes.

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- Boston, MA: Zakk Wylde Concert—Ozzie Osborne's Guitarist Plays for WAAF at a Listener's Workplace!
- Lynn, MA: Toys for Tots—Remote on the Move
- Boston, MA: Car Dealerships at Christmas. ACCESS Delivers.
- UK: ACCESS on VSAT—A Clever Solution From Our Friends in the UK
- Cancun: Sunrise Over IP
- Brockton, MA: Minuteman Communications Always Gets Their Man... um... I Mean, Their Remote
- Alpena/Tawas City, MI: Are You Tired of STL-Over-the-Public-Internet Stories Yet?
- Dallas: The Ticket
- Amarillo, TX: You Gotta Do What You Gotta Do
- Asia: Radio Free Asia—Live From the Himalayas
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or visit www.bionics.co.uk







It's a great console at a great price."

"Our experience with the three Logitek Consoles that we used for our broadcasts of the Olympics in Sydney, Salt Lake City, Athens and Torino built our confidence to purchase the new Mosaic for our NY Network sports studio. They are reliable, easy to set up and easy to reconfigure on the fly.

"The sports studio is the hub of all activity for our NCAA College basketball, NFL Football, NHL Hockey and all other sports broadcasts. It not only handles program audio, but also many IFB and intercom paths. We also have flexibility in our headphone monitoring that we never had before. Logitek's router based console has made frequent configuration changes easy with short notice. No more moving wires around. All of the routing changes are done by easy changes in the configuration software. Scene changes are fast and easy."

WESTWOOD ONE

Conrad Trautmann SVP, Operations and Engineering Westwood One • New York City



Logitek Electronic Systems, Inc. 5622 Edgemoor • Houston, TX 77081 713.664.4470 www.logitekaudio.com info@logitekaudio.com

2006 Logitek Electronic Systems, Inc.

Green

is very relevant with our target audience that coincides with the need to do something about global warming and promoting environmental responsibility," said Michael Hughes, vice president and GM for WTGB(FM) in Washington.

Phasing out Styrofoam

Hughes is careful to point out that "The Globe" is not green yet, but is "going green" and learning to operate in a more environmentally efficient manner.

"Some things have been easy, like replacing our lighting fixtures with more efficient fluorescent where we can. We are even phasing out Styrofoam cups from the break room and recycling everything we can," Hughes said.

The station, formerly classic rock WARW(FM), is now Triple-A. In February it transitioned to its new image and began focusing on ways to encourage people to embrace an eco-friendly lifestyle.

The station also is taking steps to shrink its carbon footprint, a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide a company's energy consumption places in the environment through everyday operations. WTGB is in a program offered by Pepco Energy Services in the Washington area that measures a customer's power consumption and then, in turn, purchases the equal amount of wind power instead of coal-fired electricity.

The broadcaster is using energy from the program to power its 50,000-watt transmitter in Bethesda, Md., and paying a slightly higher electrical rate for the privilege to do so, said Jeff Loughridge, engineering market manager for CBS Radio.

"We pay a premium. The electricity we use may not come directly from a wind farm, but an equal amount is coming onto the grid each month from a non-carbon source," said Loughridge. "So we are using a mix from the grid."

Pepco offers residential and business customers a Green Energy program that uses electricity generated from renewable resources, such as wind, sunlight, water, reclaimed landfill gas and the burning of waste materials. According to the company's Web site, customers can choose from a variety of electricity products, ranging from "a mix of electricity that is 10 percent generated from the burning of landfill gas to electricity that is 100 percent generated from wind farms." It's unclear how much more subscribers pay to participate.

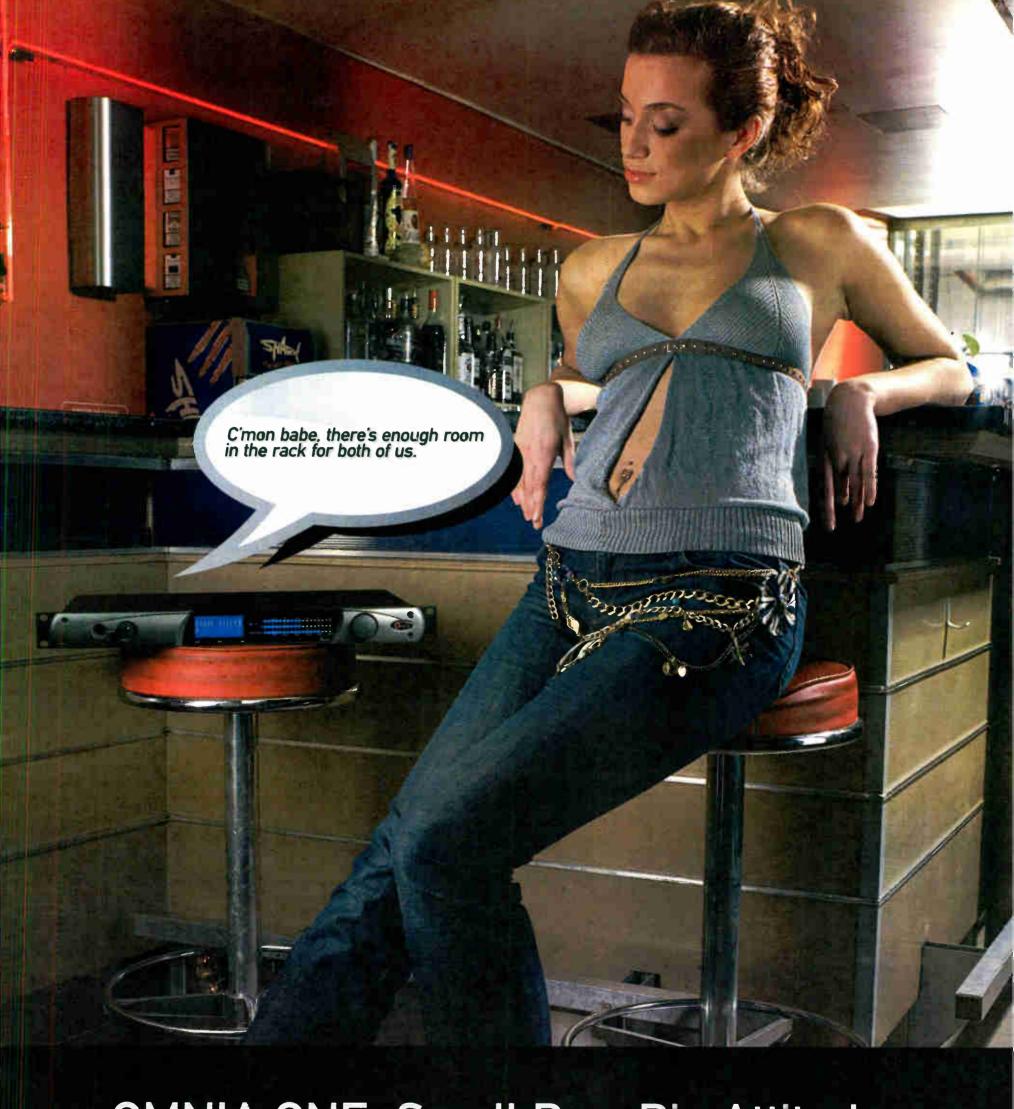
A comparison of residential rates reported by The Washington Post shows that Pepco charges \$0.1008 per kilowatt hour for coal-fired electricity and \$0.1234 per kilowatt hour for wind-generated power. Pepco would not release the terms of its contract with WARW, according to the account.

The station also is using an alternative energy hybrid vehicle for station promotional appearances and has another one on order, Hughes said. The station plans to build a performance studio within the next year, to be called the Globe Greenhouse.

See GREEN, page 10



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World Radio History

ing the experiment, Hughes said.

to its station communities.

Hughes added.

where possible.

'I know corporate is excited about

He would not speculate how long cor-

A few broadcasters have jumped on

the green-colored trend. Entercom has

been especially aggressive in its efforts

to limit its carbon footprint (RW, Dec.

20, 2006). Officials for Citadel Broadcasting, Cox Radio and Cumulus Media

have said they are monitoring energy consumption and practice conservation

What is your station doing differently

to save energy consumption and costs?

Write to radioworld@imaspub.com.

porate is willing to give The Globe to see

ratings success. He said CBS Radio has long stood on the principle of giving back

what we are doing. They'll look at it and see if it can be applied elsewhere,"

Green

Continued from page 8

The studio will be constructed at least partly from recycled materials with lowvoltage lighting. "Sort of construction with a conscience," Hughes added.

According to an account in the Post, the station's green emphasis was inspired in part by air talent Cerphe Colwell, whose spouse Susan runs a business that designs environmentally friendly homes.

Cutting energy consumption

Loughridge told RW the station has put some of its office equipment on timers and has directed employees to turn off all computers at night. It is looking at the possibility of using motion detectors for lighting certain areas of the leased facility in Silver Spring, Md., a Washington suburb.

"We are looking at every single way we consume energy and trying to incorporate changes to help cut back on the sum total. Even those little things will add up," he said.

Hughes says "The Globe" is hoping to turn its green focus into higher ratings and revenue. In the latest Arbitron ratings released in early March, the former WARW(FM) had a 1.7 (12+) share in the eighth-largest radio market, he said.

WARW ranked No. 17 among all listeners in the Arbitron Fall 2006 Metro report. The station's poor ratings factored



The Globe' is using an alternative energy hybrid vehicle for station promotional appearances.

into the decision to change formats, Hughes said.

"This is a responsible concept that we think will work in this market and ultimately improve our ratings. The rock music fits with the green messaging we are doing," said Hughes, who said the station would sponsor an annual Earth Day concert and create promotions to encourage recycling, tree planting and the use of green products. Overall production of the station will reflect the environmentally responsible concept, he added.

Other CBS Radio stations are watch-

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: ProMix 12 Company: Broadcast Tools Inc.

"A 12-channel console/mixer that looks and feels like a real console, with full broadcast functions in a compact footprint," one judge wrote.

No, this model won't have the console biggies trembling in their router cages. But it's a little reminder that broadcast users do like - and do need - economical solutions to many problems.

The ProMix 12 mixing console is for broadcast and audio production facilities that need an affordable compact solution. Features include a mix-minus out-

put, an announce booth output with full duplex talkback, a monaural output, selectable metering and remote starts on all line-level stereo input channels.

Suitable for on-air applications, post-production or fieldwork.

Shown: Connie Miller.

Shipping: Now Price: \$1,599

Contact: Visit www.broadcasttools.com or e-mail support@broadcasttools.com

SMALLER. FASTER. COOLER. The only thing we didn't change is the price. AS16544

Our new 6500 series cards give you greater functionality at the same great price point. They're lead-free and RoHS compliant, too. With powerful DSPs, +24dBu levels, MRX™ multi-rate mixing, SSX™ surround-sound and AudioScience's "anything to anywhere" mixing and routing, our 6500 cards are ready for some serious broadcasting. To learn more, ask your automation VAR, or call +1-302-324-5333.

(BUILT FOR BROADCAST)



COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: ACCESS Portable Company: Comrex Corp.

"Doing near-broadcast quality remotes with a highly crafted handheld device via a cellphone call really revolutionizes that activity," one

judge wrote.

The ACCESS Portable had been demoed earlier but as of NAB2007 it is now shipping. It allows high-quality, low-delay mono or stereo audio to be delivered over wired or wireless public Internet.

Comrex has been in the forefront of pushing change in how remotes are delivered. ACCESS is capable of using circuits like DSL, broadband cable, POTS and T1/E1 as well as wireless circuits like satellite, Wi-Fi, EVDO and other 3G wire-

less data networks. It is also a full-featured POTS codec. The codec has eight BRIC algorithms to accommodate jittery or difficult circuits. Also available is an optional suite of standard AAC algorithms for optimized audio quality when used on managed data networks. An optional "clip-on"

mixer provides five more mic/line inputs and headphone outputs. Shown: Kris Bobo and Tom Hartnett.

Shipping: Now Price: \$3,800

Design: Comrex Engineering and Design Team

Contact: (800) 237-1776, e-mail info@comrex.com or visit www.comrex.com



- REAL FM allows radio content blasts to be synchronized with existing FM broadcasts and sent to multiple receiving devices equipped with an FM chip, such as REAL FM receivers, cell phones, iPods, or other PDAs.
- **REAL FM** provides a rich information channel to dramatically enhance the FM broadcast experience.
- REAL FM provides new revenue stream for FM broadcasters.
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 on the radio, buy the ring tone of the song currently playing, and immediately download the
 song to their device.



www.gssnet.us or 601.709.4240



Fight Back Against Copper Theft

by John Bisset

If you don't peruse Radio World Online Newsbytes, you're missing some great stories.

Here's a case in point. As reported on RWO, broadcasters and authorities in Eugene, Ore., recently met to talk about the growing problem of metal theft there.

Cumulus engineer Tom Woods reports that non-ferrous metal theft in Eugene has gotten worse over the last year, with several stations losing metal from transmitter sites. Thieves broke through their tower fence and made off with a piece of 3-1/8-inch oxidized outer conductor. Others have been even less fortunate. KPNW, for instance, had its entire AM above-ground counterpoise ground system cut up and taken away.

Meetings involving the local SBE chapter and the Lane County Sheriff's office have proven effective in helping to deal with the copper theft.

Raising awareness is a start, but the engineers also took a specific step that should catch future thieves.

The group prepared a plywood panel of samples of different types of feed-line and ground radial wire. The panel now hangs on a wall at Schnitzer Steel, the major recycler in the area. The recyclers will use the board of samples to match up similar types of recyclables. If there is a match, Schnitzer's will start calling numbers from a list of broadcast engineers who can help determine it the recycled metal had been stolen.

In addition, the recycling company has agreed to start asking for business cards from recyclers, to determine if they are, in fact, legitimate owners of any recyclable metal that resembles anything that broadcasters use.

Perhaps your SBE chapter would like



Fig. 1: The silver formula of Conducto-Lube reduces contact resistance.

to take on a similar project for your local recycling companies.

In the meantime, broadcasters in Eugene were asked by the sheriff's office to improve lighting and check locks at sites, to discourage future theft. Some great ideas, Tom! Thanks for sharing them with us.

Tom Norman, CPBE, was once the chief engineer of KVZK(TV) in American Samoa.

In those days, there was still an operational, though crippled, aerial tramway connecting Mauga O Ali'i on one side of the harbor with the transmitter site at Mt. Alava. The tram was powered by a 100

HP three-phase motor and a control system consisting of things like contactors, saturable core reactors, electrical tachometers and other stuff that would now be considered exotic.

Power was delivered to this entire system by way of a circuit disconnect box containing three 275 Amp fuses. One day, the tram supervisor called to ask if Tom had any ideas why the fuses kept blowing. His solution is something that should be in every engineer's bag of tricks.

The Cool-Amp Conducto-Lube Company manufactures two products. One is silver plating powder, the other is a conductive silver grease. Take a look

at www.cool-amp.com for information.

While working in the Electrical Engineering Labs at the University of Wyoming, Tom used the Cool-Amp powder to plate printed circuit boards. During his career, he has used the conductive silver grease to revive failed slide switches and such.

But for the aerial tramway in American Samoa, Tom coated the ends of the fuses with Conducto-Lube, and the problem with fuses blowing due to contact resistance disappeared immediately.

This was all the more remarkable due to the highly corrosive environment of the tropics and the 30 years the disconnect box had been living in that environment.

This stuff is expensive, but Tom can't think of anything that is even nearly as

See LUBE, page 14 ▶



Fig. 2: Document all ground points with digital photos

NEW A Box for All Seasons!

An all-digital Stereo "Utility Processor" for leveling and peak control

Inovonics' 261 is the ideal, low-cost solution for "whatever ails you" around the broadcast plant. It combines gated, gain-riding AGC, platform-based average level compression and tight 'look-ahead' peak control. Use it to tame a mic channel, to normalize levels between music and voice tracks, to protect an STL or for streaming.

Menu-driven setup is quick and easy. Processing functions may be enabled independently or combined for a comprehensive leveling system. Basic parameters are adjustable, but not to an extent to ever get you into trouble. Front-panel alarms and rear-panel 'tallies' signal dead air and out-of-limits conditions.

The 261 accepts analog or digital inputs and gives analog and digital outputs simultaneously. Its DSP-based design is simple, straightforward and sonically colorless.

Model 261 - \$1150

For full technical details, visit

www.inovon.com









"My Number One Codec Rental is Zephyr Xstream"

-Steve Kirsch, President Silver Lake Audio



Rack 'em and stack 'em! The Silver Lake Audio Crew pictured from left to right: Steve Kirsch, Ken Stiver, Kirby Miovac and Jay Shoemaker

"When ISDN equipment rentals began in the early 1990s, we started with an equal number of different companies' codecs. Today, Silver Lake has over 100 Zephyrs in stock, ten times more than any other brand." says Steve Kirsch, owner of Silver Lake Audio.

The reasons should be obvious. Reliability, ease of use, compatibility, great support.

Telos: The Best Way To Hear From There.

And there. And there. And there.

AUDIO | NETWORKS

www.telos-systems.com

Lube

Continued from page 12

good. A small quantity of this conductive lubricant will solve all kinds of problems.

Tom Norman is a senior engineer with Burst Video and can be reached at tomn@burstvideo.com.

Speaking of grounding, now is a good time to document perimeter grounding with your digital camera. These pictures, like the one shown in Fig. 2, can be useful should an insurance claim be necessary. It also gives you the opportunity to check that all grounds are secure - and that wire, rod or strap haven't been

AM engineers, if your directional parameters go out, check your ground system before cranking on the phasor. Walk all the towers and check that the ground system is intact. Again, taking pictures might save you if theft occurs.

Visit radioworld.com for CoolCast video demos of all the 2007 "Cool Stuff" Award-winning products.

Bob Culver, principal in the firm Lohnes and Culver, writes that he finds our Workbench columns interesting and informative. He says it's nice to know that others have found problems similar to ones Bob has resolved and have discovered their own - sometimes unique and entertaining — solutions.

To our discussion of UPS power supplies and standby generators Bob adds this experience:

When he was involved in the DAB field testing project, designing the test plan and the vehicle to conduct the testing, he obtained a large camper-type vehicle and planned for lots of AC power for it. This included two Onan 6 kW lowspeed gasoline generators and two Best Power Products uninterruptible power supplies to go with them.

Being good engineers, the testers purchased the newest items within their budget. The generators had solid-state regulation circuits. The UPS's, Fortress models, used solid-state monitoring and regulation. The vendors of both were told how the devices would be used.

Unfortunately, the two systems fought each other. The uninterruptible power supplies worked flawlessly on "shore power" but would not accept the generator power because of some slight voltage "regulator" glitches in the generator output waveform.

The supplies were programmable, and with the help of the manufacturer and access to some "secret" programming

BELAR SHURE

lines, Bob and his crew attempted to tailor the input alarm and output control values to make them work. No luck.

The UPS's were loaners for the duration of the tests, and the vendor graciously took them back and substituted Ferrups supplies, which worked just fine. It turned out that the engineering intuition was worth following - there were some occasions when a generator would go off-line, and the UPS operation saved hours of testing that the power fault would have destroyed.

Bob Culver can be reached at hobcul@locul.com.

John Bisset has worked as a chief engineer and contract engineer for 38 years. He is the northeast regional sales manager for Broadcast Electronics. Reach him at (571) 217-9386, or jbisset@bdcast.com. Faxed submissions can be sent to (603) 472-4944. Submissions for this column are encouraged, and qualify for SBE recertification credit.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: Watchband Remote AM/FM/RDS Receiver Company: Burk Technology

Judges found: "With the cleverly named Watchband, engineers and groups can remotely monitor their stations via a Web page, including audio metrics, out-oftolerance and off-air audio alarms with full logging. It can even generate playlists for market stations."

