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# Radio heads West Your preview to the NAB Radio Show

Ωmega\_FM



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### **Product Preview**





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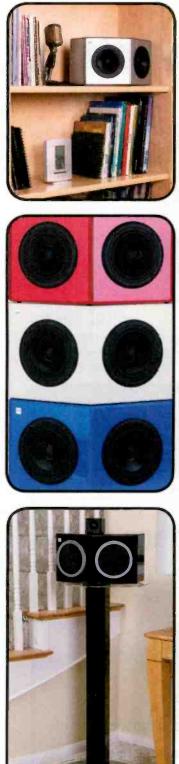
San Diego hosts the 2004 NAB Radio Show. The always-comfortable climate should be a welcome attraction for the radio fall fest. Cover design by Michael J. Knust.

by Carl Gluck

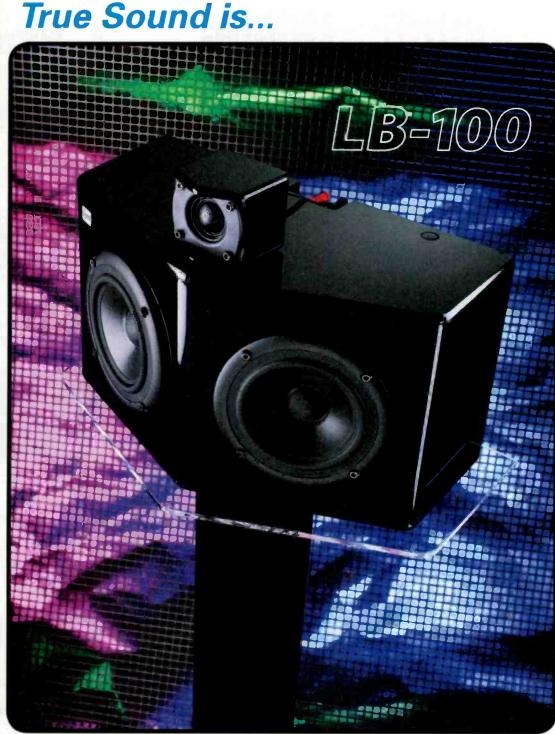
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**Contributor Pro-File 8** Meet Kevin McNamara

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Highlights of news items from the past month

### **Court: File Sharing Companies Not Liable**

All because Grokster and Streamcast software can be used for legitimate purposes.

### Moseley Signs Licensing Deal With APT The agreement allows Moseley to use APT's Apt-x algorithm for three years.

### Avid to Acquire M-Audio

M-Audio becomes a business unit of Digidesign.

### **Cox Radio to Expand IBOC Rollout**

Cox will upgrade 80 percent of its stations over the next four years.

### **KCSN Begins Testing IBOC Booster**

Transmission tests began in mid-August using IBOC equipment from Broadcast Electronics.

### **Site Features**

### **NAB Radio Update**

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### **IBOC** Update

Stay on top of the latest IBOC and DAB technology news with our twice-montly e-mail newsletter.

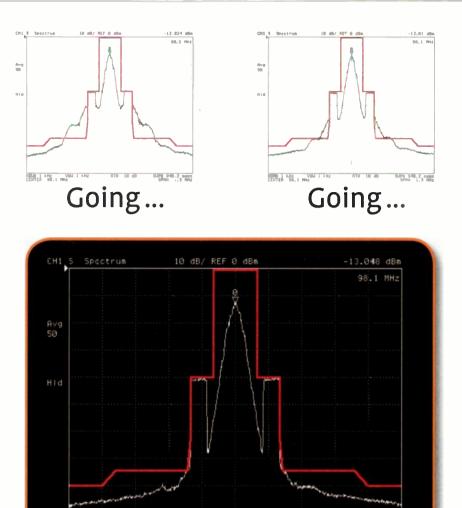




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# Viewpoint

### The lpods are coming

am not a typical radio listener, and neither are you. We work closely to radio. I may no longer have keys to a transmitter site, but I still listen critically. Whether it's thinking about how I would tweak a processor setting or determining the possible reason for that last on-air glitch, when I listen to the radio I know what is going on and why. The average listener does not, nor does he care.

The listener wants to be entertained or informed.Unfortunately for radio, the venues available to a listener have increased. Radio market shares may appear to be stable, but while the percentage of an

audience listening to a station remains the same, the size of that audience is shrinking.

The typical radio user listens because he likes the current song or is interested in the topic being discussed. If he doesn't like the next song ortopic, he changes the station. If he is loyal to a station, he'll be back. If he's a button-pusher looking for instant gratification, who knows where he'll go next. It's this tendency to seek other options that continues to erode the radio audience.

I'm guilty of some of this button pushing. I have a few favorite stations in Kansas City, and when I want something else—or something not being played on the radio—I turn to my CD player. I don't have a portable media player. I always thought that taking the time to load music into a device so that I could listen to it anywhere at anytime was an unnecessary practice. Besides, I like the spontaneity of radio. You don't know what's next (although with some formats you have a good chance of guessing).

It's this spontaneity that always put radio on top for me. But this is no longer the exclusive ability of terrestrial radio. Satellite radio channels can provide this spontaneity across 100 channels. That's a large palette from which to choose. Listeners like the spontaneity of radio, but they also like the ability to have some control over it as well.

That's where the portable media player fits in so well. My friend owns a unit that stores nearly 5,000 songs or 330 hours of audio at a decent encoding rate. This player, about the size of a deck of cards, holds his entire CD collection. My entire collection exceeds this capacity, but I can't imagine listening to everything in my collection in a continuous run.

My friend uses his player all the time. Not owning one, I assumed that he would have to set playlists every day to begin his listening experience. Sometimes he does. Most of the time he selects a random play mode, which has several variations. Yesterday he chose to listen to a single artist all day.

I asked him about loading material into the unit. For me, taking the time to transfer 300 CDs sounds like cruel punishment. Using his desktop PC, he ripped the CDs and then loaded them through the player's USB connection. The time investment is actually minimal. A few mouse clicks to start the process and then he walks away. Simple. The time to program the unit for his next listening session is also usually done during downtime, such as waiting in line.

The role of establishing technology usage trends is normally left to a younger crowd. With so much technology firmly planted, radio is not only losing the 14-year-old, we are now losing the 30-somethings and more. My friend is now a minor member of the radio listening crowd, thanks to his exposure to the new competition for radio.

Entertainment on demand, personal media players, broadband and satellite delivery, and other yet-to-be invented technologies will continue to reduce the size of the radio listening audience. The added capabilities of digital radio can slow this erosion and maybe even stop it. Radio's longterm survival depends on radio joining the modern age and becoming an active player once again.

Chriss Scherer, editor cscherer@primediabusiness.com



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# **Managing Technology**

### Test and measurement in the digital age



By Kevin McNamara, CNE

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aintaining quality and reliability in a modem digital facility presents some new and significant challenges when compared with traditional analog methods. A few engineers believe it is easier to maintain a digital audio chain because they no longer need to deal with the audible effects of ground loops, noise, crosstalk and mismatches typical in some analog signal paths. Digital signals, on the other hand, either provide flawless audio or dead silence, right? Wrong! Digital infrastructures require a great deal of care when design-



Ethernet testers can evaluate cables, but also provide information on network traffic.

ing, constructing and testing the various paths where digital audio signals travel.

Let's envision a fully digital broadcast facility. It might house several fully automated stations under one roof. The operation requires a combination of digital and analog signal paths to handle the diversity of the various stations, however all of the program and production audio is fully digital to the transmitter site. Analog and digital signal are routed with a large multi-format routing switcher. The respective stations use an extensive digital microwave system. Several channels of digital audio (traditional and IBOC) are transmitted over a 45MHz DS3

radio system to one transmitter site (hub), then each digital channel is split off and fed to other stations over a lower bandwidth 1.5MHz DS1 microwave system.The facility also streams digital audio to the Internet, as well as real-time news, weather and traffic to various websites.

I use this example to illustrate the variety of test and measurement requirements that are currently or will likely be in use the near future. Our facility uses several types of signals operating over a wide variety of protocols and transport methods. These signals include analog, AES/EBU digital and S/PDIF digital formats. The transport protocols that carry these audio formats include Ethernet, Fibre Channel, DS1and DS3 operating over physical media that include standard single pair shielded, CAT-5, fiber optic, coaxial and wireless media. Protocols such as TCP/IP and IPX are also used extensively for general office LAN and Web server applications.

If you are the engineer of this facility, here are a few pieces of essential test equipment that should be close at hand.

#### **Cable tester**

No toolbox should be without some type of cable tester. While most cable testers troubleshoot Ethernet cabling, some also offer the ability to analyze other cabling such as basic paired/shielded, coaxial and fiber optic media. Most networks rely on unshielded twisted pair cable (UTP) as a means to interconnect devices. Because the UTP cable uses copper conductors, it is subject to the usual electrical characteristics, notably signal attenuation and frequency losses that vary directly with its length. Currently, Ethernet networks operate in full-duplex, which means that transmitted and received data is carried simultaneously. Two of the four pairs within the UTP cable are used to transmit and receive. The problem with this arrangement is that the signal levels for transmitted and received data at any given termination point may have extremely different levels. This imbalance could create the problem of near-end cross talk (NEXT). NEXT is created when the transmitted electrical signal (current) on one pair of wires forms a magnetic field, which couples to the pair carrying the received signal. This problem generally occurs at the UTP cable end because this is where the transmitted signal is highest relative to that measured on the received pair, and because the cable pairs may be untwisted to facilitate attachment to the RJ-45 connector, promoting more efficient coupling.

The interference created as a result of NEXT can have severe effects on the performance of the network. For higher performances, Category 5e (CAT-5e) cabling or higher variations of the NEXT measurement are specified. These measurements include equal-level far-end crosstalk (ELFEXT), power sum near-level crosstalk (PSNEXT) and power sum equal-level crosstalk (PSELFEXT), which are derived from calculations, not a specific measurement.

#### **Ethernet network analyzers**

A network analyzer is a useful, albeit expensive, tool for documenting and troubleshooting LANs, WANs and even fibre-channel based storage area networks (SAN). These tools allow a network engineer to perform the cable testing functions previously discussed and to monitor and quantify the packets of data traffic moving across the network. These testers provide a comprehensive suite of tools that

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### **Managing Technology**

give several views of a network, including discovery of network devices attached to the network; detailed information about those devices including network addresses, names, type of device and protocols used; logical mapping of all devices and connections within a LAN or WAN; detailed IP information; network usage statistics; data performance measurements; and network error information.

#### **Digital audio test systems**

The digital audio interfaces prominent in radio broadcasting are either the AES/EBU or the S/PDIF format. While the formats are similar in many respects, the S/PDIF format is commonly associated with consumer electronics, and

was formally standardized under a document called IEC958 (for professional and consumer electronics). The AES/EBU standard deals with professional digital audio applications. What is most similar is that

each of these formats will operate without the benefit of external timing. The selfclocking feature makes it easy for a digital audio device to inter-



Audio test generators and testers provide an easy way to verify performance.

face with other digital audio devices simply by setting the sample rates the same, usually 48KHz (professional) or 44.1KHz (consumer), although other (less common) rates can be used.

A variety of specialized test systems for the testing of digital audio systems are currently available. The test systems are packaged as stand-alone test systems, custom PC-based hardware/software analysis packages or a combination of both. Most professional digital audio systems use AES/EBU, specifically the AES3 standard, however most can also analyze S/PDIF signals.

The majority of problems found in digital audio systems can be traced to one of the following four conditions.

1) Improper/defective cabling – The additional capacitance caused by excessively long or improperly terminated cables will increase the incidence of bit errors and consequently data losses in a system due to improper timing or insufficient amplitude to adjacent device.

2) Insufficient signal amplitude – Because clocking/synchronization is derived from the transition of the data bits, digital stream may become unreliable or non-existent.

3) Mismatched sample rate – This can be easily detected with a test device.

4) Excessive jitter – Jitter can take different forms, but it can be generally described as any deviation from a perfectly stable clock signal. Jitter can be caused by improper cabling, high noise levels or excessive crosstalk.

An investment in the proper test equipment equates to significant savings of time and increased reliability.

McNamara is president of Applied Wireless.



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# **FCC Update**

**By Harry Martin** 

### **Displacement relief for FM translators?**



he National Translator Association (NTA) has petitioned the FCC to amend the FM translator rules to permit an FM translator displaced from its current operating channel by a new or modified full-power FM station to immediately apply to move to any available FM channel. Currently, displaced translators must wait for the next FM translator application filing window to file the application.

FM translator stations, which generally operate at much lower power than fullpower FM stations, are licensed by the FCC as secondary to full-power FM stations. When a new full-power FM station commences broadcasting or an existing fullpower FM station modifies its coverage, existing FM translators causing interference to the new or modified full-power stations must immediately cease broadcasting and are displaced from their current operating channels. FM translators receiving interference from new or modified full-power FM stations are similarly displaced as their signals can no longer be heard.

Under the existing FM translator rules, a displaced FM translator may immediately apply to move only to adjacent channels, none of which may be available. Before the displaced FM translator can move to a nonadjacent available channel, it must cease broadcasting and wait several years for the FCC to open an FM translator modification application filing window and then process and grant the numerous applications filed during the window. Commercial translator applicants may have to go to auction to secure a replacement frequency. Meanwhile, the public loses the broadcast service being provided by the FM translator.

The NTA last fall asked the FCC to change its rules to help existing FM translators in this situation. In particular, the NTA proposed that existing FM translators forced to cease operating because they are causing or receiving interference should be permitted to immediately apply to move to any available FM channel. The NTA's proposal would afford the same opportunity for permittees of authorized but unbuilt FM translators precluded from commencing operations because they are expected to cause or receive interference. The NTA also asked that applicants for new FM translators expected to cause or receive interference be permitted to immediately amend their applications to propose available non-adjacent FM channels. In June, the FCC requested comments regarding the NTA's request. Comments filed in response supported the NTA.

Whether and when the FCC may move on to actually propose and adopt rule amendments to assist displaced FM translators remains to be seen. The problem is likely to become more aggravated in the near term, as more FM translators are likely to be displaced when the FCC auctions new FM channels and authorizes new full-power FM stations to operate on the channels. The current rules provide virtually no relief to affected translator licensees and permittees. While they are entitled to file displacement applications, they cannot do so until a new filing window for such applications opens. It may be years before the FCC opensits next FM translator modification application filing window. The last such window opened in March 2003, and in the intervening 16 months the FCC has still processed only a relatively small number of the thousands of applications filed in that window. None of the mutually exclusive applications have been processed.

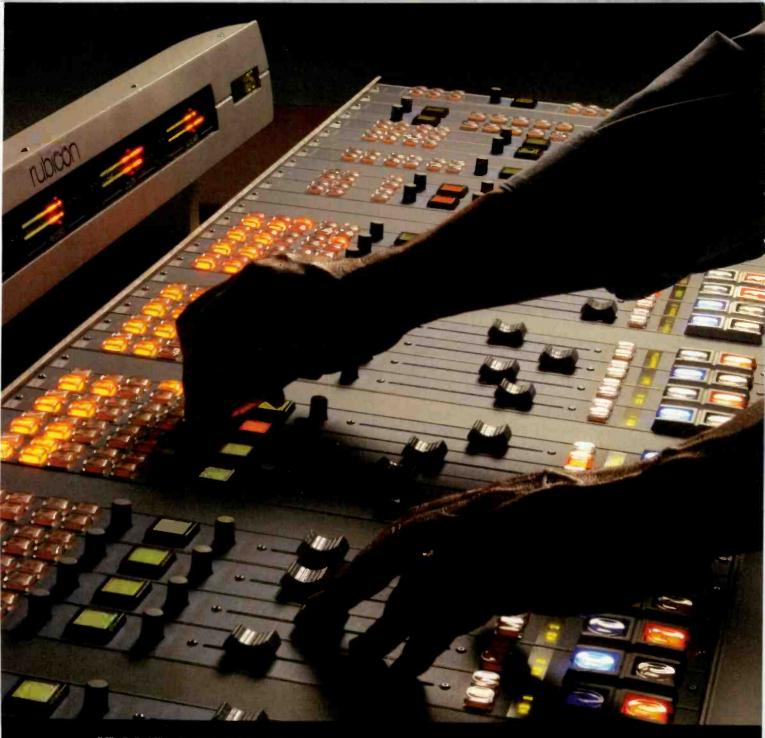
### **Recent FCC fines**

A Florida AM station was fined \$1,000 for not having a fence after the station's general manager told the FCC inspector they could get closer to the tower by avoiding the main gate and walking around to the side that had no fence. Another Florida AM station was fined \$7,000 for not having its gate locked. An Arkansas AM was fined \$4,400 for having numerous openings in its fence; the FCC was not impressed with the station's argument that a no trespassing sign served the same purpose.

Martin is president of the Federal Communications Bar Association and a member of the firm of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, Arlington, VA. E-mail martin@fhhlaw.com.

### **Dateline:**

Oct. 1 is the deadline for radio stations in Iowa and Missouri to file their renewal applications, ownership reports and EEO program reports. Oct. 1 also is the date radio stations in Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota must begin their pre-filing renewal announcements. Issues/programs lists for the third quarter must be placed in all radio station public files by Oct. 10.



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By Chriss Scherer, editor

### Beyond audio storage and playback

The current trend in facility design involves two major components to complete an on-air system. One element is the audio routing and mixing functions, which are becoming increasingly tied together. The other is the audio storage and playback system, commonly referred to as an automation system. From the humble beginnings as a way to provide unattended playback of scheduled material with various mechanical methods, today's automation systems are computerbased and provide much more than just audio playback.

What has long been called an automation system was at one time singular in function; it now actually handles various automated tasks. The primary function is content management: storage and playback of audio files on demand. Add to this the ability to load schedules and apply certain rules to fill time automatically and you describe nearly all the systems available today. While audio storage and playback are still the key functions, an automation system has actually shifted its primary function to become a facility event controller. Through event triggers, such as contact closures, serial data strings and other control paths, the automation system is able to automatically record audio feeds or capture audio files and control external equipment such as audio processors, routing switchers and satellite receivers.