The receiver delivers Webbased market monitoring tools to engineers, managers and PDs. It can create detailed playlist reports



for any station broadcasting artist and song title info with Radio Text. Managers and program directors can compare their own rotations to other stations in the market; engineers can monitor real-time field intensity data for any station, as well as review strip charts for analysis of the entire band.

Stereo, phase and L/R audio levels, averages and peaks are logged for immediate alarm reporting or historical review. Access it all from the Web. The company credits PDs and broadcast engineers for input that helped develop the product.

Stephen Dinkel is shown in the Burk booth.

Shipping: Now

Price: \$1,195 NAB price (through June 30); \$1,495 after that.

Design: Burk team

Contact: Burk dealers or e-mail sales@burk.com or call (800) 255-8090

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COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: Model M3 HD Radio Precision Multi-Monitor Company: DaySequerra

"The snazzy M3 contains three separate AM, FM and HD Radio tuners in a 2RU box to monitor and alarm virtually everything," a judge observed.

The M3 gives you a trio of independent frequency-agile tuners and vacuum florescent displays. Each tuner can monitor and alarm six parameters including loss of audio, RF carrier, OFDM lock, RBDS data, PAD



data and multi-channel availability or delay bit with six relays per tuner, 18 total. Each has 20 presets, analog stereo and full-time AES output. The manufacturer is proud of the unit's high-quality audio output and integrated alarms. "The M3 permits engineers to alarm their data, both PAD and RBDS, for both loss of data or static conditions," it states. "It eliminates multiple points of failure encountered with outboard silence sensors, power supplies, etc.'

"Wouldn't a single receiver for all my HD multicast channels make a lot of sense?" a judge asks rhetorically. "Nuff said."

Shown: Art Constantine and David Day.

Shipping: June Price: \$3,295 Design: DaySequerra

Contact: (856) 719-9900, e-mail sales@daysequerra.com or

visit www.daysequerra.com

You're looking at a complete audio-over-IP routing system.

(Just add Cisco.")

Administer this • The beauty of the Web is that you can get information anywhere. Same thing with Axia: you can set up and administer an entire building full of Axia equipment - audio nodes, consoles, virtual routers, whatever - from your own comfy office chair. All you need is a standard Web browser (PC or Mac, we like 'em both). Put an Internet gateway in your Axia network and you can even tweak stuff remotely, from home or anywhere there's a Net connection. Hey isnit it time for a Mochachino?

It's not rude to point • Little kids tell mommy what they want by pointing a pretty intuitive way of doing things. PathfinderPC software gives talent the same convenience. can build custom "button panels" to execute complex operations with just one click. You can map these panels

to controller modules on Element consoles or to turret mounted controls, place mini applications on studio computer screens, even run them on touchscreen monitors.

Jammin' on the mic 🚇 Radio studios and microphones go together like Homer Simpson and donuts. Unfortunately, so do preamps, mic compressors, EO boxes, de-essers - let's face it: most studios house more flying saucers than Area 51. Axia helps clean up the clutter by including mic preamps with our Microphone Nodes; not bargain-basement units either, but studio grade preamps power, too. And if you choose to use Axia Element consoles in your studios, you'll find world class mic processing built right in vocal dynamics (compression and de-essing) from the audio processing gurus at Omnia, plus three-band parametric EQ with SmartQ, available on every mic input. Rap on, Grandmaster

Push to play • Axia Router Selector Nodes are really advanced selector and monitor panels that you can put anyplace you need access to audio streams. Like newsrooms, dubbing stations, or even the station's TOC, so you can monitor any of the thousands of audio streams on your network at a moment's notice. The LCD screen scrolls through a list of available streams; the eight Fast Access keys let you store and recall the streams you use most. There's even an input, for convenient connection of an analog or AES device. Sweet.

Automation station • Wouldn't it be cool to have a self-monitoring air chain with silence-sense that can fix prob lems, then e-mail a status report? To be able to switch your program feed from Studio "A" to Studio "B" with one button? Or builo custom switching apps and scheduled scene changes based on Boolean logic and stacking events? PathfinderPC software cloes all these things and more. But unlike HAL 9000, it doesn't talk back to you

Nothin' but Net • Didyou know you can plug a PC directly into an IP Audio network to exchange audio? Can't do that with a mainframe router. Well, you could add more input cards to the mainframe, buy high, end audio cards and run more wiring. but with Axía, you just install the IP-Audio Driver on any Windows PC to send and receive pure digital audio right through the PC's Ethernet port — no sound card required or additional router inputs needed. The singlestream version is great for audio workstations; the multistream version lets you send and record 16 stereo channels simultaneously - perfect for digital automation systems.

Very logical, Captain • Routing logic with audio used to be as hard as performing the Vuican Mind Meld. But Axia makes it simple, converting machine logic to data and pairing it with audio streams. So logic follows audio throughout the facility on Axia's switched Ethernet backbone, Eight assignable GPI/GPO logic ports, each with five opto-isolated inputs outputs control on air lights, monitor mutes, CD players, DAT decks. profanity delays, etc. Got more than eight audio devices? Add a GPIO node like this one wherever you've got gear.

AES yes • You like your audio to stay digital as much as possible right? We get that, our AES/EBU Audio Nodes let you plug AES3 sources right into the network. Studio grade sample-rate converters are inside; anything from 32 kHz to 96 kHz will work. Oh, and there are 8 AES ins + 8 AES outs in

Brains in the box • The typical radio jock cares cares for a puppy: haphazardly, if at all. That's why we took the CPU out of our Element modular console and put it in

> greatly reduced we know that you have better things to than trying to circuit boards with a hair dryer.

here, with the power supply

and GPIO ports.

Put that in your pipe • How many discrete wires can a CAT-6 cable replace? Well, a T 3 data link has 44.7 Mbps of throughput. But Axia networks Gigabit Ethernet finks give 1000 Mbps of throughput between studios — more than 22 times the capacity of a T-3, enough for 250 stereo channels per link — the equivalent of a 500-pair bundle on one skinny piece of CAT-6. Use media converters and optical fiber for even higher signal density. Think that might save a little coin in a multi-studio build out?

Level headed • These green, bouncing dots built into every Axia Audio Node are confidence meters. One glance and you know whether an audio source is really active — or just playing possum.



Heavyweight champion .

This Axia StudioEngine works with our Element Modular Consoles (the fastest growing console brand in the world, by the way) to direct multiple simultaneous inputs and outputs. mix audio, apply EO, process voice dynamics, and generate multiple mix minuses and monitor feeds on the fly. To make sure it delivers the reliability and ultra low latericy broadcast audio demands we powered the StudioEngine with a fast robust version of Linux — so first that total input to output latency is just a few hundred microseconds. How can one little box do so much? There s a blazingly fast Intel processor inside with enough CPU muscle to lift a small building. Strong and fast: All would approve.

You got to have friends - Delivery system providers like ENCO Prophet BSI BE iMcdiaTouch DAVID Systems and more all have products that work directly with Axia networks. So do hardware makers like AudioSci ence International Datacasting 25/Seven Telos and Ominia. Check out the whole list at AxiaAudio.com/partners-



AxiaAudio.com

Quick Connect • Axia I/O is presented on RJ-45 and adheres to the StudioHub+ standard. A couple of clicks and you're done.

Is It Lights Out for Webcasters?

As the Effective Date for New Royalties Approaches, Webcasters Explore Their Options

The new Webcasting royalty rates scheduled to go into effect on July 15 are already having an impact — both online and in Washington.

In our final look at this subject (for the time being), we'll consider the alternatives to the new rates and other approaches that Webcasters might consider.

It has now become clear as the math has been worked out that large royalty increases would be levied on all Webcasters, large and small, commercial and non-commercial. Numerous players have projected that their royalty payments would skyrocket from single-digit percentages of their revenues to over 50 percent, and many Webcasters have stated they would be forced to cease operations under these conditions. (Included among the latter are some large, well-established entities.)

As a result, much public protest has been seen on the Net, and many Webcasters have added messages to their sites and streams soliciting support from listeners or calling them to action in various campaigns.

Concurrently, the industry is examining its alternatives.

The non-statutory route

One approach that may not be widely understood is that the statutory licensing of sound recording rights at issue here is not a mandatory requirement for Webcasters, but is offered as a convenience to avoid the need to obtain clearances from every song's sound recording copyright holder individually before broadcasting its content.

Clearly the latter approach would be a massive and inefficient effort, and excessively labor-intensive for all parties. So while rights holders generally do not favor any such compulsory licensing regime (since it limits their ability to negotiate terms), the statutory license for sound recordings' Webcast rights is a concession to expediency. Ideally its convenience induces usage levels that outweigh any loss of licensing leverage for rights holders.

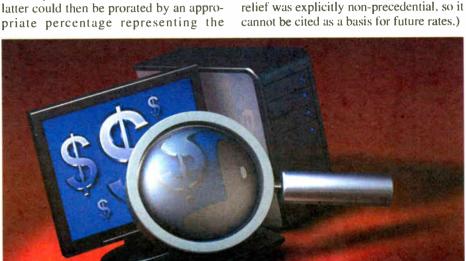
If a Webcaster or group of Webcasters wanted to, however, it could make its own alternative arrangements with Sound Exchange, or go directly to individual rights holders of content it wanted to broadcast, to obtain Webcasting rights for the sound recordings.

This approach potentially could provide a more favorable rate to the Webcaster, just as public radio (CPB stations) collectively arranged for their music Webcasting during the period 2002-05.

At present there are apparently a few Webcasters exploring or having already achieved such an arrangement for the current rate period (2006–10). One would expect that this could be limiting to the range of material aired, but that may not be a problem for some narrowly formatted services that can serve their audiences with material coming from only a few rights holders (certain ethnic music, emerging artist or other narrowcast streams, for example).

It is also possible that the Webcaster could make such direct arrangements

with rights holders for *some* of the content it broadcasts, and work under the statutory license for the remainder. The latter could then be prorated by an appropriate percentage representing the



Many Webcasters
have stated they
would be forced to
cease operations
under these
conditions.

amount of content on the stream that was not directly licensed.

A potential downside of the direct-licensing approach affects the musicians themselves. The statutory royalties collected by Sound Exchange are distributed in an even split between the performance rights holder (typically the record label) and the musicians that performed on the recording. If a Webcaster negotiates with the rights holder directly, the musicians could be cut out of the deal, while the labels would lose nothing but the Webcaster cuts his/her fees in half, for example.

Other options

Additional avenues for relief remain open.

After the CRB rejected all requests for rehearing of its decision, its final ruling appears in the Federal Register. Subsequent appellate action then moves to the U.S. Court of Appeals, where an appeal is expected, which must be filed within 30 days of the ruling's publication date. That appeal process could then extend for a year or more before a final decision is made.

Meanwhile, absent any other emergency ruling by the courts, the new rates (retroactive to Jan. 1, 2006) will remain in effect.

At any point in this process, Sound Exchange could also pursue a private, out-of-court settlement with some or all parties, which could differ significantly from the CRB ruling, but this seems unlikely at this time.

To date, one such bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives: H.R. 2060, the Internet Radio Equality Act, sponsored by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., and Don Manzullo, R-Ill.

Finally, there is a legislative route:

Congress could pass a law that overrides

or alters the CRB rates for some or all Webcasters, as it did with the Small

Webcaster Settlement Act's adjustments to

the 2002 ruling. (The SWSA has no

impact on rates after 2005, and its rate

This bill would vacate the CRB ruling, and fix the new royalties for the entire 2006–10 period at either 7.5 percent of a Webcaster's revenues or 0.33 cents per listener hour (at the Webcaster's option), along with several other adjustments providing current and potential future relief to Webcasters. Among the latter is a return to the annual minimum royalty of \$500 per Webcaster, not \$500 per stream as the CRB had ruled.

If none of these alternatives bear fruit, the new rates are likely to have some short- and long-term effects on Webcasting, although they may not be quite as dire as some have predicted.

Rather than wholesale darkness settling over the Webcasting space, the actu-

The Big Picture



by Skip Pizzi

al impact may be more subtle, as Webcasters work their way around the new rules. Some streams may disappear, while others reduce the variety of their content, block access from certain regions, play fewer songs per hour (i.e., more talk, more commercials), or set limits on the number of simultaneous streams served. Many of these results could proceed in gradually increasing measure over the next five years, further decreasing their obvious linkage to the effect of new rates.

Another indirect impact of the current discussion is the notice that has been drawn to the disparity between performance royalty rates across different radio platforms — terrestrial, satellite and Internet — in particular, the fact that terrestrial radio remains exempt from sound recording royalties.

Thus the coattails of this debate may extend beyond the Internet radio space, stimulating subsequent consideration of levying sound recording royalties on terrestrial radio broadcasting.

Meanwhile, broadcasters would be well advised to seek counsel and study how they might most cost-effectively achieve their Webcasting goals during the new rules period, while observing closely (and perhaps participating in) the ongoing actions toward relief.

Past columns are archived at radioworld.com.

Skip Pizzi is contributing editor of Radio World. Comment on this or any article to radioworld@imaspub.com

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER





Product: AFD-1 Arc and Flame Detector **Company:** Burk Technology

We knew this was cool when Peter Burk showed us the prototype a year ago.

The AFD-I interfaces with a remote facility management system, such as the Burk Technology ARC Plus, ARC-16, GSC3000 or VRC2500, to notify personnel of electrical arcs and flame. The unit reliably detects a pilot light, flame or arc from 15 feet; it is insensitive to daylight. Applications include transmitter enclosures, antenna tuning units, transfer switches, etc.

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www.AxiaAudio.com

An Online Network for Student Stations

IBS and Backbone Establish Pilot For a Net-based Student System

by James Careless

The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System has launched an Internet radio network aimed at student broadcasters, working with supplier Backbone Networks Corp. A proof-of-concept pilot project is underway.

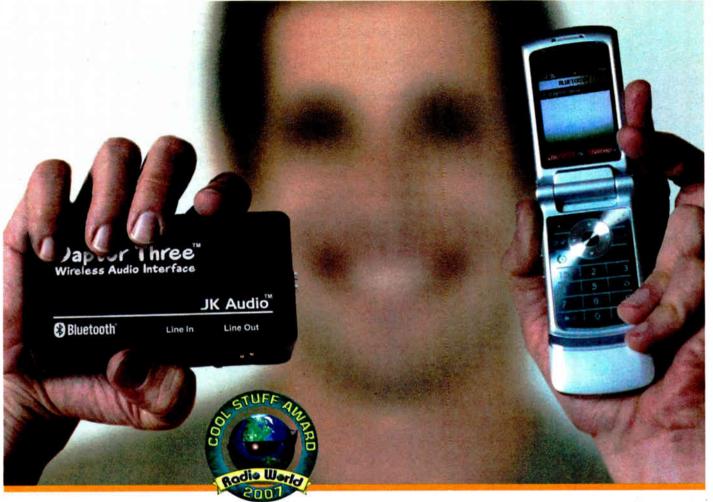
Operated by the IBS using the highspeed networks and servers of Backbone, the IBS SRN is a resource of shared programming for student broadcasters.

To access it and stream their own con-

tent over the Web, "all a student-run station needs is an ordinary Apple Mac computer and a broadband connection." says Richard Cerny, Backbone's president. "We handle everything else, letting their listeners tune in using iTunes or QuickTime."

According to IBS Chief Operating Officer Fritz Kass, the advantages are substantial for high school/collegiate radio





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station users.

"IBS members can draw on the programming of other IBS members over the network," he said. "This is especially valuable for national interest college sporting events (or) a national interest speaker, concert or news story available at one IBS member station but of interest to all 1,000 school and college radio station IBS serves." Similarly, each station will be able to syndicate its own programming to sister stations on the net-

For IBS stations to become charter members and take part in the current 25station pilot launch, "the cost per station is only \$750, which includes a \$75 set-up fee and three months of Backbone hosting their Internet station at \$225/month," Cerny said. Content is from members and from third-party sources of royalty-free music, news and commentary that will syndicate content to the network. Some content, such as IDs adding a professional network sound and feel, will be provided by IBS.

IBS has a contract with Backbone, which is paid out of that income. "This fee is primarily intended to help offset Backbone's infrastructure and development costs, and we anticipate future costs to be reduced by ads and/or underwriting," Cerny said.

Streams

A wealth of student-generated content available through the IBS SRN will allow members to "expand their online stations to 24/365 without being in the studio all the time," says Kass.

Being able to deliver 24 hours of programming with three hours of studio time is a critical education advantage for a high school student radio that has a limited school day and no campus or dormitories," said Kass.

To aid student stations in creating their own online stations, the network provides each member with archive storage for up to 250 hours of songs, images and clips. One important feature: Music on these programs is covered by the IBS member's existing copyright music licenses facilitated by IBS agreement with the copyright holders, so there's no fear of extra copyright fees levied against SRN member stations.

Second, joining the IBS SRN gives a student station access to program automation capability, using Backbone Radio Pro client software. "In addition, this gives student stations the ability to cover remote events, like concerts and 'away' games from other schools," Cerny said. "The software also provides automated reporting and record keeping."

The IBS SRN gives each station enough bandwidth to support up to 200 streams at a time, with a monthly ceiling of 15,900 monthly listener hours. Backbone's network infrastructure can be accessed by participating outside program producers to supply material to

Finally, using the IBS SRN, "IBS members can build their national audience and brands, and the IBS brand, with sound logos and famous person station IDs." Cerny said.

The network uses MPEG-4 AAC as its streaming format. "Conforming to this standard not only ensures universal acceptance across all listening platforms, but it also enables each school to partner with the Apple iTunes store in preparing

See IBS, page 19

Continued from page 18

material, including artist/album annotation and cover art images that display to listeners' free QuickTime or iTunes players," the organizations stated in their announcement.

Challenges

Backbone started out as a developer of broadcasting software, with the aim of developing a robust architecture for Internet radio streaming. "The cornerstones of the company's technology lie in its client/server implementation of MPEG-4 automation, streaming and reporting," Cerny said "Backbone now offers this software with a no-cost license under a service model using companyhosted facilities."

For IBS, the establishment of the IBS SRN exponentially increases its ability to serve the non-profit organization's 1,000

All a student-run

station needs is an ordinary Apple Mac computer and a broadband connection.

— Richard Cerny

member stations. Backbone has "solved all the technology issues," says Kass. Now IBS needs to get the information out to its 1,000 school and college radio sta-

This should not be a major challenge. However, convincing a sufficient number of members to sign up for the IBS SRN could be. The problem is not quality but cost: IBS member stations are publicly owned and thinly funded. They can manage to afford the annual \$95 IBS membership fee, but paying another \$2,700 a year to join the IBS SRN may be more than most can financially stomach.

Mindful of this, the pilot phase of the IBS SRN only needs 25 stations to be operational. "We have 10-12 members so far, and expect to hit the 25-station mark without major problems," says Richard Cerny

He declined to list participating stations. "Stations are immediately operational," he said in May, "and we anticipate rudimentary content sharing by July I, live feed sharing by Aug. I, fully operational by Sept. 1.

As for adding further members? "As time goes on, IBS members on the IBS SRN will have funding options, such as participating in grants or advertising and underwriting opportunities to either defray or eliminate the network costs," Kass said.

Organizers are hoping that \$225 a month for access to substantial programming resources, remote broadcasting links and complete Web hosting/streaming will sound like an astoundingly good

For information about IBS, visit www.ibsradio.org.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: Aruba FMeXtra Receiver Company: Digital Radio Express Inc.

It's a tough battle in the current U.S. broadcast marketplace but DRE has been persistent in promoting its digital subcarrier technology as a way for FM broadcasters to expand their digital broadcast capabilities without requiring FCC approval or doing a big reworking of their infrastructure.

But you need receivers. The Aruba FMeXtra Receiver receives both analog FM broadcasts as well as FMeXtra digital programs. Features include SD slot for multiple audio material (such as MPEG3), digital optical output, headphone jack, line in, line out and auxiliary speaker connector for stereo sound.