#### WAN, LAN, thank you ma'am

The need for interaction, control and insertion from a distance has become important, as have WAN-based media sharing and the ability to manage multiple stations from a central site.

Computers excel at storing and manipulating data, so affecting audio data is a natural function. However, new data needs have become important for stations. Program-associated data (PAD)—

#### Guide Resource An overview of available automation systems see page 18 for an explanation of the abbreviations Playback Purchase Support PAD Non-native Control Third-party File OS Modes Sound Modes Formats file support? **RAID** support? Cards AEQ • Mar4Win • www.aeq.es yes S, E, C, E@sy M, L, F, S, T Digigram W Features: Modules available for new editing, voice tracking, scheduling; Arrakis • Digilink Extreme • www.arrakis-systems.com separate L, S, N P,L W, 2, 3 S, C yes W M. L. F. S. T any yes Features: 16×3 switcher with built-in audio cards required for satellite operation; switcher also facilitates installation and separates PC functions from broadcast functions Broadcast Electronics • Audiovault • www.bdcast.com U L, S, N P.L S, E, C separate W. B. 2.3 ves Digigram, yes W M, L, F, S, T Soundblaster Features: Includes integrated CD ripper; supports multiple sample rates and compression types simultaneously from a single audio channel Broadcast Software International • Simian • www.bsiusa.com Т L, N W, B, 2, 3, S, C M, L, F, S, T any yes TM Century, Dolby AC-2 Features: Spanish menus; programmable hot keys; rotating carts Broadcast Software International • Wavecart • www.bsiusa.com 1 P W, B, 2, 3, W M anv TM Century Dolby AC-2 BTSG • Generation IV • www.btsg.com separate or L, N S, E, C, W, B, 2, 3 yes ves M, L, F, S, T any I/O boards imbedded

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\*From internal document (12/1/02 - 11/30/03) based on 27,075 calls.

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the basics of song title and artist name-are being used today to feed RBDS encoders and station websites with "now playing" information. This data will also be transmitted on an IBOC stream. With plans to provide radio receivers with more detailed displays, additional data can also be provided, such as an artist's concert dates and information about the performer. Similar added data can be applied to commercial audio files as well.

This data can be tied to audio files and delivered on a schedule through the automation system. The PAD information is likely already part of the stored audio file, so retrieving it for on-air delivery is not a complex matter. This data may be a part of the audio stream or a separate data stream.

IBOC. There are currently two ways it is being developed. The Tomorrow Radio project, a joint effort between NPR, Harris and Kenwood, adds a supplemental audio channel (SAC) in addition to the main channel so that two program streams are created. Most automation systems can handle more than one program stream, although it is preferable to have a separate workstation to provide the second stream as backup. The other form of multi-channel audio of IBOC is surround sound. While still dealing with audio data. surround-sound files will have a different format than traditional mono or stereo files. Systems vary in this capability today, but it is something to keep in mind if your station is considering an IBOC roll-out with an eye to the leading technology.

The supplemental PAD, such as concert dates or artist news, can also be stored and retrieved as needed. Most systems already have the capability to provide live copy with any audio file. This live copy is simply stored data. Not to over simplify the idea, but data is data to a computer, regardless of whether it is fed to an instudio monitor or made available to an RBDS stream.

Multi-channel audio is a developing technology for

### Abbreviations

### \* - check with manufacturer

OS:

W - Windows 2000 or XP

L – Linux

### Modes:

M - manual L - live assist

F - full automation

- S Satellite
- T timed recording/playback

Formats: W-WAV B - BWF 2 - MP23 - MP3 A - Apt-x C - Cart Chunk

### **Control:**

S - serial Ethernet F -C - contact closures

### **Playback Modes:**

L - from local sound card S - from server sound card

N - over network to workstation sound card

#### **Purchase:**

P - full purchase L - ongoing license fee

#### Support

U - free unlimited T - tiered support based on contract terms

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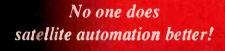
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OS	Modes	Sound Cards	Third-party RAID support?	File Formats	Non-native file support?	Control	PAD	Playback Modes	_	Support
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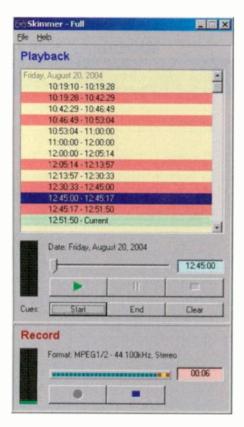


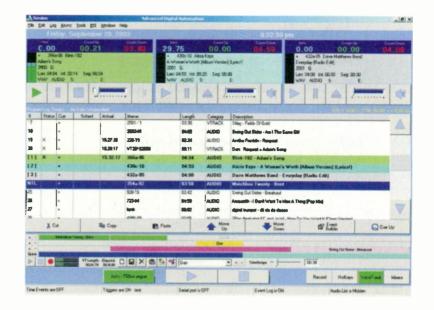
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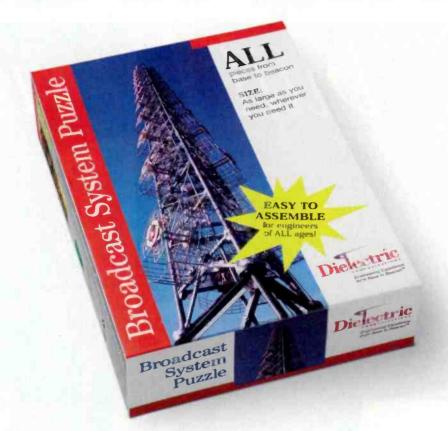
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W	M, L, F, S, T	Digigram, Moto, M-Audio, Soundscape	yes	W, B, 2, Cart Chunk	yes	S, E, C	separate	L, N	L	Т	
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Inside the air studio at Super Estrella, one of the 27 new studios built in Los Angeles.

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### 27 New Studios for Entravision in Los Angeles

By Matt Sheahan

he Entravision Communications-Radio Division developed a plan to create a new, centralized facility for its radio stations in Los Angeles that would also house its satellite operations from Campbell, CA, near San Jose. This would prove to be a significant move. The target date was for the facility to be completely operational by early 2004.

Entravision has created one of the largest U.S. Hispanic radio networks in the nation, reaching a potential audience of more than 20 million listeners. The new Entravision facility houses a number of the company's flagship broadcast networks including Radio Romantica, which consists of adult-contemporary, romantic ballads and current hits; Radio Tricclor, which is a personality-driven, Mexican country-style format; and Super Estrella, which is music-driven, pop and alternative Spanish rock.

The new studios are located on the Miracle Mile in Los Angeles, in the same building that houses Miramax and Variety.



One of the significant integration challenges was logistical. CSS used its Pre-Build Solution for this integration project. The majority of the wiring infrastructure was built, tested and documented at the CSS facility in Colorado and then shipped to Los Angeles for final installation.

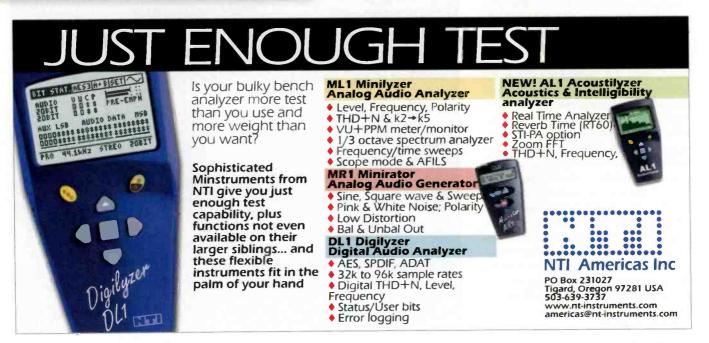
With the assistance of Omnirax, CSS was given a working template of the three types of studio to be installed: on-air, production and imaging. Using these templates, CSS built most of the wiring infrastructure without having to be on-site. CSS used Stardraw Studio Documentation Software for this project, which facilitates the process of creating detailed engineering schematic of the studio infrastructure.







The corridor walls have an open space at the top that conceals the wiring trough. The designer used this space to provide colorful, indirect lighting, which provides a changing palette of colors.



#### The main lobby at the Entravision studios.

A project of this scale required all the participants to work closely to meet the specific deadlines. The Entravision engineering staff, Wheatstone, Omnirax and CSS collectively solved the common last-minute issues that arose, smoothing the integration process.

One unique design element solved a challenge in cable routing. Instead of running cable through conduits or beneath floors, a cable trough soffit was built into the hallway walls. The walls stop about one foot short of the ceiling. Over the top is a cable tray that is about 1' wide and 8" deep. Cables can be easily added or accessed with minimal effort. This soffit also houses the hallway lights, creating an aurora borealis effect throughout the facility.

Today, the Entravision LA stations broadcast full-force from their new studios on the Miracle Mile. All studios are fully functional and Entravision is back to the business of increasing its visibility as one of the nation's dominant Hispanic-language broadcasters.