The company announced at NAB that the receiver is condi-

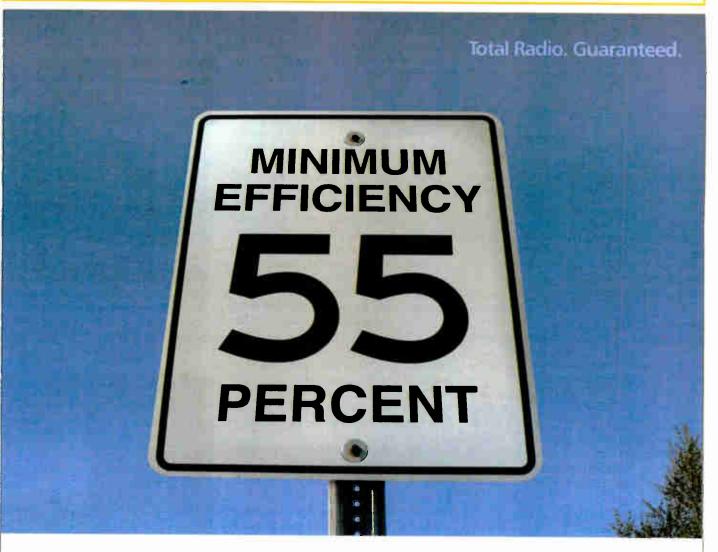
tional access programmable. It provides graphic display capability with 64x128 resolution; so broadcasters can "visually enhance their radio message.'

President & CEO Norman Miller works the booth.

Shipping: Now

Price: \$199; quantity discounts available Design: Digital Radio Express Inc.

Contact: DRE authorized distributors or visit www.dreinc.com



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Contract Engineers Upbeat About Business

But Lack of Interest in RF Among Young Engineers Is Seen as Cause for Concern

by Alan Carter

Contract engineers have been and will continue be a fail-safe component of broadcast radio engineering.

Never mind years of broadcast deregulation and consolidation or the rapid advent of automation from the transmitter site to the studio, all which effectively reduced the need for full-time staff engineers at radio stations and forced some into the field on their own — or out of the industry.

By all accounts, based on interviews with contract engineers across the country in various market sizes, business could not be better. But the profession is not without its share of perils.

One of particular concern cited across the board is a lack of young engineers who are experienced in RF or even interested in the field.

No doors closed

"There will always be room for the contract engineer," said Jim Dalke, a veteran broadcast contract engineer in the Seattle area.

Dalke, of Dalke Broadcast Services Inc. in Bellevue, Wash., echoed observations of other broadcast contract engineers who said the success of their respective businesses is built around the nuances of the markets in which they work, by sometimes diversifying outside of broadcast but related technology areas, and, of course, keeping up with technology developments.

"We just have to change our work skills as time moves on," Dalke said.

Dalke, now in his 60s, earned his ham radio license when he was 14. He said education is among the factors needed to be successful.

"You have to do that," he said. One of the first technology changes Dalke recalled is the transition from tubes to transistors to solid state. "I saw guys that never made the transition. They just got out of the business."



Another element to success Dalke noted is the entrepreneurial spirit, something he and many other contract engineers exude.

"As a contract engineer, I'm doing today what I dreamed about as a kid," he said. "For me, it is perfect. Absolutely. In particular for me, it is because there are fewer and fewer people in RF."

Dalke is a senior member of the SBE, a Certified Professional Broadcast Engineer and a Certified AM Directional Specialist. He works with small to large radio operations, including Disney AM KKDZ, which is in the process of being converted to AM HD.

"I'm in the middle of it," he said. "It's a challenge, but that's what I like to do."

High on the list of Dalke's concerns is the lack of interest in learning RF by upand-coming engineers.

Digital audio, iPods

"Digital audio and the iPods, the kids associate closely with it; but when it comes to RF they are lost," he said.

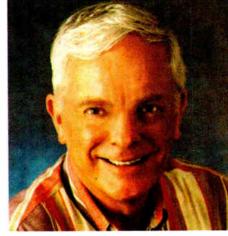
"Every now and then, I'll get a call from a radio station out in the boondocks that is off the air," Dalke said. The transmitter is down or there is some other problem. The owner tells Dalke the engineer working with the station is out of town.

"He'll ask, 'Can you come out to help me?" Dalke said. "He's almost desperate because there are relatively few contract engineers who have enough knowledge to go into such a situation and bail the guy out."

John Tiedeck, another veteran radio contract engineer, started in engineering in the mid-1970s as a staff engineer at WCOJ(AM) in Coatesville, Pa.. He now works in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey and believes the contract engineering profession will remain steadfast.

Tiedeck, based in Media, Pa., spent some 15 years working for manufacturers including the old Wilkinson transmitter manufacturer, QEI, LPB and Fidelipac before getting back into full-time contracting in 1993. He said it is important for anyone new in contract work to maintain a database of equipment documentation and to buy their own test equipment.

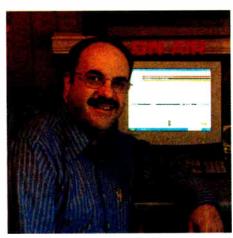
"I think there will always be a need for the contract engineer," Tiedeck said. "There will always be the mom-and-pop station that can't afford and does not need or want a full-time engineer. And the big



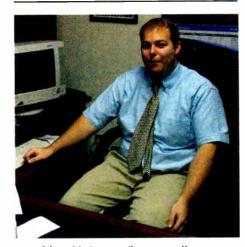
Jim Dalke. 'Digital audio and the iPods, the kids associate closely with it; but when it comes to RF they are lost.'



Mac McGaha. 'We went up to the mountain and looked at the FM transmitters ... I said I know what everything is in there; it's just bigger than what I'm used to.'



Bob Perry. 'I was able to take a hobby and actually turn it into a profession which has worked out rather well.'



Matt Lightner. 'I must tell you that I've cleaned up a lot of disasters from unqualified engineers in the past.'

guys do occasionally seek outside help."

Tiedeck keeps busy with a mix of radio operations and a mix of work from transmitters to studio maintenance and build out. While he thinks HD "will eventually trickle down" to mom-and-pop stations, he is doing some HD testing at Clear Channel WILM(AM) in Wilmington, Del.

Role of HD

HD plays a big role in the business of James Boyd of Boyd Broadcast Technical Service of Tualatin, Ore., near Portland. In addition to radio stations throughout Oregon, Washington and Idaho, he is a contractor for Harris Corp. and does installations and checkouts for the manufacturer.

"I am deeply involved in HD," he said.
"I had the opportunity to put Portland's first HD on the air at KGON owned by Entercom. And my work for Harris is mostly HD install and checkout."

Boyd, 60, obtained his amateur radio license when he was 13; he has been a broadcast engineer for 42 years and went full time as a contractor in 1991. He said his current business is the "best time" in his career.

"These are exciting times," he said. "Absolutely. I love it. This is the greatest business to be in — the broadcast profession in general. I've never had a real job in my life," he said jokingly. "This is play. Not only that, we are at the most exciting time in the 42 years that I've been in this business."

Boyd, who holds a Lifetime General Radio License, said he does "a lot" of RF work and "a fair amount" of studio work.

"I don't think contract engineering is going to go away," he said. "And there are fewer people doing it. The work load will likely increase."

For those considering a move into contract engineering, Boyd, too, recommends continuing education and an investment in test equipment, even though the gear can be expensive.

But don't expect to move in on Boyd's surf.

"I don't intend to quit working," he said. "I may slow down, but as long as my health is good, I'll work to the day I drop."

Contract vs. full time

Mac McGaha is an engineer who chooses contract work over full time.

"I like my business better now than I think I ever have," he said. "There are times when I think I am way too busy, and sometimes I think I am not busy enough. But for the most part, I'm pretty comfortable. You've got to manage it."

McGaha, 61, of Nampa, Idaho, focuses on the southwest part of that state as well as southeast Oregon. He has been in the contract business for 20 years.

"I was a truck driver, and I was getting real tired of the truck companies I was working for going out of business," McGaha said. "I was a ham radio operator, also, and a friend who was a ham who owned a radio station had an engineer who needed some help.

"The first available night, we went up to the mountain and looked at the FM transmitters," McGaha said. "We shut the thing down and looked in the back door. I said 'I know what everything is in there; it's just bigger than what I'm used to.' And I've been doing it every since."

McGaha feels optimistic about his future but expressed concern about the reason: He said he is picking up business because there are fewer contract engineers.

"I'm not seeing new people coming See CONTRACT, page 22



Burk Offers Free Factory Training June 21 or 22

Burk Technology announced dates for its next factory training seminars.

The seminar is one full day and is offered on two dates, June 21 or 22. The company said training is targeted to radio and television broadcast engineers, as well as engineering managers responsible for coordinating transmitter plant operation. Advanced capabilities and "tips and tricks" are covered.

"For example, we'll show how to integrate security camera monitoring into the AutoPilot Plus software, or how to use e-mail alerts with any of the of the remote control systems," stated General Manager Anita Russell. The session includes a discussion of the Watchband Remote AM/FM/RDS receiver, the SL-1 Serial LAN Extender and the AFD-1 Arc and Flame Detector. The Watchband and the AFD-1 earned Radio World "Cool Stuff" Awards this year.

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into the business," he said. "The interest is mostly in computers."

No limits for engineers

Bob Perry has been a contract engineer since 1988 and in the business for 30 years since starting at his college radio station. He said the engineering field is wide open, whether a person wants to be a contractor or work for a station.

"It's a good opportunity for anybody interested in electronics and looking for a challenge," he said. "I love what I do. If I didn't, I wouldn't be doing it. I was able to take a hobby and actually turn it into a profession which has worked out rather well."

Perry, 47, whose company is RDP Technical Services of Auburn, Maine, and who holds Certified Broadcast Technologist certification from the SBE, said his markets are good for him because there are a number of small stations that cannot afford a full-time engineer.

He keeps busy with 14 Citadel-owned stations in Maine and New Hampshire. He said he does "a little bit of everything" from studio work to RF; HD uptake is slow.

Because of his concern about the lack of new people getting into broadcast radio engineer, Perry speaks at local high schools drumming up interest. A ham operator himself, he said he sees some hams who want to go beyond the amateur status.

Jeff Rosenberg, 40, who operates Modulation Magic in Newton Highlands, Mass., near Boston, has taken something of a different tactic to handle the ebbs and flow of the radio engineering business.

While he said that HD has been the "mainstay" of his business for the past year, with some large installs and another on the calendar, he has ventured into sound and industrial install business.

"When I'm not busy, I'll go install a telephone system," Rosenberg said. "I'll put in a computer network. I do a lot of sound systems that end up in restaurants and nightclubs. Why not? In order to do turnkey product, I need to do enough volume to make manufacturers happy.'

And Rosenberg said being a broadcast engineer gives him a heads-up on other install engineers. Rosenberg, who holds CBNT certification from SBE, is a member of the Audio Engineering Society and is past president of the Boston chapter. He also is a certified integrator for Wheatstone/Audioarts and a certified HD integrator for Broadcast Electronics

'Hooked' on engineering

Rosenberg said he "was hooked" by engineering while attending Curry College in Milton, Mass., in the 1980s where he eventually became the first student station engineer. He credits the late Jim Rakiey, Boston-area engineer, with his "trainingby-fire" education in the beginning.

We are at the most exciting time in the 42 years that I've been in this business.

— James Boyd

"I started doing contracting gigs right away while I was in college," Rosenberg said. "Anything anybody would pay me to do I would go out and do."

He said he had another full-time job from which he learned how to run a business and did contracting on the side until the part-time work grew into full-time.

For anybody looking to get into fulltime contract work, Rosenberg's advice is get business training outside the industry. 'I worked retail. I let a corporation pay for my accounting education, my bookkeeping education.

As other contractors have talked about the ups and downs of work, Rosenberg said you have to balance your budget. "You have to plan for the rainy day," he said.

Looking ahead, Rosenberg said the prospects of engineers coming along, especially those in RF, are not too good. He has trouble finding people to work with him, and he is working with a student, one of his two part-time employees.

As for the amount of work to come, he believes that as the big groups develop their stations, there will be more work for remotes and more staff as the business shifts back toward more localism.

Like Rosenberg, Matt Lightner, 30, president of Lightner Electronics in Claysburg, Pa., said diversification is important to avoid the ups and downs in the broadcast business. His company does audio/visual contracting and computer networking to fill in the gaps.

Lightner's career in broadcast engineer ing started at the age of 15 in 1991 when he fixed some cart machines for a friend who was an announcer at WJSM(AM/ FM) in Martinsburg, Pa. At the time Lightner was repairing TVs and VCRs, something he got into when he was 12.

He started contract work in 1995, after working for a year and a half at WPRR/WVAM as chief engineer — a job he earned between his junior and senior years in high school where he studied electronics. Before leaving the station, he led the project to rebuild the studios and transmitter site. Lightner hired his first full-time employee in 1997. Today, he has seven field technicians/installers and two office personnel.

He finds he handles the RF work; he firmly believes that is where new engineers should concentrate.

RF training needed

"In today's world it is easy to find computer technicians, but RF engineers are extremely hard to find," Lightner said. "I'm amazed with so many technologies moving wireless, how few engineers know RF."

Lightner is preparing to take the Certified Senior Radio Engineer certification SRE exam: he said he let his Certified Broadcast Radio Engineer certification, which he obtained in 1999 at 22, expire.

Like other engineers interviewed for this story, Lightner noted the relaxation of licensing for radio engineers.

This devalued the engineer and led to a lot of unqualified people taking the title of engineer," he said. "I must tell you that I've cleaned up a lot of disasters from unqualified engineers in the past. I've also seen a few cases where untrained engineers could have been killed working on

high-voltage equipment without proper safety training.'

This is where the SBE stepped in with a certification program and the continuing education work of the Ennes Educational Foundation.

Barry Thomas, an SBE executive board member and vice president of radio engineering for Lincoln Financial Media Co., said SBE offers valuable resources and networking opportunities for the radio engineering community. In particular, SBE dedicated a section on its Web site to contract and consulting engineers at www.sbe.org/res_eng.php.

Included are a directory, sample contract and information about commercial and professional liability insurance.

The number of contract engineers in the market is hard to calculate. A search on the Web reveals resource lists on various sites. But Thomas said their high membership number in SBE is indicative of their strength and dedication to the profession.

Contract engineers: What issues are high on your worry list? Write us at radioworld@imaspub.com.

Alan Carter is the former editor in chief of Radio World International.

BUSINESS NEWS

Audemat-Aztec Moves

Audemat-Aztec has moved to a new location, where it says it will have more room.

Company officials said the Miami office is now at 19595 NE 10th Avenue, Suite A, and is double the size of the previous office.

This will allow Audemat-Aztec to stock more products to handle increasing of sales and for faster deliveries. There will soon be a showroom as well, for client visits and more frequent dealer training.

Executive VP Christophe Poulain said the supplier's goal is to be able to ship orders in a day.

Phone numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: AlertFM USB

Company: Global Security Systems LLC

GSS has been notable for its efforts to solve modern-day emergency warning problems in a way that also builds on the industry's FM infrastructure.

The AlertFM USB is a portable FM receiver that allows emergency alerts and messages to be viewed on any device with a USB port, such as a laptop or desktop, without the need for an



Internet or network connection. AlertFM allows emergency personnel to create and distribute emergency alerts and messages to targeted recipients in geographies or organizations with an AlertFM receiver.

Bob Hearion and Matt Straeb give their product a thumbs up.

Shipping: Fall Retail price: \$35 Design: GSS Team

Contact: Jim Lowery, Global Security Systems, (601) 709-4240 or

visit www.gssnet.us

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: USB-AES Matchbox Company: Henry Engineering

Skip the D-to-A converter or the S/PDIF-to-AES interface in addition to your semipro DAW audio interface," the judges wrote. "This little blue box does it all: AES and S/PDIF in and out, builtin D-to-A for monitoring or analog equipment, and a speaker jack too! Buspowered, so there's no AC adapter to forget when you take it on the road."



The USB-to-AES digital audio interface provides AES/EBU digital audio input and output (stereo) from any PC using USB interconnect. Supports sample rates of 48, 44.1, & 32 kHz, 16-bit depth. Works with any software that supports a USB audio device. AES/EBU digital I/O are transformer-balanced and isolated to prevent ground loops and noise from PC. The box also has S/PDIF digital I/O, secondary balanced analog outputs and speaker output with external mute facility.

Shown: Bill Sacks and Hank Landsberg

Shipping: June Price: \$495

Design: Bill Sacks, Kim Sacks, Hank Landsberg

Contact: For info and dealer listing, visit www.henryeng.com or call (626) 355-3656



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Easy to work with!

HD Radis News

An 'Add-On' Tuner

Page 30

Radio World

Covering Radio's Digital Transition

June 6, 2007

Next-Gen Features on the Horizon

Coming: Low-Cost, High-Performance Chips, 'HD Now' and a Push to Smaller Markets

by Leslie Stimson

Several future capabilities of HD Radio were demoed by Ibiquity Digital vendors on the show floor at NAB2007. These included conditional access, real-time traffic, time shifting, Electronic Program Guide and record and rewind functions.

Ibiquity and its partners are vetting these concepts and hope to commercialize several soon, said Scott Stull, vice president of broadcast business development.

NDS UNVEILS CONDITIONAL ACCESS DETAILS

Several companies demoed conditional access, the ability to encrypt an HD Radio signal and then permit or deny the receiver the ability to decode the signal.

This would bring a function that is already available in satellite radios to the terrestrial radio realm.

HD Radios will soon be addressable by channel and time of day. Ibiquity executives said NDS conditional access technology will be built into all new HD Radios starting in the fourth quarter of this year. Developer NDS received a Radio World "Cool Stuff" Award for the concept (see page 36). NDS also announced planned pricing of its equipment.

NDS showed its RadioGuard system. Director of U.S. Data Applications Delivery for RadioGuard Tom Rucktenwald told attendees of a multicasting panel, "We're only talking about encrypting the multicast channel. The main HD-R channel would always be free."

At the show, NDS revealed that it would oversee a national receiver database needed for receiver entitlements. Each HD Radio would carry a unique ID number.

The "HD Radio Global Service Registry" would be handled by NDS Israel, along with encryption and decryption.

The registry would be available to broadcasters and service providers, said Jordan Scott, director of advanced application services for Ibiquity.

NDA Americas would be responsible for entitlement, serialization and customer support testing.

If someone tries to access an encrypted channel, the receiver display would state "service not authorized" and the user would see a call to action, such as

the Web site address of the station, to find out more.

Prototype NDS equipment and modified receivers were displayed. Ibiquity needs to add a security chip to its reference design to handle the encryption/decryption capabilities; that chip is being finalized. The technology developer estimates initially 2 million receivers with conditional access capability will be produced.

Ibiquity will handle integration of the NDS technology to its IBOC system, as well as software updates for the Importer. This is important because both pieces of the NDS conditional access equipment — the Protector and the Initiator — are installed ahead of the HD Radio Importer

in the air chain.

The Protector encrypts the signal; NDS is choosing between two possible Protector hardware manufacturers, Rucktenwald said. The Protector is colocated with the Importer and mates to the Importer and the Initiator. The latter is a server that acts as an administrative control unit. NDS has chosen an HP server for the Initiator.

Every station needs at least a Protector to scramble its signal. Stand-alone stations need both units; a group owner may choose to have one Initiator at headquarters controlling Protectors at each station.

NDS costs revealed at the show were \$10,000 for a Protector and \$15,000 for each Initiator. NDS would charge a connection fee of \$5,000 for the second station and beyond in cases where the Initiator controls several Protectors.

One attendee asked Rucktenwald whether a station that starts providing subscriptions to multicast channels would incur a lot of overhead to service its accounts. He replied that NDS is "talking to groups that can provide back office support. The answer for a station that wants to do this is preparation."

... AND SEEKS MORE STATION TEST BEDS

Harris, Ibiquity Digital and NDS say conditional access tests at NPR affiliate WUSF(FM) in Tampa show the technology can work.