Sheahan is the communications manager at CSS, Wheat Ridge, CO.

Soffit detail photos by Rick Hunt, VP and director of radio engineering, Entravision Communications.

### Equipment List

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# NAB Radio Show Convention Preview

Ey Chriss Scherer, editor, and Kari Taylor, associate editor

The NAB Radio Show, held every fal, has seen a slow decline in attendance over the past few years. This changed last year when the convention was held in Ph ladelphia. Because of the success in 2003, the NAB Radio Show will re urn to land of cheesesteaks in 2005. This year, the convention heads

west to the always-pleasant climate of San Diego. As with previous conventions, plenty of events are scheduled for the three-day conference. Between the sessions, the exhibit floor and special presentations, you'll stay busy the entire time.

The sessions are always an anticipated event at the convention. This year's state has a broad range of topics, but the engineering side has a locus on IBOC technology and applications that spans the three days. The HD Radio Workshop covers the entire IBOC chain, from audio origination to the anterina, and includes a section on test and measurement.

It's not strictly IBOC, however While all the sessions have something to offer some are probably more in line with your interests as a Radio magazine reader. We have included these sessions as well for your reference. The sessions start before the exh bit hall opens, so arrive early if you want to attend the sessions on Wednesday. A preview of some of the products being exhibited is on page 64. Use the show floor map on page 44 to find your way. Also, look for some excursion ideas in the San Diego area.

rtember ~2004

See you in San Diego.

### Session and Event HighEights

### Wednesday, Oct. 6 Signal Performance and Antenna Systems for HD Radio

**9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** An Overview of the HD Radio System

#### 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. AM Antenna Systems and HD Radio

Ben Dawson and Ron Rackley discuss the important aspects of AM antennas to IBOC performance. Following an explanation of the basics of modulation, the specifics of antenna-related factors, including impedance matching and bandwidth, will be discussed.

#### **11 a.m. to noon** AM IBOC Installation and Performance Case Study

Tom Cox, Jeff Littlejohn and John Warner of Clear Channel will show several AM IBOC installations and cover topics related to the challenges of implementing IBOC at these facilities. Studio headphone monitoring and covering live events outside the studio will also be covered. In addition, perspectives on digital vs. analog coverage will be discussed.



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### NAB Radio Show Convention Preview

#### 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. The ERI Digital Radio Solution

Bill Harland of Electronics Research will review all the approved methods of implementing simulcast FM analog and digital IBOC transmission. The focus is on the elements that follow the transmitter outputs in configurations using separate analog and digital transmitters, which is the most common and complex implementation scenario.

#### 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Strategic Planning for HD Radio Implementation

Bob Surrette of Shively Labs details the proper steps to take when implementing an IBOC strategy. He will present the pros and cons for each technique with background information that can help a station identify specific strategies.

### **3 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Avoiding the IBOC Gotchas

Steve Fluker of Cox Radio Orlando provides the insight to help stations avoid unexpected or unanticipated costs of installing an IBOC operation, from the studio to the antenna.

### 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**One Site, 7 HD Radio Installations in Seattle** Clay Freinwald of Entercom reveals the details of the seven-station IBOC installation at the West Tiger Mountain

### Show floor hours -

transmitter site.

Wednesday, October 6	5 p.m.	to 8 p.m.
Thursday, October 7	9 a.m.	to 5 p.m.
Friday, October 8	9 a.m.	to 1 p.m.

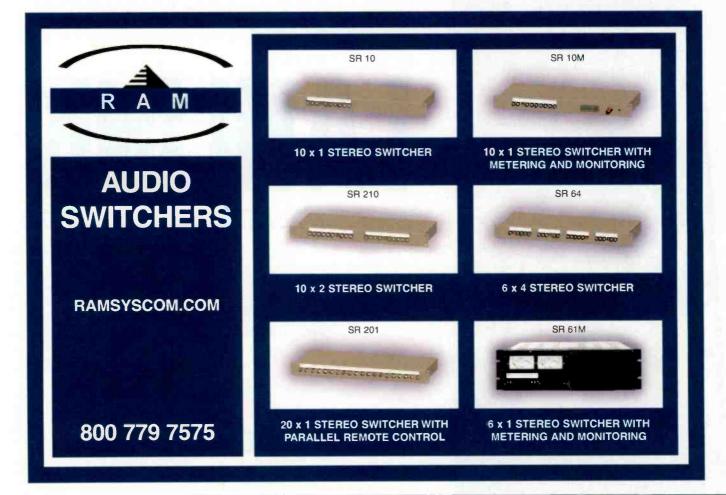
### Out & About in San Diego

### Miramar Speed Circuit

Miramar Speed Circuit offers its guests an impressive <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile technical road course. The karts, which can travel up to 40 miles per hour and are equipped with Honda 6.5BHP engines. Each kart



has ROC Timing, which electronically clocks each kart as it rounds the track to give detailed information for each lap completed. Walk-ins welcomed. The cost is \$23. www.miramarspeedcircuit.com



### Other Sessions of Note

#### **2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** The People Meter and Ratings: How are They Measuring Up?

After several years of testing and roll-outs in new markets, it's time for an in-depth update on the PPM, including a discussion of sample sizes. Also, a look at the other implementations and options that are available.

### 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### **Opening Reception on the Exhibit Floor**

The exhibit floor officially opens with on Wednesday evening.

### Thursday, Oct. 7

### Transmitters, Tests and Measurements for HD Radio

#### **9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.** New Methods to Upgrade to HD Radio Transmission

George Cabrera of Harris will discuss information about two FM IBOC cost-reducing implementation methods: separate radiation and split-level combining.

#### **9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.** FM Broadcast Transmitter Site Conversion for HD Radio Transmission

Tim Hardy of Nautel will overview the transmission equipment requirements for FM IBOC, with an emphasis on the effect of transmitter non-linearity and its mitigation using digital adaptive pre-correction.

### Out & About in San Diego

#### San Diego Aerospace Museum

The San Diego Aerospace Museum offers more than 65 aircraft and spacecraft, and an aviation library and archives. The museum also houses the International Aerospace Hall



of Fame honoring engineers, pilots and aviation incustrialists. Take a behind-the-scenes restoration tour, which is avai able for an additional fee. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *www.aerospacemuseum.org* 

### **11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** FM IBOC Installations Real-world Case Study

Paul Shulins of Greater Media Boston describes the planning, budgeting, installation and maintenance of the FM IBOC systems installed in January 2004 on Greater Media's five Class B stations in Boston.

### Marconi Radio Awards

CAD rendering

#### Reception, Dinner and Show



The awards recognize overall excellence in radio in five categories. Stations and personalities compete for this coveted award. Beginning at 6 p.m., the event is hosted by syndicated morning show personalities Bob and Tom.

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CAD drawing



Entravision Studio Los Angeles, California

### NAB Radio Show Convention Preview

### **11:30 a.m. to noon** Measuring Your Hybrid IBOC Signal

David Maxson of Broadcast Signal Lab explores the complexities of measuring the IBOC signal. With the addition of a digital waveform to the analog, a host of measurement challenges arise relating to analyzing digital signal carriers and determining occupied bandwidth.

### **1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.** AM Broadcast Transmitter Site Conversion for HD Radio Transmission

Wendell Lonergan of Nautel will discuss site requirements to transmit an IBOC signal. Problems encountered during various site conversions and solutions to these problems will be explained.

#### **2 p.m. to 3 p.m.** Linearity Measurements of AM Transmitters for HD Radio Performance

Geoff Mendenhall of Harris will detail an independent measuring technique that predicts digital modulation performance without the need of an IBOC exciter/demodulator.

#### **3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.** Real Life Operation of an AM IBOC Facility

Tom Ray of WOR, New York, will take attendees through an AM IBOC installation from concept to operation.

### **3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m.** Developing a Troubleshooting Plan

John Bissett of Dielectric explains the method to adopt a logical troubleshooting process. While the focus will be transmitter troubleshooting, the skills can be applied to any repair situation.

### Out & About in San Diego

The Antique Radio Store Located in San Diego, this store refurbishes old radios and resells them. From antique parts to test equipment, this store has everything a radio enthusiast could want and more.

www.oldradiosrus.com





### Other Sessions of Note

#### **7:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m.** FCC Breakfast

FCC Commissioners Jonathan Adelstein and Kevin Martin are scheduled to appear. They will discuss the current regulatory issues **facing** radio broadcasters.

### 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Keynote Address

NAB President Eddie Fritts will give opening remarks before introducing the keynote speaker, who has not yet been announced.

#### 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Exhibit Floor Lunch

Taking a cue from regional conventions, a free lunch will be available on the show floor.

#### 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Live Remote Broadcast: Dick Robinson's American Standards By The Sea

The music of Sinatra, Bennett, Basie, Rich, Callaway and many more are featured during the weekly syndicated show, which usually originates aboard a studio-equipped 70-foot yacht.

#### 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Happy Hour & A Half A social event at the end of the middle day.