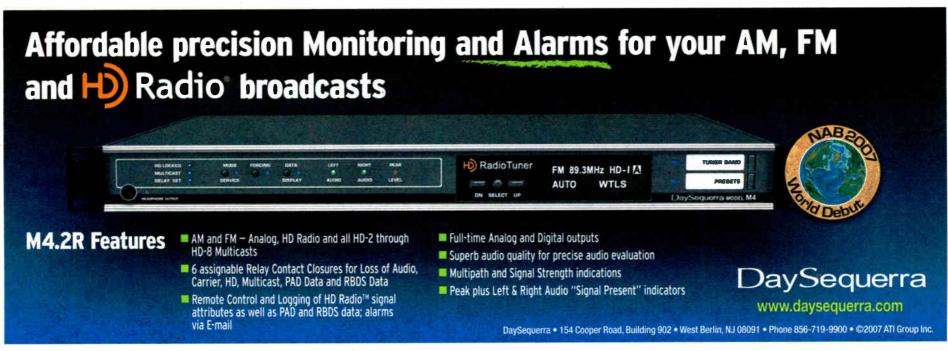
Through May, WUSF was testing the system on its HD2 news channel, and the International Association of Audio Information Services provided a radio reading service for a temporary HD3 channel.

This pilot test of how well the NDS system worked with the transmission and reception of an HD-R signal went well, proponents said, though "minor" problems were found. Participants declined to detail those.

See HD RADIO, page 26



Tom Rucktenwald of NDS, right, talks with Jeff Zigler (left) and Dick Wooden of Clear Channel's Technology Development division. Behind him are the two demonstration pods showing the prototype NDS equipment integrated with equipment from BE (on WBEI) at left and Harris (on WHRS) at right.





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Radio World's HD Radio Scoreboard

The HD Radio Scoreboard is compiled by Radio World using information supplied by iBiquity Digital Corp., the HD Digital Radio Alliance and other sources.

Data reflect best information as of early May. This page is sponsored by Broadcast Electronics. HD Radio is a trademark of iBiquity Digital Corp.

AM HD RADIO IN CALIFORNIA

| Market | Freq. | Station | Format | Licensee |
|---------------------|-------|---------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Los Angeles | 570 | KLAC | Sports | Clear Channel Radio |
| Fresno | 580 | KMJ | Nws/Tlk/Spt | Peak Broadcasting |
| San Diego | P00 | KOGO | Tlk/Nws/Spt | Clear Channel Radio |
| Los Angeles | 710 | KSPN | Sports | ABC Radio |
| Los Angeles | 740 | KBRT | Chrst/Talk | Crawford Broadcasting Company |
| Modesto | 770 | KCBC | Christian | Crawford Broadcasting Company |
| Los Angeles | 790 | KABC | Talk | ABC Radio |
| San Francisco | 810 | KG0 | News/Talk | ABC Radio |
| Los Angeles | 068 | KLAA | Spn/Tlk/Spt | Radiovisa |
| Modesto | 840 | KMPH | AdStd/Talk | Pappas Radio |
| San Francisco | 910 | KNEW | Talk | Clear Channel Radio |
| San Francisco | 960 | KOKE | Talk | Clear Channel Radio |
| Modesto | 970 | KESP | Sports | Citadel |
| Los Angeles | 980 | KFWB | News | CBZ |
| Los Angeles | 1050 | KTNQ | Spn/Nws/Tlk | Univision Radio |
| San Francisco | 1050 | KTCT | Sports | Cumulus Media Partners |
| Los Angeles | 1070 | KNX | News | CBS Radio |
| Los Angeles | 1110 | KDIS | Children | ABC Radio |
| San Jose | 1170 | KLOK | Spn/Tlk/Spt | Univision Radio |
| Stockton | 1590 | KMZX | Christian | Clear Channel Radio |
| Riverside-San Bern. | 1440 | KDIF | Mexcn/01des | Clear Channel Radio |
| Sacramento | 1470 | KIID | Folk | ABC Radio |
| Stockton | 1570 | KCVR | Span/RhyB1 | Entravision |

The HD Radio Bottom Line
Total Licensed On the Air

Last Month
Total Licensed On the Air

Market Penetration
United States

13,837 RM & FM Stations
(excludes LPFMs)

4.3%

Licensed by Ibiquity
and not on the air

Number of FM Stations Multicasting:

Last Month:

Continued from page 24

Problems were being addressed and more demos scheduled at WUSF, said Rucktenwald. NDS is also looking for stations in other markets to test conditional access and hopes to launch its service in 25 broadcast markets in Q4.

One issue he acknowledged: an "ugly and incomplete" RadioGuard user interface.

Information about the tests was available in the Harris booth as part of its conditional access display. NPR Labs was an observer of the WUSF tests and plans to bench-test RadioGuard.

NPR Labs staff were in the Harris booth with a presentation called "NPR Labs: Building the Future of Radio." Representatives discussed available radio grants and tied into the Harris DATAplus demonstration with a continuous PAD output loop from DATAplus.

RADIOGUARD TO DELIVER DATA AS WELL

Broadcast Electronics, NDS and Ibiquity showcased HD Radio conditional access capabilities with a demo integrating conditional access into BE's HD Radio IDi 20 Importer unit, broadcasting program content addressable to permitted receivers.

The companies planned to explore RadioGuard's ability to deliver data services in field trials at Emmis station



Broadcast Electronics, NDS and Ibiquity showcased HD Radio conditional access capabilities with a demo integrating conditional access into BE's HD Radio IDi 20 Importer unit, broadcasting program content addressable to permitted receivers.

WKQX(FM) in Chicago in late May.

BE Vice President of Studio Systems Ray Miklius said Navteq would provide Chicago-area data to be streamed with the HD Radio signal, interpreted by a navigation system and then mapped onto a display.

"On the HD Radio Importer, you provision audio channels and data pipes. We will provision a data service ... and allocate some bit rate (for the traffic data) within the extended hybrid mode."

VOICEAGE, NEURAL COMBINE EFFORTS ON CODEC

Applications such as pay-per-listen services enabled by conditional access require integration of a very low bit rate audio coder into the HD Radio system. Neural Audio showed the VoiceAge low bit rate audio coder with integrated Neural pre-processing.

The VoiceAge codec now operates at rates as low as 6 kilobits per second,

according to Louis Pare, director of product management. The VoiceAge codec previously operated at 12 kbps. The unit allows stations to offer more voice channels among their multicast offerings such as traffic, weather, radio reading service, a finance channel or Hispanic radio service, according to Neural and VoiceAge.

SIPORT UNVEILS 100 MILLIWATT HD-R CHIP

SiPort displayed a 100 milliwatt HD Radio chip at NAB2007.

The Ibiquity-certified chip would enable HD-R reception in portable devices, such as radios and cell phones. It has been Taiwanese development for two years; production in initial quantities is targeted for Q3 of this year.

Proponents predict HD-R portables to debut in the first or second quarter of 2008.

Samsung subsequently announced its intention to release a low-power, high-performance HD-R chip in a similar timeframe.

EPG SEEN AS ENTRY INTO ADVANCED HD-R FEATURES

Britain is further along than the United States when it comes to extra features of digital radio such as Electronic Program Guides

Matthew Honey, managing director of Unique Interactive, which provides the See HD RADIO, page 27

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HD Radio

Continued from page 26

data features for the Eureka-147 system in the United Kingdom, said, "EPG keeps listeners listening longer."

Scott said EPG is designed to be programmed up to 14 days in advance, for applications such as helping consumers set program reminders for upcoming services. "With EPG, it's all about ease of use. How will listeners use your content."

Ibiquity assisted Harris and BE with demos of an electronic programming guide for HD Radio. The EPGs resembled the electronic program listings common on digital cable and satellite TV systems.

Harris said the HD Radio electronic programming guide display - which is intended to list program titles, start/end times, and key program information for each IBOC station in the market - is designed to be accessible from the consumer's HD Radio receiver.

BE's EPG demo featured program schedules of 20 HD-R channels in the Las Vegas market. A receiver platform with touch-screen interface displayed station names, frequencies and HD channels, and advanced through EPG schedules by station or by time.

The interactive display lays the foundation for store-and-replay, setting program reminders or opt-in access and other advanced HD Radio features, proponents said.

Honey said digital stations in Britain have begun charging clients for text message displays on receivers. Stations also sell "DABverts," he said.

"KISS(FM) in London makes money when listeners send text messages into the station on their phones.'

ADVANCED FEATURES LIKE 'HD NOW' AHEAD

Next-gen features that IBOC proponents say are coming include TiVo-like ability to pre-time a recording for later playback. Ibiquity is calling it "HD Now," said Jeff Detweiler, director of broadcast business development for Ibiquity.

Ibiquity is planning to release new software loads for the HD-R importer and exciter this summer. Part of the importer upgrade will support conditional access and enable an additional level of error correction, Detweiler said.

Coming later this year: a HD Radio real-time traffic service that provides incident, flow and traffic information; mobile delivery of large files to on-based HD Radio-based navigation systems from TeleAtlas and Navteq; and mobile delivery of local/regional points of interest file. Proponents call the latter an opportunity for database and service providers such a Yahoo-sponsored links. Clear Channel is interested in this concept, said Ibiquity representatives.

HD-R FOR SMALL GROUPS

Now that some 1,500 stations - mostly in large and medium markets - are broadcasting an HD Radio signal and another 1,500 reportedly are committed to converting, Ibiquity Digital is making See HD RADIO, page 32 ▶

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: BandScanner, Model 512 Company: Inovonics Inc.

This is a "Cool Concept" winner, because Inovonics was at the show asking for user input, not selling it yet.

Powered by the USB port of any Windows PC, the FM scanning receiver generates a graph showing RF level vs. frequency for every station in the market and a station list in

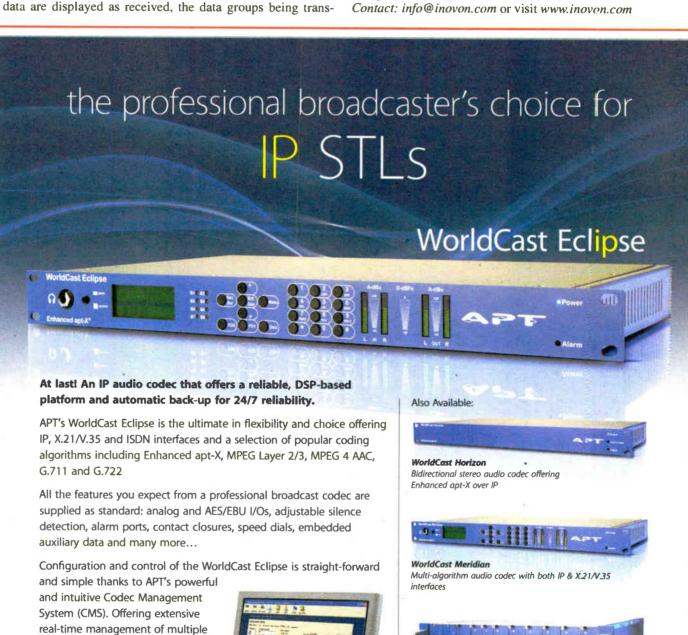
The BandScanner may be tuned manually through the "dashboard" screen or by double-clicking a point on the spectrum plot or an entry on the station list. Spectrum plots may be saved on the computer as JPG or BMP files. Raw RDS data are displayed as received, the data groups being transmitted are identified, and all data may expanded for

detailed analysis or logged for subsequent study. Shown: Todor Ivanov and Jim Wood.

Shipping: TBD Price: \$450-\$500

Design: Inovonics Inc.





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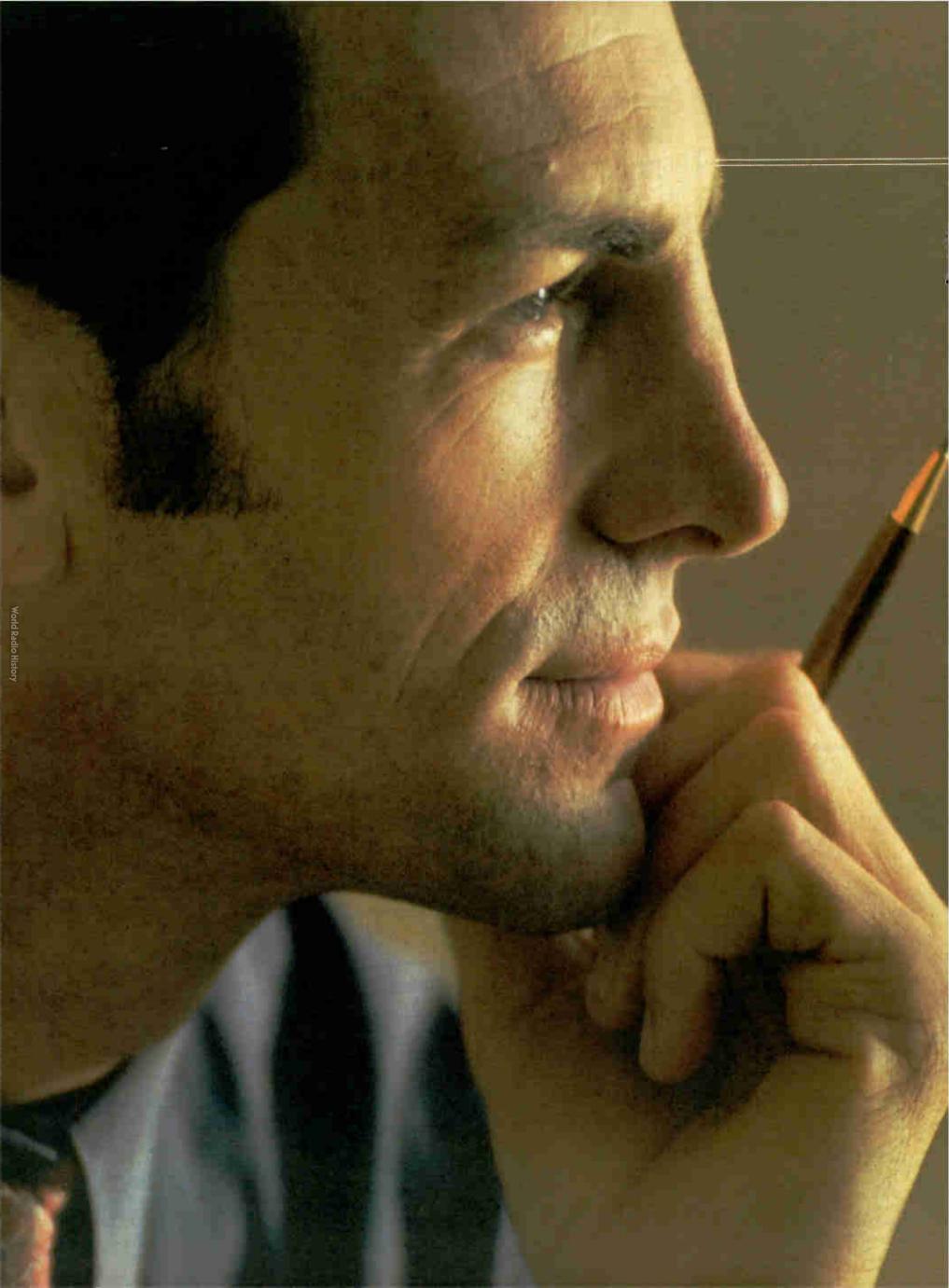
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DMHD-1000 Is an 'Add-On' Tuner

Directed Electronics Drives Into The Car HD Radio Market

by Aaron Read

The recent "broadcaster's buy" from Ibiquity Digital included a new offering to the HD Radio tuner market: the Directed Electronics DMHD-1000 "car connect" radio.

It's an "add on" tuner designed to work with your existing car radio. Overall I'd say it's a mixed bag: It has some good things, and it has some notso-good things.

First a description of the radio: the actual tuner/converter box is about the size of a small paperback book, meant to be hidden behind the dash or under a seat. A small, wired, display/control unit is barely bigger than the mostly redundant remote control that also comes with the unit

Rounding out the package are a wiring harness for power with nice, long wires, some extra fuses, the equipment manual and two RF jumper cables with Motorola plugs so you can install the tuner in line with your existing antenna. The latter is especially nice as it avoids the growing problem of Part 15 transmitters (for iPods and whatnot) causing interference to licensed stations.

The user interface is pretty good. There's not much "hidden" in the menus;



based on my listening tests.

My greatest challenge (if I chose to accept it) with this review is that I live in the city, so I don't own a car. I had to borrow a friend's car, install the DMHD, drive around listening for the day, and uninstall it ... leaving no trace. Ten years ago, the wiring on many car radios would've made this impossible, but today it was no sweat.

The test vehicle was a 2006 Ford Escape SUV that, by chance, also had a similar-styled XM satellite radio tuner. A little struggling with a DIN tool popped out the factory radio, the in-line RF modulator installed in less than a minute, and I jury-rigged the three power wires to a cigarette lighter adapter. In less than 30 minutes I was on the road.

Downtown Boston is notorious for

and preset bank.

The rest of the display can be cycled through several modes by the DISP button, and exactly what gets shown depends heavily on what the station is transmitting, in either HD-R or RBDS. The display can be call letters, frequency, a slogan, artist/title, etc.

If no PSD, or more generic Program Associated Data is available, the radio defaults to some combination of call letters and/or the frequency. Overall, I found most every mode was useful. A nice touch is the HD-R "program guide" mode that shows the current artist/title for all the multicast channels at the same time.

Isn't it supposed to sound better?

However, I have one big criticism of PAD on this radio. With RBDS, but not HD-R, whenever the PS field cycles/refreshes to the next item to display, it resets the Radio Text field's scrolling to the beginning. This means much of the RT field may never get displayed.

Another big gripe immediately appeared when I tried to use the RCA line-level outputs: serious distortion! It sounded badly over-driven, although it became somewhat better as the tuning unit got warmer.

Product Capsule: Directed Electronics DMHD-1000 Tuner Thumbs Up ✓ Small, well-designed control unit ✓ Decent signal sensitivity ✓ In-line RF modulator (instead of free-radiating) ✓ Easy installation **Thumbs Down** ✓ RCA outputs sound terrible unless grounded and manual doesn't mention it / RDS doesn't display properly ✓ Tuning unit gets quite hot MSRP: \$200

A second and third DMHD proved to have the same problem. A call to Directed's tech support said I just return it for an exchange, but a colleague at Ibiquity Digital told me the solution he stumbled across: you have to ground the tuning unit's chassis. This is in addition to the ground wire on the power connector.

CONTACT: Visit mobile audio portion

of the Products section at

www.directed.com

I suspect many people will never even notice, since they'll bolt the tuning unit to something metal behind the dash. But there's no specific mention of this in the manual, and if you don't ground it — the sound is inexplicably awful on the RCA outputs.

Conclusions

It's hard to get around the problems with the RCA outputs; and the lack of documentation, or viable tech support about it, is disappointing. This is something I can see the average user immediately demanding a refund for their "broken" radio.

See DIRECTED, page 32 ▶

Overall I'd say it's a mixed bag: It has some good things, and it has some

not-so-good things.

most every function has a button you can find by touch. The radio has five preset buttons but uses a "bank" button to cycle through four rounds of presets, for twenty total.

The display is a black LCD characters with an amber backlight. The dimmer and contrast settings are good — you can run the dimmer from very bright (suitable for daylight) to very dim, or even off. Contrast is flexible enough to handle most any viewing angle.

Like any good engineer, I like to see how intuitive the design is by working without reading the manual. I found I didn't need to check it for anything; the installation was pretty intuitive, save for one big exception I'll come back to. After my tests, I browsed through the manual and found it to be reasonably well written.

The last page had a ton of interesting, albeit, somewhat cryptic, specifications, such as "1st adjacent rejection" (SNR=60dB at D/U = -25dB) and "post-detection bandwidth" for DBB (Adjustable from 8 kHz down to 3.5 kHz). See my blog www.friedbagels.com/blog for the full list of specs. Finally, there's no visual indication of it, but the DMHD does seem to decode C-Quam AM stereo

Visit radioworld.com for CoolCast video demos of all the 2007 "Cool Stuff" Award-winning products.

multipath, intermediate-frequency and blanketing interference. As expected, the HD Radio signal really shone here; as soon as HD blended in, all the pops, hiss and clicks just disappeared. The XM sat radio's RF modulator also co-existed nicely with the DMHD.

I did notice that for HD-R listening, the radio isn't quite as sensitive as I'd prefer, but it's not bad. Large FM stations were no trouble, but smaller Class A FM stations have inherently low HD wattages, and they seem more susceptible to being "lost in the noise floor" on this radio.

Eyes on the road

Analog reception was acceptable; there weren't any places where the Escape's OEM radio was getting noticeably better FM reception than the DMHD. AM listening is tougher since we only have three stations transmitting HD-R in Boston, but the DMHD didn't seem to have any particular trouble acquiring a digital signal from any of them.

All in all, I wouldn't consider it "dynamite" radio for reception, but it's far from "deaf." Your average listener shouldn't notice a significant difference in reception between the DMHD and most OEM car radios, nor with your average HD Radio car tuner.

DMHD handles HD Radio Program Service Data quite well; the display is not large, but the design and layout of the text makes the most of it. The "status bar" along the bottom edge will always contain critical info. such as call letters

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: Daptor Three Wireless Audio Interface Company: JK Audio Inc.

Radio engineers have a soft spot for problem-solvers; our judges are no exception. JK Audio keeps cranking out such solutions.

Also, as one judge wrote, "Anything Bluetooth is always cool."

Daptor Three is a simple, professional audio interface. Like its predecessor Daptor Two, this version allows balanced and unbalanced connections to your cell phone. While Daptor Two

uses the 2.5mm headset jack, Daptor Three connects to the phone like any other Bluetooth Wireless Technology enabled headset. The "hands-free" mode offers a mono telephone-bandwidth connection.

Daptor Three also will connect to any other product, such as a notebook or portable, that allows a stereo wireless headset connection. The stereo headset mode offers full audio bandwidth.

Uses include patching into your cell phone for a quick remote or interview, or mixing in audio from your notebook or portable.

Joe and Linda Klinger are shown.

Shipping: August Price: \$415

Design: JK Audio Design Team

Contact: Visit www.jkaudio.com, e-mail info@jkaudio.com or call (800) 552-8346

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Directed

► Continued from page 30

The strange behavior of PAD from RDS was also minor, but annoying and highly visible. And the tuning unit gets quite warm, although at least the documentation warns about this.

In addition, with an MSRP of \$200 the DMHD1000 unfortunately has come out right at the same time Wal-Mart announced that it's selling the JVC KD-HDW10 car radio for \$190. Of course, the JVC is a *replacement* radio; if you want to keep your *existing* car radio, the DMHD might be a good pick.

A Directed Electronics spokesman told RW in May that the company is working to correct the issues identified in this review.

Aaron Read is a staff engineer with Broadcast Signal Lab, technical director for public radio and a self-described jack of all trades. Additional specifications and pictures of the DMHD-1000 can be found at www.friedbagels.com/blog. Thanks to David Maxson and Lew Collins of Broadcast Signal Lab for their assistance.



HD Radio

Continued from page 27

an effort to reach the owners of some 5,000 small-market stations.

In the session "Building an HD Station I: From Studio to Antenna to the Bank," several broadcast engineers who have converted stations gave attendees detailed information on the necessary licenses, equipment needs and budget/finance tips for their conversions.

There are several ways to implement HD Radio at a station, with varying cost levels.

For stations with limited funds, it may be easier to go IBOC in steps, said Bert Goldman of Goldman Engineering Management, Dallas. Those could include adding RDS to the analog signal, upgrading the STL to the transmitter, then eventually adding HD-R to the primary signal.

David Maxson, managing partner of Broadcast Signal Lab, Medfield, Mass., said a strategic reason

STRUBLE: STATIONS NEED TO TIME-ALIGN, PROMOTE

In an interview, Ibiquity President/CEO Robert Struble told RW the company is pleased with the progress of the rollout on several fronts, but is mindful that Ibiquity and broadcasters need to keep improving in some areas in order to get more HD Radios sold.

Among Struble's goals for improvement are programming multicast channels and time-aligning the analog and digital signals.

"Not a lot of HD2s have jocks, so a lot of that is done through automation. The programming's got to get better over time and we know that. We think it will get better over time and you'll get more people listening. Certainly what's on now will wet" the public's appetite for digital, he said.

The time alignment situation is improving; he said; Struble notes more stations are addressing that now than six months ago.

Also, if a station lets its multicasting go off the air without a backup for a while, "That's hurtful ...

It isn't 'Let's promote for two years and we're done.'

— Bob Struble, Ibiquity

to convert now is that "it's easier and less risky to start simply and grow than to try to do it all at once later." Get HD-R on the air, then data, and have your station personnel explore the possibilities, he recommended.

Session facilitator Ron Davis is president/general manager of KBOW(AM)/KOPR(FM), Butte, Mont. Davis also chairs the Small Market Operators Caucus. He said Ibiquity's February announcement of a change in its broadcast licensing fees would benefit small-market owners especially.

To clear up confusion about what Ibiquity announced, Scott Stull, vice president of broadcast business development said the company is offering groups, including stand-alone facilities, a conversion incentive through Sept. 30. Ibiquity would cap the one-time licensee fees at \$10,000 per station for all the stations in such a group that qualify for the incentive.

One small-market operator in attendance said Ibiquity had never contacted him about converting to HD Radio. Stull said that's why the company is building a sales staff including the recent hiring of Paul Dadian.

because people are listening and they get impressions" of HD Radio based on that. "It reflects the reality of where the rollout is and, as an industry, we have to improve it over time."

The initial two-year mandate of the HD Digital Radio Alliance expires at the end of 2007. It's not clear yet whether the alliance will extend or modify its mission or disband.

Asked whether Ibiquity still needs the marketing focus of the alliance, Struble hinted at yes. Regardless of what happens to the alliance, the need for stations to promote HD Radio doesn't go away, he said. "We think broadcasters understand that. (Industry) needs to. We're not there yet."

Noting that iPod commercials and sat radio commercials continue to air, Struble said IBOC is about the future of radio. "It isn't 'Let's promote for two years and we're done.' It doesn't work that way."

Ibiquity had approximately 15 receivers on display in its suite; Struble said there are some 50 HD Radio models available now. Asked how many have been sold, he said "in the low hundreds of thousands."

Why is that figure fuzzy? While receiver manusee DIRECTED, page 33 ▶



Company: Kowa Company, Ltd.

The PX-10 is an audio hotkey player that can play audio clips at the touch of a button.

By using either a USB or compact Flash card to store up to 2 GB of audio clips, the PX-10 eliminates the burden of a hard drive. Use the included software program to set up play lists on a PC, save them on a USB drive or Flash card and plug it into the PX-10. Then you have the luxury of controlling six pages of 50 instant playback keys with programmable and real-time effects such as faders and volume control. This approach lets radio broadcast users share the same PX-10 yet use their own personalized playlists.

Shipping: August Price: \$3,500 Design: Mamoru Ueda

Contact: Kowa Optimed (800) 966-5692 or e-mail pxinfo@proaudiokowa.com

World Radio History

HD RADIO NEWS HD Radio

Continued from page 32

facturers eventually report HD-R sales to Ibiquity, under their license agreements, there is a time lag, Struble said. He declined to specify the length of that lag and how often each company is reporting its sales figures. All that is determined by each license agreement, he said.

The company is pleased with where conditional access is technically. That's important because conditional access is an enabling technology for other next-gen services, Struble said.

DRB CERTIFICATION

The SBE has created a Digital Radio Broadcast Specialist certification following the FCC's "recognizing the viability of digital radio and the official endorsement of multicasting," stated the engineering group in its announcement.

The certification will qualify knowledge of digital radio including audio processing, STLs and transmission of multichannel digital program streams. Applicants must hold SBE certification at the Broadcast Engineer, Senior Broadcast Engineer or Professional Broadcast Engineer certification level. The DRB certification will be rolled out at the SBE National Meeting in October in Monroeville, Pa.

IBIQUITY DISPLAYS HD RADIOS. INCLUDING NEW RADIOSOPHY UNIT

About 15 radios were on display in Ibiquity's suite at the Hilton, including the new Radiosophy unit that wasn't in

The HD100 features a line-in input so users can play MP3 and other audio devices through the speakers. Radiosophy expected to ship the radio in mid-May at a list price of just under \$120.

Attendees could also see the unit at the Nautel and Harris booths.

DADIAN TO IBIQUITY

Ibiquity Digital is beefing up its staff to work with broadcasters on HD-R conversions. Paul Dadian, formerly the broadcast sales supervisor at Harris Broadcast, is now broadcast sales manager for Ibiquity. The position is new for the company.

Dadian -- based in the Cincinnati area is handling new business licensing for the technology developer. He told RW that calling on small-market broadcasters is a priority. 🌑



COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: Nautel Reliable HD Transport Suite Company: Nautel

Nautel Reliable HD Transport Suite aims to solve issues inherent in delivery approaches that require audio and data be sent to the transmitter using IP. While such streams are ideal for transferring arbitrary digital information, Nautel says, their use in streaming audio can result in on-air dropouts.

Nautel's approach improves HD transmission quality by lowering STL reliability requirements. Also, multiple exciters and/or transmitters can tune into a single IBOC stream making the system suitable for hot-standby exciter configurations, N+1 transmitters and multi-frequency networks, while maintaining synch with the studio. The suite is offered as a software solu-

tion for the company's IBOC deployments or using interface units for Harris or BE installations. John Whyte gives the idea a thumbs up.



Shipping: Immediately for Nautel deployments. Mid-summer for BE and Harris IBOC deployments. Price: Software is \$995. Pricing for interface units in non-Nautel deployment is \$4,990. Design: Philipp Schmid, Nautel engineering team

Contact: (207) 947-8200 or www.nautel.com

The cash-machine formerly known as RevenueSuite returns to the airwaves as Google AdSense for Audio.

RevenueSuite, a source of additional income for radio stations, promises to be even more so in this incarnation as AdSense" for Audio, thanks to the power of Google technology. And when you combine that with the industry's most innovative station automation products - SS32" and Maestro - you'll understand why hundreds of stations in markets of every size are starting to talk about the future of radio stations with renewed optimism.

At Google, our commitment is strong and clear and unchanging: we're here to help you run your station more efficiently and profitably than ever before.

Visit www.google.com/ads/asaudio to find out more.



Studio Sessions



Radio World

Resource for Radio On-Air, Production and Recording

June 6, 2007

PRODUCT EVALUATION

StationPlaylist Marries Studio, Creator

by Bill DeFelice

There are many parallels shared by LPFMs, small-market stations and my own Web stream. CapitalRadio.us. With operating budgets limited and leaving little margin for error, the common goal for us is to get the biggest bang for the buck when purchasing equipment.

I recently arrived at the conclusion that I needed to update my station automation system. My DOS-based dinosaur had become dated and cumbersome; it was actually holding back improvement to my on-air presentation.

I had defined important real-world constraints for this upgrade project: the automation system had to be reasonably feature-rich, stable and reliable and most of all have responsive technical support.

My quest for a solution brought me to the opposite end of the globe. Ross Levis has been operating an LPFM in New Zealand since the turn of the decade. He shared my frustration with buggy software and lack of support from vendors more concerned with collecting support fees than actually providing a solid system. Levis formed a partnership to create the solution. The answer arrived in 2001 when StationPlaylist.com was founded.

Define your rotations

The StationPlaylist suite comprises two separate programs: StationPlaylist Studio manages on-air automated and live assist



Hour 00 00 -

playback while StationPlaylist Creator is the companion scheduler. There are several editions of the suite: Lite. Standard and Pro, allowing one to purchase the capabilities and features they need while controlling costs.

Start Stude

The suite runs on computers using Microsoft's Windows operating system with Windows Vista or XP recommended. I opted for the Pro version of the StationPlaylist suite, as this provides the



Thumbs Up

- ✓ Unlimited audio categories
- ✓ Flexible scheduling options
- ✓ Limitless walkaway scheduling
- ✓ Responsive tech support

Thumbs Down



✓ Cumbersome Daylight Saving Time configuration No automated audio file backup

PRICE: StationPlaylist Pro Bundle (as tested) approx. \$375 at press time (Prices are quoted in Euros)

CONTACT: www.stationplaylist.com

ones 🌑 Spot Groups 📉 Rot Options | Playlist Options | Ad-enceste Playlist starting from Fire 15 - days and D - hour:

greatest number of features and most flexibility. All editions can use audio files in various formats including WAV, MP2, MP3, MP4 (AAC), Ogg Vorbis, WMA, APE and AIFF.

Replicating my formatics in Creator was simple. While my old system was limited to a paltry 26 categories, StudioPlaylist Pro supports an unlimited amount. Once the music

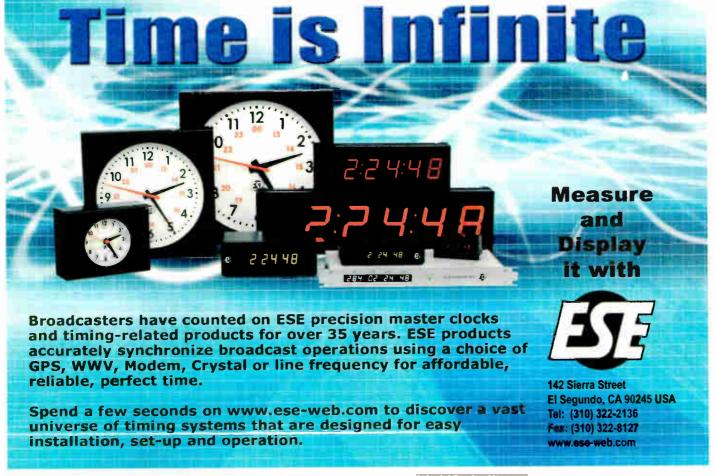
categories were created I made the spot groups that would contain my imaging, jingles, station IDs and generic voice tracks. At this point I was ready to define my rotations.

A rotation template is required for each hour in the day, but you can use a single template for the entire day or create unique rotations for various dayparts. These rotations are used to build the schedules. The scheduler was a joy to work with, as it features related artists and repeat protections that actually work, unlike my former DOS system.

Creator's Track Tool can automatically scan your audio files to work with Studio's built-in level sensing segue settings. The only changes I needed to make were for songs with cold or soft endings. The resulting playback in Studio is tight and professional sounding with minimal effort spent tweaking.

While there are many things that are easy to learn, there are features and capabilities you'll need to experiment with to appreciate the power they offer. The powerful "break notes" feature allows the operator to perform a variety of tasks ranging from changing the on-air talent's virtual cart and time announce files, to changing automation modes and even communicating with the outside world via the comput-

er's parallel port. See PLAYLIST, page 36



The world's best on-air microphone - period.



"The PR40 makes me sound fabulous. I absolutely love this microphone. We replaced our old microphones, which by the way were considered to be the industry standard, and the difference is like night and day."

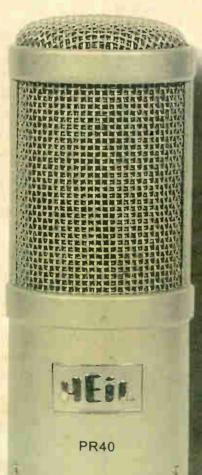
- DUSTY STREET FREED RADIO STUDIO **ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME** SIRUS SATELLITE RADIO



"I um not the most technical guy in the business, but after 32-years in the broadcast business, I know microphones. I plugged in the PR 40 straight into the board without any processing and it absolutely blew me away. Without a doubt the PR40 is the best broadcast microphone ever developed.



- MIKE MCKAY BRAVO MIC COMMUNICATIONS KVLC 101-GOLD FM KXPZ ROCKET 99.5FM





opportunity to use all the standards over the years. The difference is really remarkable." - PD MICHAEL "SHARK" SHARKEY

"This mic is unbelievable. I have worked with some of the most expensive microphones in the broadcast industry and none, I mean NONE compare to the PR 40. I have received reports from stations all over the

world about the amazing audio quality of this mic.

- GREG HEMMINGS WSLS-TV NEWSCHANNEL 10

WSUN FM 97X COX RADIO TAMPA BAY



Heil Sound Ltd. www.heilsound.com info@heilsound.com 618.257.3000



PRODUCT GUIDE

Innkeeper Connects Signals to Telephone Line

JK Audio says its Innkeeper lx gets audio in and out of telephone lines, and that caller audio



does not exhibit the transmit and receive crosstalk common to analog hybrids.

It connects audio signals to a standard analog telephone line, and uses a 16-bit DSP to monitor the phone line and audio signals continuously. The dual-convergence algorithm achieves trans-hybrid loss typically exceeding 50 dB.

The Innkeeper 1x's front features a headphone jack and volume control. Users can monitor the send signal, the caller's voice or a mix of the two. This output also is sent to the rear screw terminals so a monitor speaker can be added. The company says remote features can be found on real screw terminals for ease of installation. Audio connections include mic/line switchable XLR input, XLR caller output and an additional, user-defined XLR output.

The Presence button enables a "richer" sound from the caller's voice. This digital filter brings back some of the low-end lost in transmission.

JK Audio also touts the Innkeeper 1x's ability to be remote controlled by either the optional Guest Module 1, RIU-IP remote interface or the included RS-232 cable. The Guest Module 1 allows call drop and dialing functions to be controlled remotely while the RIU-IP allows control of functions through any Web browser.

For more information, contact JK Audio in Illinois at (800) 552-8346 or visit www.jkaudio.com.

Playlist

Studio allows you to include CMD or EXE files in the schedule to perform functions outside of the automation software. On-air playlist data output is available not only for your station's Web page, streaming server and RDS applications, but also to aid your on-air talent in voice-tracking. whether it's performed locally or via the Internet.

The StationPlaylist discussion list is a great outlet for asking questions and sharing tips with other broadcasters using the software in addition to suggesting future improvements and features. Levis actively monitors and contributes to the discussions.

Purchase of the software suite includes one year of tech support and software updates. Support subscriptions are as reasonably priced as the software suite. E-mail support is responsive, which was a welcome treat from what I had experienced with my old system.

Bill DeFelice was chief engineer of the now-defunct WMMM(AM) in Westport, Conn. He is an electronics technologist for the Norwalk Connecticut Public Schools. Reach him at rwa2007@capitalradio.us.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

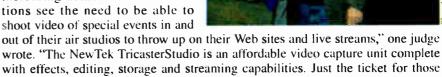


Product: NewTek TriCaster Studio Company: NewTek Inc.

NewTek TriCaster Studio is called a TV live truck that fits in a backpack

So what's it doing in RW's "Cool Stuff" Awards?

"It's a sign of the times that increasing numbers of radio stations see the need to be able to shoot video of special events in and



who think radio must become TV to survive the video web streaming revolution." Suitable for portable, live production, this 10-pound, six-input switcher automates cameras between on-air talent for live Web broadcasts. The judges liked the system as shown with Pizazz Productions' Auto-switch to stream shows without DJ intervention.

Viewers now can sit in with your personalities; smaller stations can afford to present a "network look" online.

Philip Nelson, left, and Tim Jenison are shown.

Shipping: Q2 Price: \$9,995

Contact: www.newtek.com/contact.php for Newtek; http://pizazzme.com for Auto-switch

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: NDS RadioGuard Company: NDS Ltd.

Deemed a "Cool Concept" award by our judges, NDS RadioGuard is an HD Radio conditional access system. As first reported in Radio World, conditional access was a notable topic at NAB and NDS was a big reason.

The future of conditional access for radio has yet to play out; and with potential customers using the Internet for targeted and protected content distribution, we'll watch with interest.