### **6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** Marconi Radio Awards Reception, Dinner & Show

The awards ceremony recognizes stations for overall excellence. The hosts for the event will be syndicated morning personalities Bob and Tom.

### Out & About in San Diego

### San Diego

Automotive Museum This museum displays more than 80 automobiles and motorcycles from the Model T to the Maserati. An automotive research library is open to the public. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.sdautomuseum.org





### NAB Radio Show Convention Preview

### Friday, Oct. 8

Studios, Audio and Data for HD Radio

### 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

**Studio Equipment and Infrastructure** Jim Haupstueck of Harris, Ted Lantz of Broadcast Electronics and Chad Sterling of Dmarc Networks will discuss the IBOC broadcast audio chain.

### 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Studio Operations

Jay Adrick of Harris, Jeff Detweiler of Ibiquity and Frank Foti of Omnia Audio will discuss the challenges of processing for hybrid transmission and maintaining clean audio. Methods of emergency alerting will also be covered.

#### 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Advanced Applications and Services

Frank Foti of Omnia Audio, Robert Hylkema of Teleatlas and Mike Starling of NPR will cover the enhancements of IBOC: multichannel audio, surround sound, data are more.

### 1:30 p.m. to 2p.m. International Update: A Look at DAB Data Services and Opportunities for HD Radio

#### 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Receiver Update

Mike Bergman of Kenwood will discuss the features of IBOC radios and preview some of the possible enhancements.

### Out & About in San Diego

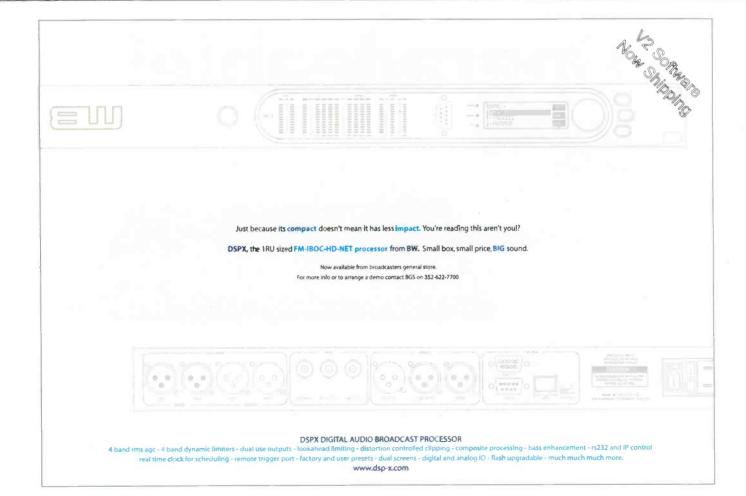
#### Mission Trails Regional Park

Located eight miles northeast of downtown San Diego, this park encompasses nearly 5,800 acres of natural and developed recreational areas.



Featuring more than 40 miles of trails, boating on Lake Murray, camping at Kumeyaay Lake, numerous informative hikes and a Visitor & Interpretive Center, Mission Trails Regional Park provides a natural escape from the city. www.mtrp.org





## 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Impulse Radio MAT Protocol

Paul Signorelli of Impulse Radio will discuss various methodologies for multiplexing data services over the transmission layer of the IBOC system.

## Other Sessions of Note 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

#### 7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Breakfast with Charlie Cook

Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report* and a political analyst for the National Journal Group, will share his views on politics and the November Presidential election at this breakfast session.

## 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. HD Radio Made Easy

This session provides a non-technical review of IBOC digital radio, with insight to its revenue-generating potential. The panelists will discuss the special considerations in making the decision to commence IBOC operations.

## Noon to 1:30 p.m. Radio Luncheon

Clarke Brown, Jefferson Pilot Communication's president of the Radio Division, will receive the NAB National Radio Award at this year's Radio Lunch.

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## NAB Radio Show Convention Preview

## **NAB Radio Exhibitors**

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The same way our red apple stands out from a group of green ones, savvy air talent knows Scott's SS32 stands out from other digital systems.

Scott Studios' is the easiest to use. Also, SS32 has many capabilities the others don't. Scott cart walls are so intuitive that anything you want is effortlessly on the air in a second or two.



Shown above is Los Angeles morning personality Shawn Parr of KZLA (FM) at his SS32. Emmis also uses Scott systems at KPWR (FM) in LA, in Chicago, St. Louis, and more.

When jocks think creatively, Scott's SS32 touchscreen enhances the flow and adds to the show.

Scott Studios' systems are powerful, yet simple to use. Jocks can color code labels. play Hot Keys at a touch, find anything fast on Cart Walls, and preview anything at any time—even audition the ending while the same cut is on the air.

1-888-GET-SCOTT Some features described are optional. Systems are tailored to needs and budgets. Dallas, Texas 75234 USA

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## New look...new features

With Scott Studios, nothing is static. Our 4,600 client stations give us new ideas that we offer to everyone.

## **Hook promos**

Promos with hooks-short clips of upcoming songs-are easy to build in SS32.

## Internet control and remote

SS32 auto-imports digital audio from wireless PDAs, laptops, weather services and MP3s.

## Voice Tracker

Scott's Voice Tracker via Internet doesn't require corporate or duplicate music libraries. A number of our stations sound better Voice Tracked than in their live shifts.

## Fast phone editor

If a jock works alone, editing great phones is as fast as a flash! If air talent works with a co-host or producer, one can take calls while the other edits.



## Free logging software

The FCC is likely to require all stations to archive broadcasts. New customers get free logging software you can run on any office computer. Why pay extra?

## Not proprietary

SS32 works with any computers and sound cards. You only pay for the software features you'll use, so it's in your price range.

More stations choose Scott than the second and third ranked vendors combined. Visit us in Booth 704 at the NAB Radio Show, or call 1-888-GET-SCOTT today.



## Leading POTS Codecs Compared.

	Comrex Matrix	Tieline Commander	Zephyr Xport
udio Bandwidth @ 24 kbps @ 19 kbps	14 kHz 11.2 kHz	15 kHz 9 kHz	15 kHz 15 kHz
Direct Internet Software Updates	No	No	Yes, via Ethernet port
Digital PC Audio Input	No	No	Yes, via Ethernet port and supplied driver
udio Metering (XMIT/RCV)	Transmit only	One-at-a-time	Simultaneous
uudio Processing	None	Simple AGC	Digital multi-band AGC with look-ahead limiter by Omnia
Remote Control	No	RS-232 and dedicated computer	Ethernet via Web browser
Auto Dial Storage	19 Numbers	50 Numbers	100 Numbers
requently-Used Settings Storage	none	none	30
Standards-based POTS Codec	No - Proprietary	No - Proprietary	Yes - aacPlus (MPEG HEAAC)
Transmit-Receive Quality Display	No	Yes	Yes
Contact Closures	2	2	3
Display Resolution	120x32 LCD	120x32 LCD	128x64 LCD
Analog Cell Phone Interface	Optional	Standard	Standard
Mixer Inputs	1 mic, 1 mic / line	2 mic / line	l mic, l line
Phantom Power	No	No	Yes - 12 volt
Automatic Voice-Grade Backup	No	No	Yes
Power Supply	External	External	Internal auto-switching
Local Mix Audio Outputs Headphone Line Level	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes Yes
Direct Receive Audio Output	No	Yes	Yes
Uses ISDN at the Studio Side for More Reliable Connections	No	No	Yes - your Zephyr Xstream becomes universal POTS and ISDN codec.
wailable ISDN Option	\$850.00 (adds MPEG L3 & G.722)	\$850,00 (adds G.722)	\$495.00 (adds G.722 & state-o the-art AAC-LD for high fidelity and low delay)
List Price:*	\$3,700.00	\$3,650.00	\$2,495.00



AUDIO | NETWORKS

## The routing switcher gets a new twist.

(About five twists per inch, actually.)

Everybody needs to share audio. Sometimes just a few signals — sometimes a few hundred. Across the hall, between floors, now and then across campus. Routing switchers are a convenient way to manage and share your audio, but will your GM really let you buy a router that costs more than his dream car? Unlikely.

If you need a routing switcher but aren't made of money, consider Axia, the Ethernet-based audio network. Yes, Ethernet. Axia is a *true network*. Place our audio adapter nodes next to your sources and destinations, then connect using standard Ethernet switches and Cat-6. Imagine the simplicity and power of Ethernet connecting any studio device to any other, any room to any other, any building to any other... you get the idea.

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Routers are OK... but a network is so much more modern. With Axia, your ins and outs are next to the audio, where they belong. No frame, no cards, no sweat.



Put an Axia Microphone Node next to your mics and send preamplified audio anywhere you need it, over Ethernet — with no lune loss or signal degradation.



## Sant Shuda

## radio.

Axia is already working with some great companies. Like Enco Systems, Scott Studios, Radio Systems, Balsys Technology Group, and of course Telos and Omnia. Check AxlaAudio.com/partnerv/ to find out who's next. Scalable, flexible, reliable... pick any three. An expensive proprietary router isn't practical for smaller facilities. In fact, it doesn't scale all that

well for larger ones. Here's where an expandable network really shines.