RadioGuard individually addresses and authorizes receivers to descramble broadcasts; it operates on the secondary programming through the HD Radio Importer. Proponents believe conditional access will fuel digital radio profitability and because certain program services require it. "Public services like radio reading services protect copyrighted material with RadioGuard," the company states. "RadioGuard provides for high-value events like concerts, insures integrity for subscription data services like traffic navigation and supplies new amenities for public radio members.

RadioGuard will be available through NDS and agents like Harris and **Broadcast Electronics**

Shown: Patti Daino and Tom Rucktenwald.

Shipping: Q3 Price: \$25,000

Design: NDS development teams in California and Israel, with cooperation

from Ibiquity Digital

Contact: Visit www.nds.com or e-mail radioguard@nds.com

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER





Product: Omnia ONE Multicast Company: Omnia Audio

Clearly paying attention to developments in coded audio — including the spreading use of multicasting — Omnia is out with an audio processor that includes SENSUS technology to minimizes artifacts and restores the fullness and depth that bit-reduction can take away.

SENSUS is a way of processing audio to pre-condition it for HD Radio multicasting. Thanks to a friendly price, this processor is also going to find a home in other

applications like satellite uplinks, Webcasting, podcasting and cellcasting. "Anyone producing real-time audio for coded channels can benefit." Omnia states.

Features include a new platform with more power than its predecessor, a 1RU frame, wideband gain rider followed by four bands of AGC, four bands of limiting and Omnia's low-distortion look-ahead final limiter. An FM version of the processor will ship shortly.

Frank Foti is shown with his latest baby.

Shipping: Now Price: \$2,995

Design: Rob Dye, William Mohat, Ed Zmuginsky and Frank Foti

Contact: (216) 241-7225 or www.omniaaudio.com

Product Showcase



Model RFC-1/B Remote Facilities Controller

- control transmiter from any telephone
- · 8-64 channels of telemetry and control
- · programmable control by date and time optional printer and modem adapters
- programmable telemetry alarms
- integrated rack panel



615.228.3500 more information: www.sinesystems.com

'Flash Is Best' for Newsgathering

With Cassette Offerings Dwindling, Manufacturers Urge Reporters to Invest in Solid-State for ENG

by Charles Dubé

For more than 20 years, the venerable cassette recorder was found in the field bag of every reporter assigned to get interviews and cover breaking news events. Unlike its reel-to-reel predecessor, it was relatively small, fairly simple to work with and could be relied upon for at least an hour or two of portable recording capability.

As the PC world spurned development in hard drives and RAM, manufacturers looked at the potential of using new media for audio storage and the demise of the cassette recorder seemed inevitable. New generations of small solid-state flash recorders offer a plethora of audio quality choices (quality in trade for storage capability) and other enhancements that are to the liking of ENG crews.

The long goodbye

In looking around at current offerings, the most obvious question was, what has become of the cassette recorder?

Manufacturers of tape recorders like Marantz and Sony were not late to the table in developing recorders without moving parts, slowly phasing out the cassette medium. Although the cassette has not quite yet been relegated to the land of the cart machine (seeing that Marantz still offers up the PMD222, for instance), very few machines are sold today.



Sony PCM-D1

Bob Cauthen of SCMS told me he discourages buyers from investing in cassette. With improvements in battery capacity over the last few years, along with the ability of newer-generation recorders to benefit from memory upgrades, he says, "Flash is the best."

Jeff Hugabone of CBS Radio in Hartford, Conn., says as far as his news staff is concerned, "tape is dead."

"All it took was one demo unit to come in to blow the news staff away. They were hooked from the first 10 minutes that they played with the thing," he said. His stations' cassette recorders are now assigned to the lower desk drawers as backup.

Recording audio from a live event is one thing; getting it edited and ready for broad-

cast is another. The cassette tape was always limited in that it either required that the sound was dumped to another machine, such as a reel recorder or digital workstation in real time, and then manipulated.

With today's flash recorders, audio can be uploaded to a workstation in much shorter time, allowing for sound bites, for example, to be recorded and edited (in a laptop or even in the device itself) for quick replay during a live broadcast, or for almost instant retrieval. Uploads can be accomplished via USB, Firewire or AES,

depending on the recorder.

Versatility, speed and quality are three qualifications being met aggressively by today's recorders.

Sampling the marketplace

Depending on your needs for format, number of channels, storage capacity and physical size and weight, recorders can range anywhere from a couple of hundred dollars to several thousand.

Most allow for a variety of word size and sample rates (the most common being 24 bit/96 kHz), so that intricate dance of sound quality and amount of recording time can be finessed to fit the task at hand.

Voice recordings can be accommodated

with a mono setting, perhaps utilizing a slower clock rate and 16-bit word length for extended recording time, whereas high-quality music recordings are accomplished in stereo with 24-bit word length/96 kHz sample rate. Some recorders, such as the TASCAM HD-P2 (around \$1,300) offer sample rates up to 192 kHz.

The TASCAM HD-P2 also features high quality formats (16 or 24 bit/44.1 to 192 kHz) in a more conventional presentation. Resembling a portable DAT machine, the HD-P2 includes SMPTE time code for sync purposes, a simple user interface and angled LCD screen. Real pots ease control of the input level tactile event.

High-end offerings, such as the Sony PCM-D1 (about \$1,900) can do just about anything except run the bath water.

See ENG, page 38



The Revolutionary Call Routing System

- STUDIO SESSIONS -



Talk More, Worry Less

More Connections

Solo supports analogue, ISDN and Voip(Sip) lines

Solo delivers everything over IP without custom cabling or hardware

More Control

Solo integrates PC control, visual talkback, database and audio editing all as standard

Less Hassle

Solo is a software solution that installs in seconds

More Flexibility

Solo is fully configurable, programmable and expandable

Less Money

Solo systems start from \$1,900







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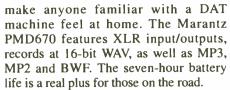
www.phonebox.com

ENG

Continued from page 37

It features built-in stereo mics, metering, a wide frequency response (a 30 kHz audio bandwidth using the 24 bit/96 kHz mode), an assortment of selectable recording format options and 4 GB of internal flash.

The flagship of the flash recorders at the time of this writing appears to be the Marantz PMD660, which retails for about \$500. This unit sports a four-hour record time, MP2, MP3, WAV (two hours at 48 kbps) and BWF formats, XLR inputs with phantom power (for condens-



The company also recently released the CDR310 portable field recorder, which has a hard drive and records 16-bit audio in CD-DA, WAV, AIFF or MP3 formats and then burns a CD.

Mics that record, and more

There are quite a few more interesting tools on the market.

The Roland CD2 CompactFlash and CD recorder might be of interest, if direct-to-CD recording is what you need. Six hours of CompactFlash make this a good choice for archiving longer-term events

such as performances and speeches. It also

features
rugged XLR
inputs and
outputs, as
well as a
built-in stereo
nic.

AEQ offers the PAW-120 with 512 MB of flash memory. It uses USB connectivity to transfer files to a desktop

environment, is compatible with Mac and PC computers and records linear PCM and compressed MPEG.

Netherlands-based You/Com offers the Parrot ENG flash recorder. No PC is required, and it also serves as a communication device for file transfer or live reporting when used in combination with a mobile phone. By implementing the Bluetooth wireless interface, a reporter can communicate with equipment and networks already at his or her disposal.

Olympus debuted its DS-Series, which includes three models that can be used to capture audio or listen to podcasts. Software included with each model eases downloading of audio content from a Web site. Memory from 256 MB to 1 GB enables recording times ranging up to

275 hours.

The Zoom H4 from Samson Technologies features two electret condenser mics configured in an X/Y pattern for stereo recording. Additionally it has onboard studio effects such as compression, limiting and mic modeling.

HHB's FlashMic DRM85 (and recent cardioid version, DRM85-C) is a digital recording microphone that records WAV



Product: RSS S-1608 Digital Snake System **Company:** Roland Systems Group

"Any station that does remotes with more than one microphone should take a look at this," a judge said.

Remote controlled preamps, just the right number of inputs and outputs, and a single CAT-5 cable for interconnection makes setup easy (and a whole lot lighter than an analog snake). At this price, put one in your studio to eliminate mic crosstalk or add extra inputs.

The S-1608 is a compact digital audio snake system that is

portable and easy to install. It offers 16 audio channels in and eight out at 24-bit/96 kHz through a CAT-5 cable. The Roland Ethernet Audio Communication protocol using CAT-5 is a low-latency system, so it's radio-friendly. In addition, during remote events you can perform splits to as many positions as required to monitor, broadcast and recording locations. It is also a solution for permanent installations using existing CAT-5 wire for multi-channel audio distribution to and from multiple studio rooms.

Shown: Rob Read and Christian Delfino.

Shipping: June

Price: \$2,995, includes stage unit, front of house unit, remote controller and

100 meter CAT-5 cable

Design: Roland Corp. Japan

Contact: (800) 380-2580 or www.rolandsystemsgroup.com

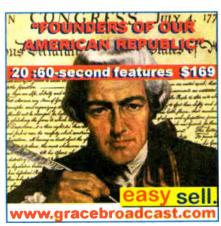
er microphones), a built-in stereo mic and Marantz's Virtual Track Mode, which allows playback between customized

allows playback between customized marked points. The palm-sized PMD660 is constructed ruggedly for extensive field use.

In the mid price range of around \$700 we find professional machines featuring the state-of-the-art whistles and yet would

STATION/STUDIO SERVICES







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Promote your services to **Radio World's** readers. Reach Radio Station owners/ managers and engineers with your message. **For information on affordable advertising call Claudia at 1-703-998-7600, ext. 154.**

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: Dees Digital Rubicon-SL Retro Company: Sierra Automated Systems

Our judges ask: "What's more cool than this? An old-school rotary pot console with networked digital guts lets you build a modern radio studio with a retro vibe."

This "Cool Stuff" winner is a reminder that having fun is as much a part of radio as getting the job done. And from the faces in the SAS booth, it was obvious the manufacturer had a ball with this

the SAS booth, it was obvious the manufacturer had a ball with this special-order project for NAB Broadcasting Hall of Fame inductee Rick Dees.

"Rick has always loved the operational style of the traditional rotary-fader RCA-style/level switch console," SAS states. "For his new multi-room facility, a modern router-based system was far more practical, so he turned to SAS for the complete audio routing/console control surface solution, including three Dees Digital consoles, Rubicons and the 32KD Digital Audio Mixer/Router."

The "Double D" is based upon the electronics of the Rubicon-SL console. It has 15 modules with rotary faders, cue detent, four bus select buttons, quick source select plus full router-based source select on each module and real VU meters.

Mike Hagans and Al Salci are at the controls.

Shipping: Now

Price: \$33,500 including two RIOLinks, to operate as a stand-alone 64x64 console.

Design: Rick Dees, Barry Victor of Victor Group and Al Salci and Mike Hagans
of \$4.5

Contact: (818) 840-6749, e-mail radio@sasaudio.com or visit www.sasaudio.com









Marantz PMD660

or MPEG1 Layer 2 encoded audio files, which can then be transferred to digital workstations via USB cable. It uses a Sennheiser omnidirectional condenser capsule that sends the audio to a 1 GB flash drive

Zaxcom is now shipping a product in that niche, the ZFR800 digital recording mic, which records up to eight hours of uncompressed audio on a removable 2 GB memory card.

With the introduction of the Sony MZ-M100 (and recently the MZ-M200), Sony improved greatly on the MiniDisc. Less expensive than many of the pro flash recorders at \$300, the MZ-M100 utilizes the new Hi-MD disk that can hold one gig of data (it can be used as an external hard drive) or several hours of audio depending on the format utilized (it supports WAV, MP3, ATRAC3, ATRAC3plus and linear PCM).

According to Gary Beebe at BSW, for those that have used the standard MD format in the past, the MZ-M100 will work with the old format discs (however, uploading to your PC with the old disks does not work, unfortunately). The USB interface to a PC results in quick upload times for editing. The new Hi-MD disks also retail for less than \$10 each, so storage is inexpensive.

Beebe goes on to say the ability to record in higher quality formats (such as ATRAC3), as opposed to recording in MP3 alone, allows for a better sonic quality to start with in editing. The HHB MDP500 (around \$1,700) is another MiniDisc recorder featuring a professional package with XLR connectors, RCA line outputs, USB, optical and S/PDIF input/output.

Developments in CompactFlash battery capacity are in rapid evolution, so the chances are good that the recorder you buy today will have enhanced capability tomorrow

How does your radio operation record field audio? Tell us at radioworld@

Charles Dubé is chief engineer at WFCR(FM), University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

PRODUCT GUIDE

APT Debuts Codecs With IP, ISDN Connectivity

APT's WorldCast Meridian is a multi-algorithm, fully duplex stereo audio codec offering IP and X.21/V.35 interfaces. It is suitable for studio-transmitter links and inter-studio networking applications, and gives broadcasters a choice of main and backup telecom links as well as a suite of coding algorithms.



APT WorldCast Meridian

Standard 16 bit apt-X and Enhanced 16 and 24 bit apt-X are supplied, and an optional multi-algorithm suite incorporating MPEG 1/2 Layer II/III, MPEG 4 AAC LD and G.722 also is available.

Features include eight opto-coupled inputs and up to eight relay outputs, alarm and event logging and adjustable silence detection with alarm output. In addition to front-panel operation, the system comes with the Network Management Software package that enables monitoring and management capability over multiple WorldCast systems throughout a network.

APT also offers the WorldCast Eclipse, which provides Ethernet, X.21/V.35 and ISDN ports for access to networks such as IP, leased line, satellite, microwave and dial-up. Broadcasters also can choose from a selection of coding algorithms such as standard and Enhanced apt-X, MPEG 1/2 Layer I/III, MPEG 4 AAC, G.711 and G.722.

Features include automatic backup, auxiliary data, silence detect, contact closures, alarm ports and DSP architecture. For more information, contact APT in New Jersey at (800) 955-APTX (2789) or visit www.aptx.com.

Your Forty Second Insurance Policy















The AirTools 6100 and 6000 Broadcast Audio Delays provide up to forty seconds of audio delay to your live or syndicated broadcasts making it easy - and affordable - to keep your airwaves clear of unwanted comments or profanity. With a full 20 kHz stereo bandwidth and four user-selectable algorithms, your audience will be unaware of the delayed broadcast. Carrying a competitive price tag, the AirTools 6000 brings world-class profanity delay within the reach of any broadcaster. While advanced features found on the 6100 include AES digital I/O, TC89

time code dual window display support RS-232 remote control.

Clean, flexible, easy to use and seamless: AirTools Broadcast Audio Delays.



With the help of Symetrix Air loots 6100 Broadcast Audion Delays, NASCAR race fans are transformed from distant observers to virtual co-pilots by listening to the clear and profanity-free, live, in-car communications of their favority NASCAR drivers at every Nextel Cup Series™ race. (PHOTO CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES)







One Voice **Processor for** Many Faces...



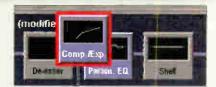
Q: How do you get consistently great sound from one mic used by many voices throughout the day?

A: Simple. Use a voice processor capable of providing custom processing for

The AirTools 6200 Digital Voice Processor provides two independent mic channels programmed from the front panel or a Windows® GUI. Each unique voice can

be recalled upon demand using any of a number of convenient methods: front panel, AirTools RC-1 desktop remote, Windows (over your LAN if you like), or the 6200's internal calendar.

Economy... efficiency... great sound. Two processors in one rack space for your host and cohost or guest - by the market leader in broadcast voice processing.



Easily customize your voice chain with the 6200's Drag n Drop modules.

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Buyer's Guide



Radio World

Audio Processing

June 6, 2007

USER REPORT

Aphex 230: Big Sound for Podcasting

by Scott Bourne Co-Founder, Principal Podango Productions

SAN FRANCISCO Most podcasters use commercial radio as a model for style, content and, of course, sound. They want their voices to be bold and present. Achieving that magical sound is a difficult task, as most podcasts are produced

processor. My criteria for choosing a voice processor are quality of sound, ease of use, enough controls to be flexible, connectivity and cost.

I first listened to the Aphex Model 230 at last year's Podcast & Portable Media Expo. The first thing I noticed was that it sounded fabulous. The tube microphone preamplifier was clean, warm, detailed and open. I then played with the various

kitchen) without cutting off words, false triggering or chattering. The Split Band De-esser handles sibilance smoothly without disturbing the body of the voice or dulling everything.

The Big Bottom makes voices fuller, more resonant and more intimate. It fills in the bass, like an automatic proximity effect compensator, without making voices muddy even when someone is right on top of the mic.

The EQ is single-band with 12 dB of boost/cut, frequency and Q. The Aural Exciter adds a natural presence and clarity. And if that is not enough processing, there is an insert jack for more.

There is a lot of processing in one unit but each process is simple to set up and use, employing either one or two knobs. The EQ has three. The meter shows output or gain reduction. An LED lights up when the gate is engaged and when the de-esser is working.

The rear panel has XLR mic input; 1/4 inch send and return; XLR and 1/4-inch outputs; 1/4 inch-input for the mute switch; plus AES, SPDIF on RCA and TOSLINK, word clock selection and word clock in and out on BNC.

One big word of caution about interfacing the 230 into a system: Do not plug it into another preamplifier! That may sound obvious but even Line In inputs on some consoles are simply padded preamplifiers. And if you are using a recording interface box for recording, use the digital output of the 230. Much of the benefit of the 230 will be lost if you do plug it in to another preamp.

The Aphex 230's retail cost of \$799 is a bargain.

For more information, contact Aphex Systems in California at (818) 767-2929 or visit www.aphex.com.



Bourne likes the 230's Easyrider and Big Bottom features.

in less than acoustically perfect studios (for example, a kitchen) with equipment that is less than professional; bit rate reduced; and listened to through internal computer speakers or ear buds.

Vocal presence

Most podcasts are voice-only, so I have recommended to my colleagues and students that one of the most important purchases they can make is a voice

processors that are built into the 230 and was even more impressed.

The Easyrider compressor controls levels naturally; no pumping or hole punching even with extreme plosives. It also performs peak processing so the output will not get squashed by downstream processing. This allows voices to stay as present as possible.

The Logic Assisted Gate effectively reduces the ambient noise (remember that

TECH UPDATE

DBMax Suitable For Digital, Webcasting, STL

The DBMax five-band level maximizer from TC Electronic is an audio enhancement processor for use in digital transmission, linking, Webcasting and radio STL applications. The company says high-resolution and high sample rate processing prevents unwanted distortion and listening fatigue from being generated.



The five-band section in DBMax can be combined with automatic gain control, dynamic and static stereo enhancement, dynamic and static EQ and other tools for maximizing audio impact and creating a personalized sound.

Balanced and unbalanced AES/EBU I/O is standard and outputs are active. Sample rate conversion can be invoked when using digital inputs. Analog I/O is standard and outputs are active. The 24 bit converters are scaled in the analog domain, with scaling under preset control to minimize noise and maximize headroom under operating conditions. DBMax can be remotely controlled using GPI or RS485 serial inputs.

For more information, including pricing, contact TC Electronic in California at (818) 665-4900 or visit www.tcelectronic.com.



Monitor and alarm THREE separate AM, FM and HD) Radio Multicast broadcasts—all at once



TRIPLE PLAY! DaySequerra M3

Your HD Radio™ station has lots of signals to monitor, and we've just made the task three times easier. Introducing the DaySequerra M3. It's 3—three—THREE monitors in one! Now you can monitor and alarm three separate AM, FM or HD broadcasts using only 2U of rack space.

The M3 gives you three frequency-agile AM, FM and HD Radio™ Multicast tuners, each equipped with separate analog and digital balanced outputs and six programmable dry, floating contact alarm relays—18 relays, total. Each tuner stores 20

AM and 20 FM presets, decodes HD-1 through HD-8 multicast channels and displays signal strength, multipath, HD Radio™ PAD data and analog RBDS data. Indicators report HD Locked, Multicast

Present, Delay Bit Set and Tuner Alarm.