Connect eight Axia 8x8 Audio Nodes using Cat-6 cable and an Ethernet switch, and you've got a 64x64 routing switcher. And you can easily add more I/O whenever and wherever you need it. 8uild a 128x128 system... or 1024x1024... use a Gigabit fiber backbone and the sky's the limit.

## Put your preamps where your mics are.

Nice bonus.

Most mainframe routers have no mic inputs, so you need to buy preamps. With Axia you get ultra-low-noise preamps with Phantom power. Put a node in each studio, right next to the mics, to keep mic cables nice and tight, then send multiple mic channels to the network on a single Cat-6 cable. And did we mention that each Mic Node has eight stereo line outputs for headphones?

#### With a little help from our friends.

A networked audio system doesn't just replace a traditional router — it *improves* upon it. Already, companies in our industry are realizing the advantages of tightly integrated systems, and are making new products that reap those benefits. Working with our

partners, Axia Audio is bringing new thinking and ideas to audio distribution, machine control, Program Associated Data (PAD), and even

wiring convenience.



Even the best sound cards are compromised by PC noise, inconvenient output connectors, poor headroom, and other

poor headroom, and other gremlins. Instead, load the Axia IP-Audio Driver for

Windows® on your workstations and connect directly to the Axia audio network using their Ethernet ports. Not only will your PC productions sound fantastic, you'll eliminate sound cards and the hardware they usually feed (like router or console input modules). Just think of all the cash you'll save.

## Put your snake on a diet.

Nobody loves cable snakes. Besides soldering a jillion connectors, just try finding the pair you want when there's a change to make. Axia Audio Nodes come in AES/EBU and balanced stereo analog flavors. Put a batch of Nodes on each end of a Cat-6 run, and BAM! a bi-directional multi-channel snake. Use media converters and a fiber link for extra-long runs between studios —

or between buildings.

#### Would you like some control with that?

There are plenty of ways to control your Axia network. For instance, you'll find built-in webservers on all Axia equipment for easy configuration via browser. PathfinderPC<sup>e</sup> software for Windows gives you central control of every audio path in your plant. Router Selector

nodes allow quick local source selection, and intelligent studio control surfaces let talent easily access and mix any source in your networked facility.



There's a better way to get audio out of your PC. No more consumer grade 'A" connectors – with Axia your digital audio stays clean and pristime.



An Axia digital audio smake can carry hundreds of channels of digital audio on one skinny CAT-6 cable. We know you're not going to miss soldering all that multi-pair...

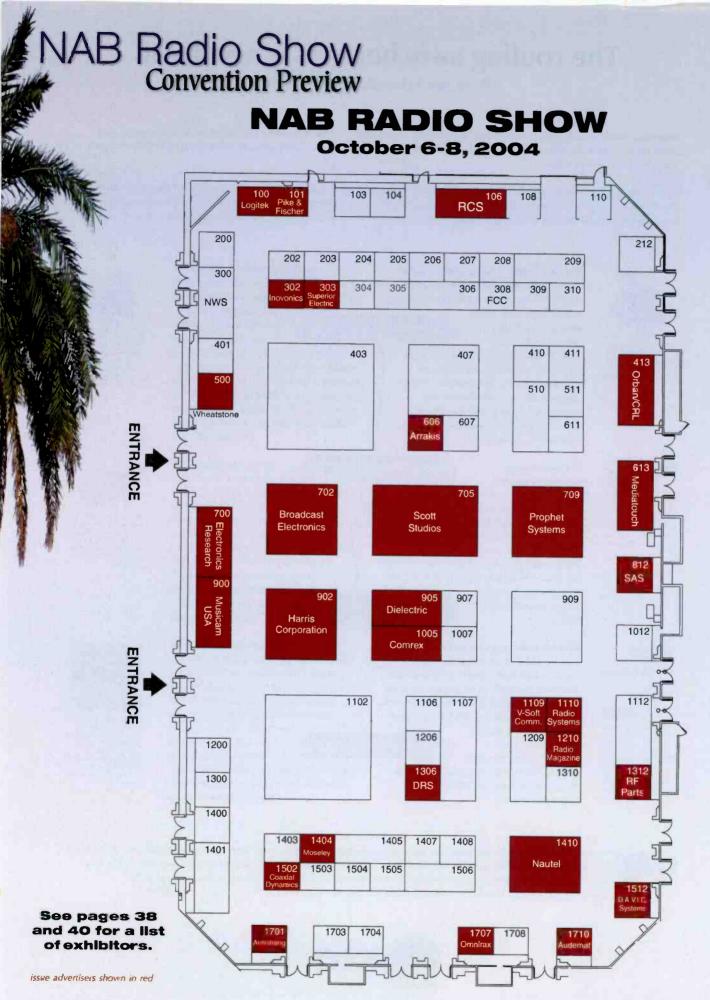


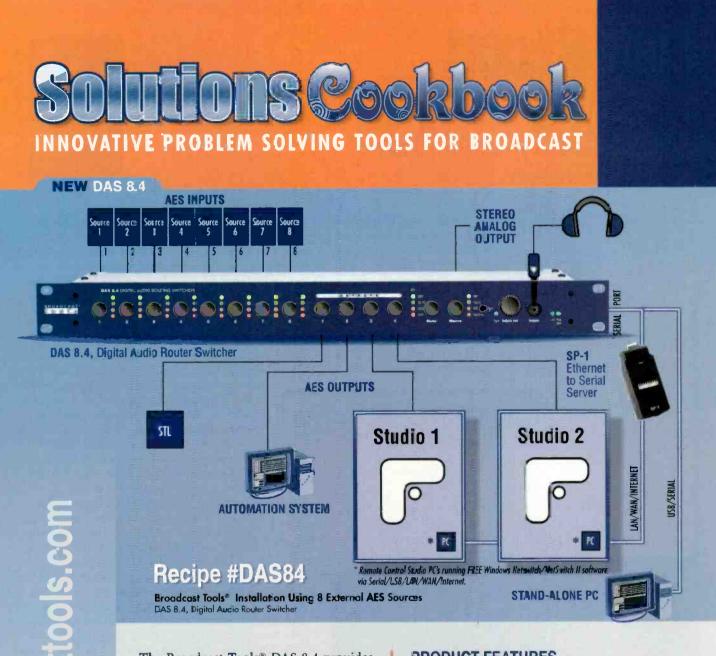
Control freaks of the world, rejoice: intelligent Axia mixing surfaces give talent complete control of their working environment. Reconfigure studios instantly and assign often-used sources just where they're most useful.



"This sounds expensive." Just the opposite, really. Axia saves money by eliminating distribution amps, line selectors, sound cards, patch bays, multi-pair cables, and tons of discrete wiring — not to mention the installation and maintenance time you'll recover. And those are just side benefits: our hardware is about half the cost of those big mainframe routers. That's right... half. Once you experience the benefits of networked audio, you will never want to go back. <u>AxiaAudio.com</u> for details.







The Broadcast Tools® DAS 8.4 provides digital audio routing switching of any one of eight AES inputs to four AES outputs. Routing switching allows any one input to be assigned to any/or all outputs. No input mixing is permitted. The DAS 8.4 may be controlled via front panel switches, contact closures, 5-volt TTL/CMOS logic and/or the multi-drop RS-232 serial port. The front panel is equipped with input and output selection push buttons, output assignment led's, sample rate led indicators and a headphone jack with level control. Additional features: 96 KHz sample rate converter, 24-bit D/A converter with analog balanced stereo output, headphone amplifier and 16 x 16 GPIO port. Installation is simplified with removable screw terminals (Euro-blocks).

## **PRODUCT FEATURES**

- . Routing type switching, any one input may be assigned to any/or all outputs.
- \* Logic functions via microprocessor and non-volatile memory
- Internal digital/analog audio activity/silence sensor monitors any oneoutput channel. The unit is equipped with four front panel samplerate led indicators, SS, Digital Error and ACT LED indicators; adjustable SS/DIG error alarm delay and restore duration. Analog silence sensor sensitivity set at -34db.
- Front panel input selection switches are provided for each input channel with separate output indicator LED's
- · Power-up selection of inputs to outputs, mute or last source selected.
- Eight user configured macros
- Most configuration options via rear panel dipswitches.
- 16 input GPI part (Remote Control or PIP) with LED indicator.
- 16 open collector channel status outputs or programmable via burst commands.
- Remote control of most front panel functions and status.
- Multi-drop RS-232 serial port with data activity LED.
- Multiple units may be looped-thru to expand outputs.
- Depluggable screw (EURO-BLOCK) terminals for ALL connections.
- Multi-voltage power supply (220v CE, optional)
- 1-RU chassis



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# **Field Report**

## **Telos Systems Profiler**

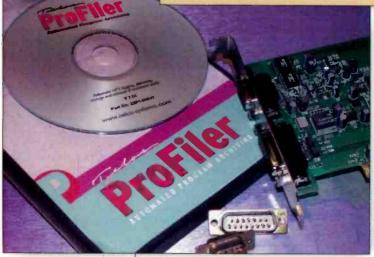


By Michael Kernen

t first glance, the Profiler from Telos Systems appears to be a replacement for the modified cassette machine that exists in nearly every radio station. We've all installed such machines after spending hours trying to devise ways to keep the auto-stop feature from activating while the motor is stopped, or to keep the pause/run of the machine synchronized with the microphone on/off state. I've gone so far as to install breadboard circuits inside to convert the console

## Performance at a glance

Pre-record buffer for skimming Supports bit-rates from 16 to 320kb/s Fraunhofer MP3 compression Multiple archive capability Simultaneous skimmer and logger Creates time-stamped audio files IP archive client access Automatic upload to Web via FTP



logic to one the cassette machine could deal with. Many times, these machines would soldier on in the studio with little or no maintenance, but when they broke and the new one arrived—sans the needed modifications—hours were spent cooking up new modifications. The cassette's day is at sunset nonetheless. At closer inspection, the Profiler could replace the dreaded open-reel logger, too. How many times have you tried to find an air check on one of those historical artifacts? Never mind the abhorrent audio quality present on the segment you actually found; try sending that to a client.

The Telos Profiler is entirely digital and devoid of nasty mechanical mechanisms, tape heads and best of all, backroom modifications. Profiler runs on a Windows-based PC. The minimum PC specs are a Pentium-II/400MHz PC (or better) running Windows 2000 or Windows XP Professional with 128MB RAM and an open PCI expansion slot for the

included balanced-I/O audio card. It requires 5MB of hard drive space for the system files. A minimum of 30GB free space is suggested for audio storage. The playback software requires a Pentium-class PC, 64MB RAM, Windows 95 or better and 5MB of hard drive space. Telos includes a 5V PCI card, so don't plan on running it on the newer 1RU computers that feature the 3.3V PCI slots.

The benefits of the Profiler system are abundant. All audio is collected in the form of 15-minute chunks; these files can easily be transported via the LAN, USB memory drives or CD/RW. Copying these types of files happens at many times normal speed and you can easily fit several hours on a single CD.

Profiler uses Fraunhofer MP3 compression so the files it creates are of respectable quality and can easily be imported into editing programs such as ProTools or Audition. We even re-air them in our weekend "best of" compilations.

Another feature of the Profiler system is its ability to act as a logger when the mic is closed and a skimmer when it is opened. The system will automatically increase the encoded bit-rate when it detects a contact closure so that live segments are captured in higher quality than the recorded programming—or the opposite, if you prefer.

## **Good housekeeping**

Profiler keeps tabs on disk space and continually knocks the oldest element off to make space for the new ones. If you prefer, you could have a program such as Retrospect archive the files to an alternate location and keep an infinite history. Because each file is time stamped with the date and time, simple file copying will create a somewhat organized archive. Furtherorganization is provided by way of folders that contain each day's audio. Any more organization would be manual or a function of the backup software you choose.

Experience to date with Profiler has shown more ups than downs. On the positive, the Profiler will continue to run without user intervention or maintenance. I'm archiving three streams at the 160kb/s 44.1kHz sample rate on two separate 1RU server-class machines. One of these machines has two Profiler cards and is responsible for two

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The server software configures the various recording streams.

of the three stations we serve, the other has just one. Each card can be used in a dualmono format so that this same hardware could be configured to archive six mono streams if I desired.

While reasonably well thought out and easy to use, we have experienced several crashes and some slow response times with Telos' client side software. Further investigation is needed to pinpoint the problem exactly as the circumstances surrounding the crashes are unclear. I'm in favor of building a Web access system into the Profiler server software. This would allow jocks to review their air checks from home, programming personnel to acquire air checks for clients and PDs to review performances remotely. Telos would also do well to include a simple burn-to-CD feature that would make Profiler more accessible to the less computer savvy among us. I've found little use for the app that streams live audio over the network, though some engineers might and it sounds quite good. It can be configured for a different bit-rate than the archive so you can balance sound quality vs. network bandwidth according to your needs.

## **Extra credit**

One hidden benefit of 24/7 logging is that it aids in troubleshooting. When someone reports an issue related to something that was on the air, all that is needed is the approximate date and time of the

## Telos Systems

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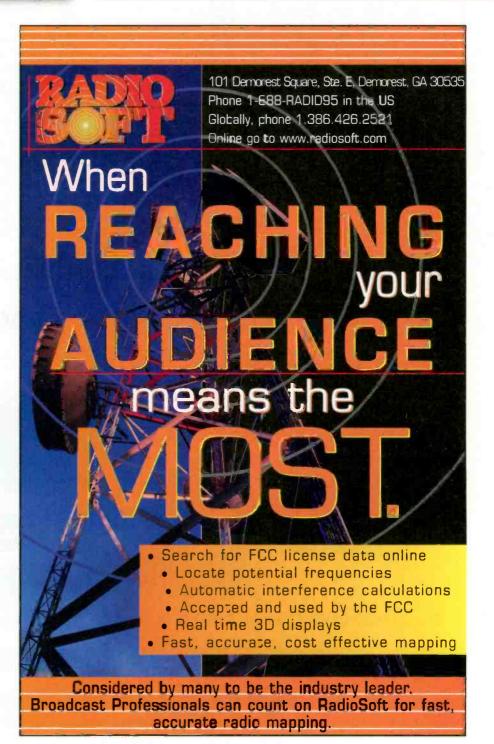
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occurrence in order to review the affected audio. It actually helped us find a faulty fiber optic card in our distribution system by allowing me to hear what the reported static sounded like.

Telos uses a proprietary PCI audio card with a Crystal Fusion engine. Contact closures are sensed using a game port on that same PCI card. Telos documentation shows several pins on the port linked, but it is unclear as to whether the pins are already linked on the card or must be linked by the user. A



## Field Report

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suggestion would be to use an off-the-shelf audio board such as the Creative Labs Sound Blaster Live. That card maintains the needed game port but provides widespread driver support and the ease of simply picking one up at a local computer retailer.

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The archive player software provides an interface to review archived audio elements.

Software security could be provided by use of a USB dongle or a software authentication system. In this way, future host PC technology could be more easily accommodated.

You can also create archives by daypart so that each talents show can be saved in a different shared folder on the network and security can be assigned accordingly. This

would allow each talent access to only their audio. An e-mail feature would also be handy—each daypart could be sent to the inbox of the appropriate person at a reduced bit rate for review upon returning home. A slow-acting AGC would be helpful too, for those of us that wish to re-air Profiler audio and don't want to record the heavily processed air signal.

Whether it's to provide an affidavit for a client or fodder for station improvements, we are quickly finding the Profiler to be indispensable.

Kernen is chief engineer of Greater Media Detroit.

Editor's note: Field Reports are an exclusive Radio magazine feature for radio broadcasters. Each report is prepared by well-qualified staff at a radio station, production facility or consulting company.

These reports are performed by the industry, for the industry. Manufacturer support is limited to providing loan equipment and to aiding the author if requested.

It is the responsibility of Radio magazine to publish the results of any device tested, positive or negative. No report should be considered an endorsement or disapproval by Radio magazine.





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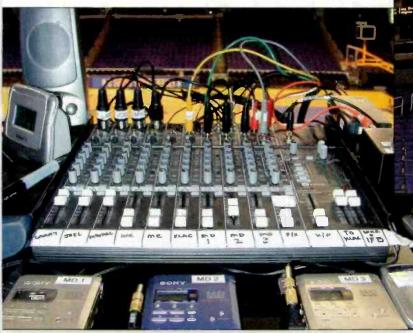
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## Lakers Radio KLAC



The remote setup at the Staples Center.

main ac power was accidentally cut off during the pre-game show. Now, the UPS provides a 15-minute power reserve in case of unexpected outages.

Even after a season of broadcasts, Dooley keeps busy with pre-game set up and monitoring during the game, however, it's the end of the night that really tests his skill.

"The 20 minutes after the last buzzer goes off is the most intense 20 minutes of my week," said Dooley. That is when he is running a post-game show, switching between the locker room and post game press conferences and feeding tape back to the station, all at the same time.

**RESEARCH INC.** 



The Chick Hearn Broadcast Position at Staples Center.

#### The venue

Opening Oct. 20, 1999, the Staples Center in Los Angeles was designed with broadcasters in mind. Planned to be a state of the art venue when it opened, the building houses 3.87 million feet of broadcast cable, 141,000 feet of fiber, and 500 phone lines.

"This is a high-profile building doing high-profile events, so we wanted it to be media friendly," said Steve Thrap, director of broadcast services at the Staples Center.

The only arena in the country with its own full-time broadcast department, the Staples center has 69 media panels throughout the building, linking all the common locations for camera and radio positions. All panels route to the main patch room where there are nearly 11,000 terminations for audio and video. The centralized location allows Thrap and his engineers to route the audio anywhere in the building. Old fashioned, copper patch cords provide the connections between the locations.

"Copper works, but if it doesn't we can route around it until we get it fixed," said Thrap.

Other arenas and stadiums have internal cabling, but it can be up to engineers to plug in themselves. Staples Center keeps computer records of every visiting team and network's preferences.