Radio World

Audio output is uncompromised, with an over-sampled D/A converter driving Class-A biased audio outputs. HD Radio™ stereo separation is better than 90dB, and THD+N is less than 0.005 percent. The M3 gives you full-time digital audio, even when tuned to an analog station, so you can monitor or record any station's audio in the digital domain. "Split Mode" monitoring lets you easily pinpoint errors in analog-to-digital delay, level and phase matching. Each tuner has a separate menu-adjustable output level setting, and a front panel lockout feature keeps errant button pushers from changing your settings.

The M3 addresses the issue of alarms in an intelligent fashion and employs proprietary heuristic algorithms which won't be fooled by pink noise or tones, and will generate alarms when real program silence is detected in HD Radio™ or analog broadcasts. Unlike external silence-sense units, the M3 can also trigger an alarm on loss of RF Carrier, OFDM Lock, RBDS data stream, PAD data stream, Multicast Available, and Delay Bit. You can set sensitivity for both Audio and RF Carrier Loss, and set Alarm Delay for all alarms to match your format. Contact your authorized DaySequerra Distributor today!



DaySequerra

www.daysequerra.com

DaySequerra M3 features and benefits

- Three AM, FM and HD Radio™ Multicast tuners in a 2RU enclosure
- 3 multi-function vacuum florescent displays (VFD)
- Displays and decodes HD-1 through HD-8 PAD data and analog RBDS data
- Each VFD displays Signal Strength and Multipath
- Displays HD Locked, Multicast Available, Delay Set and Tuner Alarm
- "Split Mode" provides easy to use HD Radio™ digital-to-analog signal, time, level and phase monitoring
- Three separate antenna inputs for multiple Rx antenna feeds; internal jumper links for single antenna feed
- Synthesized, pushbutton tuning for AM and FM bands including HD-1 through HD-8
- Each tuner has 20 preset stations for AM and FM bands
- Balanced analog audio outputs at +4dBV on XLR connectors, level adjustable
- Menu controlled output level adjustment-independent for each tuner
- Transformer-isolated 110 ohm digital audio output on XLR connectors–5.1 Surround capable
- Full-time digital outputs, even when tuned to an analog station
- Six rear panel mounted assignable alarm relay contact closures for each tuner
- Front Panel control lockout feature to prevert unauthorized changes to setup
- Built in the USA to last-full 3 year warranty

USER REPORT

Apex Broadcasting Points to Vorsis AP3

Charleston Broadcaster Selects Unit for Its Construction, Functions and Expander Section to give this jewel a test drive.

This is a dual-channel device, so you can process two mics separately with so with the AP3. You have total control, and once again, the GUI makes this easy to understand.

With noise from air conditioning and computers, most control rooms are not all that quiet. I found the expander portion of the AP3 to be excellent at reducing the

by Bruce Roberts **Chief Engineer Apex Broadcasting**

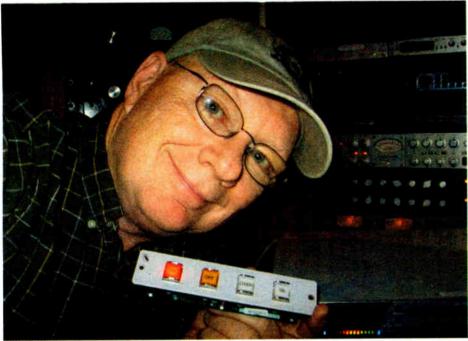
CHARLESTON, S.C. Just like employees in this business, it is nice when a piece of equipment can serve multiple tasks. The Vorsis AP3 from Wheatstone is digital signal processor that will keep serving you even as your business changes.



BUYER'S GUIDE-

amps on the market these days so why try the AP3? After all, it is not the lowest priced preamp on the market.

Right out of the box, I was impressed with its sturdy construction. Wheatstone



Roberts and his AP3 (bottom right).

Today, it may serve as a dual mic preamp in the control room. Next year, if we are not doing a live show any longer, it might be a HD2 audio processor or a STL pre-processor. What is good about this is that it won't end up in a pile in a storage room.

has helpful technical manuals and its customer support is very good as well. I thought about the Wheatstone consoles I have installed over the years, some of which were in very high RF fields, and I never had problems with the Wheatstone preamps in these consoles. So I decided

Mic settings are best accessed through

the GUI; you do not have to sit on the floor in the control room during the morning show wearing headphones to adjust the talent's microphones.

individual settings for each mic. These settings are best accessed through the GUI, which means you do not have to sit on the floor in the control room during the morning show wearing headphones to adjust the talent's microphones. You can sit in your office, drinking a cup of coffee, listening to a radio, adjusting the AP3 settings without interfering with the morning show.

As you like it

I found the GUI interface software to be easy to set up and understand. The AP3 comes loaded with plenty of presets to get you started. You can start with an existing preset and modify it to your liking and then save what you changed, or you can start from scratch and create your own settings. Either way, it does not take long to get a feel for working with the settings.

What may cinch the deal for you on this box is the Expander section. I have used many mic preamps in the past, all with expanders of some type, but most have limited control of the expander. Not audible noise while still being open and transparent. The Compressor and EQ sections are straightforward in operation and sound very good. It did not take long to get to a sound that I liked during this

Another cool option is the GP-4S remote mic control panel, which provides on/off, cough and talkback for the talent. Two of these can be connected to the AP3 (one for each mic). This was well thought out in the design of the AP3.

I now have another item to add to my budget for next year; actually I need to add a few of them.

The AP3 has all the ins and outs you could ask for: mic/line analog inputs, AES in on XLR and RJ-45, analog out, AES out on XLR and RJ-45. Also, there is a DB-25 that has everything in and out of the AP3 on it. As my other studio equipment changes, I will always be able to keep this in the chain.

The Vorsis AP3 retails for \$3,100.

For more information, contact Wheatstone in North Carolina at (252) 638-7000 or visit www.wheatstone.com.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Product: Telos Zephyr/IP Company: Telos Systems

The Zephyr/IP is designed with IP in mind. It combines RTP/UDP and TCP/IP streaming capabilities with MPEG coding to deliver broadcast-quality audio over IP connections.

The codec uses Agile Connections Technology to achieve high

audio quality over IP links such as the Internet and mobile IP services by adapting to network conditions. It minimizes the effects of packet loss, varying bandwidth and jitter through error detection, concealment and dynamic buffering.

It also has solutions to the problems of codecs that are behind firewalls, have dynamically assigned IP addresses or are subject to LAN Network Address Translation. Judges loved the information-rich graphical interface and the realtime graphical connection status display with "traceroute" to diagnose network traffic problems.

Shown: Ioan Rus and Tony Thimet

Shipping: Fall

Design: George Stage, Martin Weishart, Tony Thimet, Steve Kiffmeyer

and Scott Stiefel

Contact: (216) 241-7225 or www.telos-systems.com

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Safety is always cool. The Talking Alert-Mini! is a solarpowered, outdoor audio messaging safety system. It provides RF and tower site safety information to employees, contractors and visitors and optionally can detect unauthorized tower climbing activity via a pneumatic sensor. The Mini has an "Emergency' function that can be used to notify Master Control or local authorities. The unit interfaces with your station telemetry sys-



tems or can act as a standalone safety information "kiosk." The company calls it an economical approach to FCC and OSHA compliance at tower sites and rooftop antenna facilities, and our "Cool Stuff" judges agreed.

Shipping: Now Price: \$425

Design: Michael Millard, Gary Minker

Contact: (954) 428-0244 or visit www.towerswitch.com





RT: BOSTON'S CLASSICAL STATION

PTY: Classical

Radio Text

R ham a - Umbrella

Just a Timberlake - Summer Love

9

Gyro Class Heroes - Cupids Chikehold

Avr. Lavigne - Sirifriend

Came Underwood - Refure He Cheats

Hamon 5 - Makes He Wande

Pink - U + Ur Hand

Augustana - Boston

Dudty Fiveyshia Chie Last aget

Ne-Yo - Because Of You

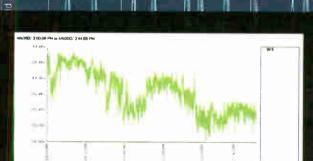
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Watchband can generate playlists from your own or your competitors' Radio Text. Using RDS for revenue? Watchband provides proof-of-play.

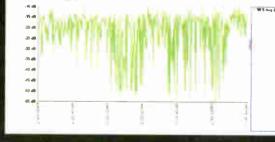
54.3

CENTERINE BURN





Detailed analysis of signal strength in heavy snow.



L+R audio levels graphed over time.

Watchband monitors and logs RF levels and audio parameters off the air. Now you can not only listen, but also see and show audio, phase and signal strength.

Watchband allows multiple connections via a web browser — no client software needed. This means engineers. PDs and GMs alike can take advantage of breakthrough market monitoring benefits:





Local, regional and group PDs can...

- » View playlists for competitive stations
- » Listen live or play back logged audio for any station in the market
- » Monitor program and audio quality via the web
- » Compare signal strength to competitors and other stations

Engineers and technical managers can...

- » Receive email alerts for audio alarms and off-air conditions
- » Correlate out-of-phase conditions with ad spots. syndication or other sources
- » Track detailed histories of audio and signal levels

Let Watchband show you a new level of off-air monitoring. Visit www.burk.com to learn more.

BURK

WENZ is the top 18-34 station for the last 16 books, with its hip-hop format.

The sound I am looking for should be as big as the station presentation. The Omnia 06FM is great in this application.

I use all features, diving into the release

and attack settings (things I glommed

from Frank years ago). I also use the

Omnia to give me the necessary process-

Hip-hop processing is a world away

from the old days of rock and roll.

Processing what are raw mic and bass

beats is tricky; it can easily turn to mud. I

also learned that the bass I deal with now

doesn't exist in an old rock song. Those

frequencies were generally untouched in

the rock format. You need to process these

The Omnia 06FM gives lets you dig

into the realm of "the thump," critical in hip-hop processing. Go to a car audio

store today; you will hear what this audi-

ence wants. I have sat behind the wheel

of a vehicle that had the bass punching

and going through me; it was like the

with tightness (my word) and a punch.

ing for our new HD installation.

USER REPORT

Cleveland Cluster Pumps With Omnia

Radio One Uses Omnia Models to Achieve Tightness, 'Critical' Hip-Hop Thump

by Ric "Rocco" Bennett Chief Engineer, IT Director Radio One Cleveland

CLEVELAND Trying to put my experiences with **Omnia** into words would require a novel.

Back in the '80s I watched Frank Foti create processing monsters on the bench at the Statler Office Tower, home of WMMS(FM). These grew to become what we now know as the Omnia line of processors.

My perspective is from both an engineering point of view and a personally satisfying career on-air, a unique perspective. How many jocks and programmers actually understand what is going on in the audio chain? I do.

As my career has turned primarily to engineering for the last eight years, my critical listening ability is used to process four different formats for Radio One Cleveland: two FMs (WZAK Heritage R&B and WENZ Blazin' Hip Hop & R&B) and two AMs (WJMO Gospel and WERE, which is news/talk).

All four have different elements to attend to from an audio perspective. For example:

WERE is only 5 kW and competes with 50 kWs, therefore, presence and that "punch" is necessary. I use the Omnia 3AM, especially with talk and satellite feeds, and a consistent level is what I need. Also, I use the dayparting features to back off the processing on certain programs due to source issues. We do University of Akron football and basket-

ball, and a preset is specifically dayparted to avoid the "empty stadium" sound.

Our gospel station WJMO is a 1 kW with coverage serving the African-

Power is not a problem, nor is coverage, in delivering the audio that complements the programming. WZAK's listeners are largely female according to Arbitron, therefore what I am going for is clarity — some say transparency — in the sound.

The Omnia 06FM is my cornerstone of the audio chain. It allows me to process



Omnia 06 (Exi version)

American community on Cleveland's east side. Playing classic and current gospel, I need to get as much out of my processor as possible. Again, I use the Omnia 3AM. Looking for the classic AM aggressive wall of sound I grew up listening to, and being a graduate of the Foti School for Ears, I want as much presence on the dial as possible.

I use the Oldies preset with some tweaking of personal taste, and we have highs and lows on our gospel station that other AMs do not enjoy.

Packing punch

Our heritage R&B in Cleveland WZAK has not only been an institution in the community (No. 1 station 25–54), but has been the portal for any and all black artists to come through C-town.

Hip-hop processing is a world away from the old days of rock and roll. Processing what are raw mic and bass beats is tricky; it can easily turn to mud.

true to the source recording (inoffensive to female ears) without losing the fullness. Again the presets are my starting point and I tweak according to taste, also mindful of the PD's wants and needs; walking that line like Johnny Cash.

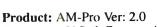
The Omnia-6FM also is my choice as we head down the HD road. The versatility is necessary as the digital age envelopes us, whether it be HD or streaming.

front row of a Kiss concert. Hip-hop wants you to feel that in the front seat.

The Omnia 06FM allows the radio to give you that "thump processing" with transparency when you are playing the R&B, and pump and thump with the hiphop.

For more information, contact Omnia Audio in Cleveland at (216) 241-7225 or visit www.omniaaudio.com.

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER



Company: V-Soft Communications LLC

"An AM RF engineer's dream come true," the judges found. "Analyzing protection limits and designing optimized directional arrays for new or existing stations with full-color dynamic graphics is finally a snap — or just a few mouse clicks."

AM-Pro 2.0 is designed to perform the studies required of a spectrum designer in working with AM standard-band broadcast allocations and coverage. The program creates lovely maps that incorporate grid-style analysis allowing a user to plot coverage and interference using color bands to represent signal strength. It will plot both ground-

wave and sky-wave signal contours as well as perform RSS studies to determine nighttime coverage limits.

The software implements an automatic sky-wave coverage analysis routine that operates according to a set of programmable rules. Daytime allocation studies are enhanced by the ability to remove overlap areas over water. Night allocation studies now support full "clipping" studies.

John Gray is shown.

Shipping: Now

Price: Tiered — \$7,995, mapping only; \$12,995, mapping with daytime allocation; and \$19,995, mapping with day and night allocation capabilities

Design: John Gray

Contact: Visit www.v-soft.com/AM/, e-mail info@v-soft.com or call (800) 743-3684

COOL STUFF 2007 AWARD WINNER

Product: WASP AMS Company: Yellow Jacket Inc.

"This ADA-compatible ramp allows wheelchair-bound listeners to negotiate remote events easily, and saves those multiline cable snakes from stomping feet and rolling wheels," a "Cool Stuff" judge wrote.

"The new design incorporates sloped side ramps, which eliminates a trip hazard for able-bodied people. Also a neat accessory for covering up (and eliminating the trip hazard of) floor-bound conduit runs at transmitter sites. Worker- and audience-friendly."

WASP stands for "walkway access for special purposes." The company calls this the first cable ramp to incorporate Barrier Free access for all by eliminating side rails

and the associated trip hazards. The system is expandable; you can make a wheel-chair-friendly ramp as wide or as long as needed. It's strong enough to handle heavy truck and forklift traffic and a suitable crossing point for carts, hand trucks and pedestrians. Top-opening hinged lids make for easy loading of cables, lines and hoses. It is made from proprietary Durathane polyurethane, proven in daily use on cable protectors for two decades.

Shown: Rob Peterson, left, and Steve Gottlieb.

Shipping: Now Price: \$463

Design: Yellow Jacket Inc.

Contact: (626) 357-7051 or www.yjams.com



MUSICANI USA The World Leader in IP Codecs

Introducing our next generation of IP Audio Codecs

featuring

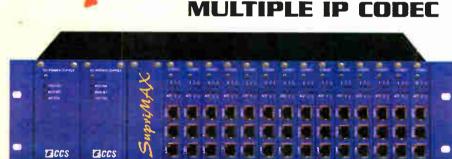




- Includes LAN, ISDN U & S/T, and X.21 interfaces standard
- · Auto backup to ISDN from IP or X.21
- Built-in Web server for control and monitor from remote locations
- Includes SIP protocol over IP, MPEG2, MPEG3, MP2/4 AAC, apt-X, G.722, G.711 & PCM
- Portable and Decoder Only versions also available

14 full-featured IP MULTIPLE ID

- Up to 14 full-featured IP codecs housed in one unit
- Each module is hot-swappable
- Ideal for multicast applications
- Redundant Power Supplies
- Comes fully loaded with every available algorithm included
- Monitor large systems with SNMP management



Visit our website to view the MUSICAM USA Product Portfolio and contact MUSICAM USA, the IP technology leader, for more information about how easily our products can help you master the "audio over IP" direction for your station(s). We are already shipping products to major groups and small stations alike. Check our references and let's go!





670 North Beers Street, Bldg. #4 Holmdel, NJ 07733 USA

phone: 732-739-5600 - fax: 732-739-1818

email: sales@musicamusa.com web: www.musicamusa.com

Silver Series Processes FM, HD Simultaneously

The Silver audio processor line from Audemat-Aztec can be used to process audio for FM and digital broadcasting such as HD/DAB and Internet streaming. Using multi-band DSP technology, the Silver line includes four- and six-band FM audio processors with dual paths, allowing simultaneous processing of FM and digital radio. HD versions, using look-ahead limiters, are available and process audio signals fed off into codecs employing bit rate reduction techniques (no stereo encoder).



The Silver six-band FM and HD versions include as standard the Ariane RMS leveler.

The six-band FM and HD versions include as a standard the Ariane RMS leveler. This AGC corrects input level variations and also improves consistency. The block can provide stereo enhancement with its matrix mode of operation.

The Silver audio processor line is provided with factory and user presets for many music styles and applications. The A/B switching enables comparison between current settings and the preset ones.

Features include 24-bit A/D and D/A converters; analog level control circuitry; 28-bit DSPs; clippers that run at 768 kHz; Ethernet and RS-232 ports; preset trigger port; LCD screen; memory devices to hold the software and firmware; 24-bit AES/EBU IO with sample rate converters; AES/EBU sync input; and security code locks.

The 6B-FM lists for \$7,985 and the 6B-HD is \$7,120. The 4B-FM lists for \$4,095; the 4B-HD is \$3,665.

The Silver line includes the 4Bmini-FM, which differs from the 4B-FM in that it is composite output only; there is no headphone output or LED metering. It has reduced processing controls and slightly reduced distortion control. The 4Bmini-FM lists for \$2,150 and the 4Bmini-HD for \$1,920.

For more information, contact Audemat-Aztec at its new location in Miami at (305) 249-3110 or visit www.audemat-aztec.com.

Inovonics Model 261 Targets All-Digital Facilities

The **Inovonics** 261 digital stereo processor offers three audio processing functions of gated, gain-riding AGC, program dynamic range compression and final peak control. The



company says the unit may be configured to incorporate a single basic function independently, or to use all processing options for comprehensive audio control.

Inovonics adds that the DSP-based 261 targets many of the same applications served by its predecessor, the Model 260, but with improved performance and integration with all-digital broadcasting facilities.

Features include a menu-driven setup that uses an LCD display, rear-panel tallies that enable remote alarm indi-

Features include a menu-driven setup that uses an LCD display, rear-panel tallies that enable remote alarm indication and look-ahead limiting. The look-ahead limiter has program-controlled attack and release timing, restricting program peaks to an absolute "ceiling" value without flat-topped clipping.

The 261 accepts both analog and digital program inputs, and simultaneously provides analog and digital outputs. AES/EBU (XLR) output syncs to the rate of the input program when the digital input is selected, or may be set to 32 kHz, 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz output rate when analog program inputs are selected. Active-balanced (XLR) outputs may be adjusted by menu selection for a nominal line level between -10 dBm and +10 dBm.

Compression of program dynamics is afforded by a time-domain "platform" function associated with the peak controller. Additional circuit gain is imparted when this function is enabled, and may increase the average value of the program by as much as 6 dB, depending on the average/peak ratio of the source.

The Model 261 retails for \$1,150.

For more information, contact Inovonics in California at (831) 458-0552 or visit www.inovon.com.

Orban 9300 Adds AGC, Parametric Filter to 9200

Orban/CRL has debuted its alldigital 9300 Optimod-AM audio processor, adding more versatile equalization and a parametric low-



pass filter to its predecessor, the 9200. In addition, the 9300 features a dual-band AGC with window gating.

The Quick Setup wizard walks broadcasters through the setup process. One-knob, Less-More Control, eases customization of the 9300's factory presets. Advanced Control parameters (accessible from 9300 PC Remote software) allow the user to customize the 9300's sound.

The 9300 features a five-band limiter with distortion-canceling clippers. The audio is divided into five bands, then separately compressed and limited. According to Orban, five-band limiting can operate more quickly than a wide-band compressor without causing audible side effects.

An all-pass phase scrambler makes peaks more symmetrical to reduce clipping distortion and to allow better control of loudness. The analog input is buffered and followed by an analog-to-digital converter. Processing takes place in the digital domain.

Orban says the 9300's high-pass filter removes subsonic information, which causes unnecessary gain reduction in the low-frequency band of the limiter, reduces transmitter component life, increases power consumption and causes intermodulation distortion in the receiver's AGC.

Low-pass filtering limits bandwidth as required by the regulating authority. It is adjustable from 4.5 kHz (strict ITU-R Recommendation 328-5) to 9.5 kHz (NRSC) and its shape is parametric, allowing the user to trade off high-frequency response against filter ringing.

The 9300 retails for \$4,950.

For more information, contact Orban/CRL in Arizona at (480) 403-8300 or visit www.orban.com.







World Radio History



ProMix 12

Full-Featured 12 Input Audio Mixing Console



needing an affordable compact solution. The ProMix 12 comes in a small package, but is loaded with useful features including a mix-minus output, an announce booth output with full duplex talkback, a monaural output, selectable metering, and remote starts on all line level stereo input channels. Whether you need a compact console for your on-air applications, or a mixer for post-production or fieldwork, the ProMix 12 is the right console at the right price. Were confident that the Broadcast Tools® ProMix 12 will provide many years of trouble-free operation.







Radio World

www.broadcasttools.com



USA Proud

Omnia.8X Processes Eight Stereo Streams at Once

The Omnia.8X networked audio processor features eight discrete three-band stereo Omnia audio processors in a 2 RU chassis, providing simultaneous audio processing for multiple sources.



The company says it opens new possibilities for broadcasters. For instance, a portion of its resources could be dedicated to multicast or Web audio channels, while the rest is reserved for on-demand processing of in-studio performances, remote broadcasts or any other audio channel that could benefit from audio processing.

Omnia.8X uses the Livewire standard for networked audio over Ethernet, connecting directly to Axia IP-Audio networks. When used as part of an Axia network, a CAT-6 connection carries eight stereo inputs, eight stereo outputs and remote control. For standalone use outside an Axia network, the Omnia.8X can be paired with an Axia AES/EBU or Analog Audio Node for audio I/O.

Each of its eight audio processors has three bands of Automatic Gain Control plus Wideband AGC, Omnia's look-ahead final limiter and bass enhancement controls, and factory presets.

Applications include processing for headphone feeds where off-air monitoring is not possible; multi-band level control for remote codecs; sweetening caller audio from broadcast telephone systems; processing and sending audio streams from a studio complex to multiple transmitter sites; in-studio musical performances; ondemand processing for production rooms or dubbing stations; HD Radio multicast channels; and network origination audio destined for satellite transmission.

The Omnia.8X retails for \$4,995.

For more information, contact Omnia Audio in Cleveland at (216) 241-7225 or visit www.omniaaudio.com.

AirTools 6200 Offers De-Esser, AGC Modules

Symetrix offers the AirTools 6200 digital voice processor, which includes modules such as high-pass, low-pass and shelving filters; de-esser; downward expander; comp-limiter/AGC leveler; four-band parametric EQ; and voice symmetry.

The 6200 is a dual-channel unit; it has two discrete audio pathways capable of processing microphone or line-level sources, independently or as a stereo pair.



Signals are converted to 24-bit, 48 kHz digital after passing through the analog input stages. Once in the digital realm, the user can define specific signal processing modules and their order in the signal chain.

Creation of voice programs and signal processing parameters may be done from the 6200 front panel or from 6200 Designer, a Windows application. A security scheme ensures that only authorized personnel may modify programs the station engineer has created.

Once the 6200 has been initially programmed, external real time control is flexible with or without the use of a computer. From a PC, the 6200 may be controlled via RS-232, USB or Ethernet. In lieu of computer control, real-time changes of program and DSP parameters may be actuated via user-supplied ESE time code, pots or MIDI devices.

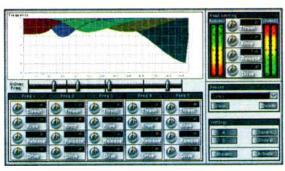
Voice profile and module order information are saved to the 6200's 256 program locations. These programs can be recalled manually (from the front or externally) or automatically based upon a predetermined schedule using the unit's internal real-time clock, or ESE time code as a reference.

For more information, including pricing, contact Symetrix in Washington state at (425) 778-7728 or visit www.airtoolsaudio.com.

Neural Has v4.0 NeuStar Hardware, Software

Neural Audio says version 4.0 of its NeuStar audio codec pre-conditioner/processor features more DSP, a user-friendly front panel and TCP/IP Web control; it is field upgradeable for future expansion.

It also is available as a software solution. The NeuStar SW4.0 includes the same features found in the hardware version of NeuStar 4.0, but allows broadcasters to simul-



NeuStar SW4.0 Displays Intensity

taneously process multiple audio streams, so HD2, HD3 and HD4 channels or multiple Internet streams can be processed without additional hardware.

NeuStar SW4.0 also features Neural Coding Load Analysis System (N-CLAS) to decrease codec artifacts. N-CLAS predicts and visually displays when and where the coding artifacts caused by difficult content will occur. Then it modifies the content ahead of actual encoding.

Virtual audio cabling allows insertion between a Windows audio application using any Windows sound card. User presets defined by public and commercial radio broadcasters facilitate setup.

For more information, including pricing, contact Neural Audio in Washington state at (425) 814-3200 or visit www.neuralaudio.com.

Ariane Sequel Updates Software, Goes 'Green'

TransLanTech Sound has new software for its Ariane Sequel digital audio leveler. Firmware update version 1.10 offers adjustable attack time to allow more subtle AGC characteristics, and a "bypass" control on the updated Windows remote control program permits easy comparison of "Sequel" vs. "no Sequel" from a remote computer via TCP/IP or RS-232.



The older software had no way to bypass the processing (a control previously available only on the front panel of the unit). The new software allows the user to hear the sound either through the Sequel, or bypassed ("no Sequel") which TLT says is of importance to certain users and is a remote control feature they have been awaiting.

Both the firmware and remote software updates are available in a ZIP package from TLT's Web site.

TLT also introduced "green" RoHS-compliant hardware for the Ariane Sequel. Features of the all-digital unit include gain and stereo image control; sum and difference processing plus independent two-channel and stereo-linked modes; output peak protection limiting; and adjustable sample rate: 32, 44.1 or 48 kHz (or synch to input).

Additionally, it has eight savable user presets with contact closure remote activation; expanded metering options such as peak and RMS reading on input and output; analog and AES/EBU digital inputs and outputs; and a headphone output.

The Ariane Sequel retails for \$3,599.

For more information, contact TransLanTech Sound in New York at (212) 222-0330 or visit www.translantech.com.

HD-P3 Air-Chain Mode Suitable for FM, AM, HD

Wheatstone's Vorsis HD-P3 digital HD audio processor lets users select either Air-Chain or Production mode. Using Air-Chain mode, the HD-P3 can be used for FM, AM and HD broadcasts. Switching to Production mode, the unit becomes a flexible production processor.



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Additional highlights include adjustable crossover points, AES or analog inputs, audio parameter control, output limiter and real-time readouts. It also offers tunable filters and notch, frequency de-esser, output gating, 44.1 or 48 kHz sample rates and four-band parametric EQ.

The HD-P3 retails for \$1,995.

For more information, contact Wheatstone in North Carolina at (252) 638-7000 or visit www.wheatstone.com.

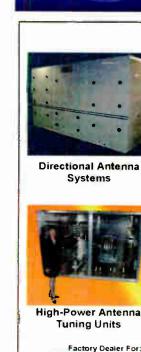
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* READER'S FORUM

Skip Pizzi and HD

Wow! I want some of the Kool-Aid Skip drank before he wrote "Digital Radio Rules, Dude" (April 25) or at least a share of the money he got from Ibiquity for writing it.

"While some question the wisdom" of AM-IBOC - yeah, like anyone who actually works in AM radio - "this could stimulate the long-awaited renaissance of the senior broadcast band." Yeah, pink elephants could fly out of one of your body cavities too, Skip. Just don't hold your breath. One more time for those who failed 4th grade English: It's not the medium, it's the message.

"Under optimum conditions, the audio quality improvement of AM-IBOC over analog AM is impressive and will likely not be lost on existing users of AM." Hmmm, how is this possible since existing users will still be listening in analog - and now you've cut their frequency response down to a telephone line-like bandwidth?

As soon as Ibiquity realizes that a huge majority of AM broadcasters are resisting their suggestion to go IBOC, with its associated very high costs, I think they'll begin a rule change proposal to require it. Once they have greased the FCC's palms enough, it will more than likely be implemented.

Skip did get one thing almost correct in his article: This will "kick it into the next gear." Trouble is, that gear is reverse.

> Jerry Arnold Director of Engineering WPRS(AM), WINH(FM), WWSY(FM), WMGI(FM) Terre Haute, Ind.

Skip Pizzi writes that the Extended Hybrid mode of FM-IBOC will provide a big boost in capacity "without significantly affecting existing analog service." Where's the evidence that there will be

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no significant effect?

The NRSC did not evaluate this mode at all. The only data on Extended Hybrid mode filed with the FCC to date is a brief report from NPR, and it does appear to show significant SNR degradation in some FM receivers.

There are, in fact, three Extended Hybrid modes (MP2 through MP4) included in the NRSC-5 standard. NPR only tested the MP3 mode, and it is not the one that would have the greatest impact on analog FM reception. In any case, it is far too skimpy a data set to base a ruling on, so why has the FCC not requested that a thorough evaluation be done?

In my view, this is yet another example of the FCC bowing to industry pressure, and abdicating its responsibility to protect the public interest by failing to do due diligence on the technical aspects of the IBOC systems. As for the travesty that is AM-IBOC, don't get me started.

> Barry McLarnon Ottawa, Ontario

Kosher Radio

I very much enjoyed seeing and reading the "Midwest NCSY Radio Hour" story ("Isenberg Talks to Teens in Chicagoland," April 25). I appreciate your interest in our program.

Stephen Steiner Director of Public Relations Orthodox Union New York

DRM Trials In India

That was an interesting article about DRM trials in India (RW Online, April 27). The only thing I'm curious about is, who will buy the receivers for it?

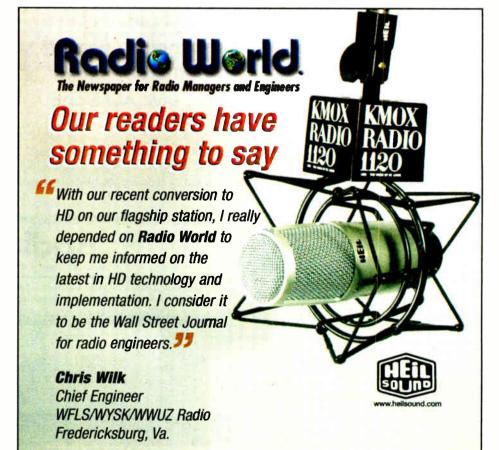
Analog AM radios are cheap and plentiful whereas DRM receivers are costly. If DRM is a tough sell here in North America, how do those transmitter manufacturers expect to sell Indian consumers on it? Though I like the idea of DRM, particularly for shortwave, I can see that there just isn't enough demand for it yet.

> **Bruce Atchison** Edmonton, Alberta

> > **World Radio History**

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READER'S FORUM •

No Job Too Small

It is so great to see Louis King get credit for his outstanding work in our industry ("A King of AM Antenna Systems," April 25). I had to chuckle when I read he "never turned down a technical challenge." That is so true.

> I have always had great respect for Louis King. He is a quiet, brilliant man who always made me feel I should have worked harder in school.

When I was a DJ in the early 1960s at WMTN(AM) in Morristown, Tenn., Mr. King was hired to do work on the directional system. During a visit to the men's room, he discovered the toilet kept running after it was flushed.

Mr. King took the top off the commode and was adjusting the float. I was tearing news from the UPI just outside the men's room when the station manager came through and saw Mr. King working on the toilet. The manager, the late Bill Holland, yelled, "I can't believe this. I am paying a man one hundred dollars a day plus expenses to work on my toilet."

Our paths crossed many times over the years, and I have always had great respect for Louis King. He is a quiet, brilliant man who always made me feel I should have worked harder in school.

Congratulations, Mr. King.

Don Crisp Elizabethton, Tenn.

Priority One

Just wanted to say thank you for Jim Withers' most recent article ("Ownership: You Are Always in Sales," April 25).

I've been in radio advertising sales since 1983, after a 20-year on-air career

-EDITORIAL STAFF-

Paul J. McLane

in a couple fairly large markets. After being in sales management for a couple years in the mid-80s, I joined WAKR(AM) and WONE(FM) here at home in Akron as a local sales rep. I am our senior sales rep (age 58), and I'm in the streets with local businesses daily.

Our rock FM is heavily agency business, but our news-talk/oldies/sports at night AM is heavily direct business, and most of those businesses are just like you talked about in your article.

What I'm getting at is, Jim's article was so timely for either a station owner or sales rep in a medium or small market. He's so right when he says the "ma and pa" business owner really cares about one thing and one thing only: growing his/her business. They aren't looking for their next best friend; they're looking for a person they can learn to trust who will help them make more money.

Thanks so very much, Jim. Your article spelled out what I've believed in for

> Tim Davisson, Sr. Akron, Ohio

Hold on to Your **Bandwidth**

I read Ed De La Hunt's letter (Reader's Forum, May 9) and I can't agree with him more. I work for the Madison Square Garden Television Network and have been in the broadcasting business since 1975. N.Y. radio programming sucks.

Let the big boys

take all that narrow banding and IBOC HD jamming crap to a vacant channel when TV gets off the VHF band. Leave AM alone.

listen heavily to stations WHTG(AM)1410 and WMTR(AM) 1250 out of New Jersey. I listen on my 93

Parity Check

The recent brouhaha spawned by the Copyright Royalty Board's revised rate structure for sound recording rights on Internet radio has had an important secondary effect: It has drawn attention to a seeming imbalance in royalty rates paid by different forms of radio.

Rights fees have been paid by Webcasters since 2002 and by satellite radio essentially since its inception, yet terrestrial radio broadcasters are exempt from them for over-the-air programming.

In essence, the statutory license for sound recording rights established by the U.S. government allows the largest and most profitable segment of the radio market to pay nothing to rights holders while the emergent players (satellite and Internet radio) pay a substantial — and likely increasing — amount for the same rights.

A reasonable outsider might see this as a serious disparity.

The lack of U.S. broadcast royalties also has thwarted the establishment of reciprocal agreements with other countries where terrestrial radio does pay such fees. Thus American rights holders are deprived from collecting revenue from their substantial airplay abroad due largely to the domestic U.S. broadcaster exemption.

Of course, there are numerous reasons behind such tiered rates, not least of which is the simple historical process under which each section of copyright law that governs these matters was created. Different times — and different regulators or legislators - produce different rules. The business models and competitive environments of the respective sectors also vary significantly. And of course, there is the traditionally held quid pro quo of increased record sales due to terrestrial

To many observers, though, terrestrial radio seems like it's getting something of a free ride. The longer the discussion of revising royalties continues, the more scrutiny will be placed on this "platform inequity" and the more risk that radio will lose its historic free pass.

Radio has benefited from the license arrangement, and it has survived challenges. But in the past, terrestrial radio never had such closely fashioned competitors working under such dissimilar rules. (The last time this came up, the industry didn't need the "terrestrial" modifier.) Today, a harsher light would be shed on broadcast radio in any such inquiry. The addition of new digital delivery methods further supports those who argue that terrestrial radio is ripe for reassessment.

Some wonder how much appetite major record labels will have to challenge the status quo for terrestrial radio; but under the new CRB process, this issue is likely to come up, perhaps early next year.

We expect broadcasters to mobilize strongly against this. NAB's David Rehr knows there's a risk and used his recent NAB keynote to ramp up the rhetoric against labels. "Imagine the brazen greed it takes for the record companies to expect us to pay them for the honor of marketing and promoting their artists' music," he said. "It would make much more sense for us to charge them for our promotional efforts." Once joined, this battle could make the current Internet radio struggle seem like a gentle skirmish.

Radio critics can make strong arguments on this case, in part because the industry has failed to nourish its valuable relationship with labels. Radio had best gird for a fight. Meantime, stations would do well to learn from the current hubbub among Internet broadcasters and ask themselves what would happen if the "free music for free promotion" understanding with labels were to unravel.

-RW

Malibu car radio as well as my large collection of AM, FM and SW portable radios. On my Grundig Satellit 6000 you can hear a tremendous difference when switching between narrow and wide bandwidth. I advise AMers to never give up an inch of their bandwidth. As a listener I'll use all the bandwidth I can get.

Let the big boys take all that narrow banding and IBOC HD jamming crap to a vacant channel when TV gets off the VHF band. Leave AM alone.

> Ernie J. Nardi Brooklyn, N.Y.



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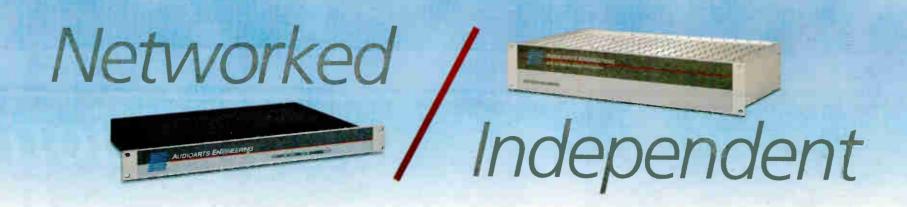
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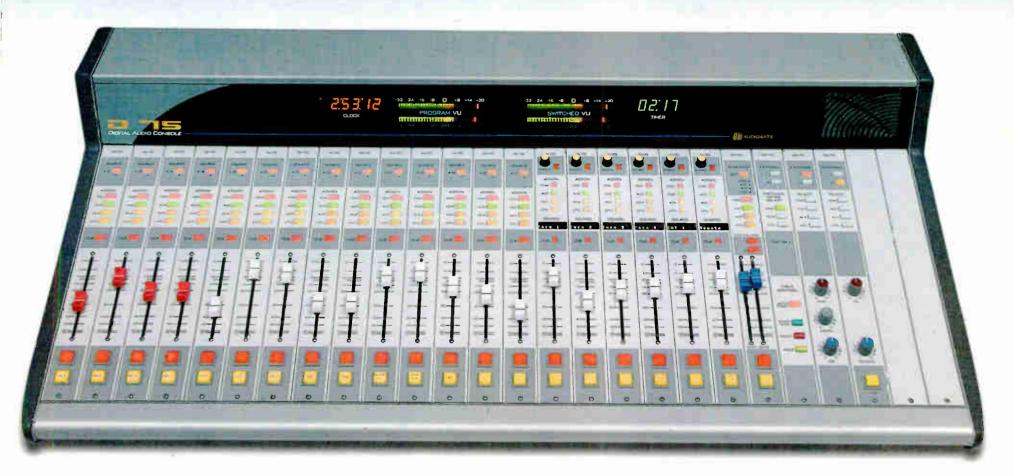
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