"They tell us they are coming and we set it up for them ahead of

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Audio patch panels in patch room of the Staples Center, wired for a radio broadcast of the WNBA Sparks.

time" said Thrap. During the NBA finals as many as seven radio broadcasts can come out of the arena at once. "It's a snap for them to just plug and play," said Thrap.

#### The studio

In May 2004, KLAC, part of Clear Channel Radio, Los Angeles moved to new studios in Burbank. John Paoli, chief engineer of KFI, KXTA and KLAC, coordinated the move. (Read the Facility Showcase on Clear Channel LA in the May 2004 issue of *Radio* magazine.)

The Lakers signal from the Staples Center comes into the studio across the ISDN lines and NBA-provided codecs. The codecs are programmed as a local source in the studio, but can be brought in to the Harris Vistamax router, allowing them to be routed to any room in the building. Presaved sessions on the Harris BMXD allow the console to recall settings for a variety of shows, taking only seconds to set the console for a Lakers game.

In addition to the signal from the arena, a third ISDN line is used to send a signal to Skyview Satellite Services in Arizona, which uplinks the broadcast for the Lakers Radio Network.

Frank Polak, who began producing the Lakers radio broadcasts 25 seasons ago, works out of a studio and office combination. During the games, the broadcasts originate from

Polak's studio while the main KLAC air studio is used as a voice booth. Polak controls all the production elements across a dual-screen Prophet automation system and a talkback system keeps him in touch with the announce team at the arena. Three feeds leave the Lakers' studio, one to the transmitter, the second to the network and the third returns to the arena.

While KLAC is home to the Lakers from October to June, come summer, they don't just leave on vacation. That is when they switch to coverage of the WNBA Los Angeles Sparks broadcasts, following the same process and using the same systems honed for the Lakers.

Snyder is a consultant based in Los Angeles, CA. Photos provided by Mike Dooley, John Paoli and Stephanie Snyder.



# Sacred Heart Radio

# Catholic Radio on a Successful Mission

by Allen J. Singer

Ever since the earliest years of radio broadcasting, even when radio was still in its infancy, religious messages have been available somewhere on the dial. Whether from a dynamic preacher shouting from the pulpit or a more sedate call-in talk show, radio has enabled the spiritual word to be available to listeners all over the world. In the United States alone, listeners have a choice of more than 1.500 stations.

For those who follow the Catholic

For those who follow the Catholic faith, however, the choices are somewhat limited. About 60 Catholic radio stations dot the airwaves from Cincinnati to Houston. Some of these stations operate out of back rooms of the owners' homes, rebroadcasting EWTN satellite radio. EWTN provides 24-hour Catholic programming for its affiliates: daily Masses, teaching programs, prayers and a variety of call-in talk shows.

Several of the affiliates are run by people who have never worked in broadcasting before. These devoted Catholics believe they were "called in faith" to deliver Catholic teachings over the radio, and their stations are supported by donations and underwriting. It is unusual for a station owner to have broadcasting experi-

ence, and even more unusual for the affiliate to offer local programming in addition to the satellite rebroadcast.

Sacred Heart Radio,WNOP 740 AM, in Cincinnati breaks that mold. This station is operated by Bill Levitt, a former radio imaging announcer, production director and general manager, with more than 30 years of broadcasting experience. Known as John Bogart on the air, Levitt nearly single-handedly runs his radio station, delivering 24 hours of programming to Cincinnati's 550,000 Catholic population, as well as streaming online at www.sacredheartradio.com.

Sacred Heart Radio is unlike most Catholic radio stations. Levitt fills several hours a week with locally produced programs including PSAs, promos, half-hour and full hour discussion shows and interviews, and various seasonal specials. Local bishops, priests and deacons are invited to share their viewpoints on various religion-oriented issues and other current topics. Most importantly, the station relies 100 percent on listener support; there is no underwriting on Sacred Heart Radio. The station is located at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, OH, a former seminary turned retreat center and public worship house. The Holy Spirit Center contains meeting halls, offices, dorm rooms and three chapels, with one that can hold more than 500 people. It is here that Sacred Heart Radio has found its home.

Before Catholic programming was introduced on 740 AM in 2001, WNOP broadcast jazz to a small, dedicated audience in Cincinnati. WNOP entered the airwaves in 1948 and over the years became a radio legend in the ears of jazz listeners, and in the eyes of many curious Cincinnatians. Its studios were housed in various locations around Cincinnati, including floating on a small barge (the Jazz Ark) on the Ohio River, playing records while the turntable bobbed up and down. After staying unprofitable for so long, in 1992, the station went to an all-CNN news format, and in 1994 went back to jazz, this time through local marketing agreements. Through the 1990s, revenues had increased at miniscule amounts, and the



The Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, OH, a community that is part of the Cincinnati metro area, houses the studios of WNOP.

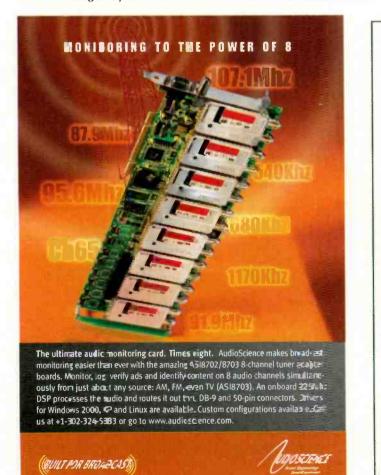


## Sacred Heart Radio

owner wanted to sell this money-loser. Many potential buyers made offers, promising to keep a jazz format, but the deals always fell through. In 2000 a local Catholic group put in a bid of \$550,000 and followed through with a check, paid completely through donations.



The unassuming lobby of WNOP welcomes visitors to the station.



The board of directors hired Bill Levitt, who located Sacred Heart radio into a former audio production studio in an old office building in Covington, KY. On Jan. 1,2001, Sacred Heart Radio went on the air broadcasting EWTN mixed with some locally produced material. In the first recorded announcement, Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk welcomed Sacred Heart Radio as Greater Cincin-

> nati's Catholic radio station. Levitt installed a BSI Wavestation to maintain the 24-hour program as he tended to the duties of running the operation. He soon hired a part-time office manager to handle the fundraising and other bookkeeping.

> Since its inception, Sacred Heart Radio has existed solely on donations by listeners, many of whom are on fixed incomes. These small donations add up and help keep the monthly \$15,000 budget on track. It boils down to a \$20 hourly cost to operate the station, and Sacred Heart Radio always has enough money. It is a 5013C company, non-profit, tax exempt and successful in its mission.

#### **Time for change**

Satisfied that the radio station would stay on steady financial footing, Levitt decided to move the station to a new facility. He and the Board of Directors chose some office space in the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood. This old seminary provided the perfect atmosphere to host a Catholic radio station. A location was chosen in the building and blueprints were drawn. Construction required gutting the chosen section and constructing new offices and studios.

## **New!** FM Explorer Online Visual Allocation Tool

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Contractors began their work in October 2002. After the studs went up,the engineer ran wires between the studios,terminating to custommade XLR panels for mic and headphone inputs. Microphones installed in the chapel are mixed down in the station's control room and fed live on the air.

The board estimated that \$50,000 would be required to build the new facility. The Holy Spirit Center donated \$20,000, and on-air solicitation brought more than \$15,000 for construction. An additional \$15,000 was raised to cover equipment costs. After just a few months of construction, Sacred Heart Radio was on the air.

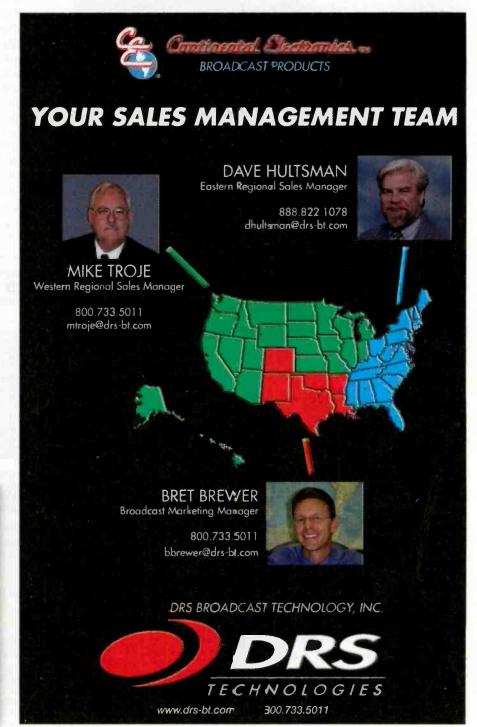
The new facility consisted of three studios, a lobby, two offices and

storage. The main control room receives audio from EWTN Satellite Radio, brought to the station via a pair of 15KHz phone lines from the receiver at the transmitter site. Audio is routed through the air chain into the BSI Simian (which replaced the Wavestation months before), and also into the console. Simian records various EWTN shows throughout the day: both live satellite and Simian feed the console. Final audio is fed into an Aphex Compeller 320D, which helps level audio coming from two different sources-the Simian and the satellite. The Compeller was chosen for its digital inputs and outputs, for potential future conversion. A pair of 15KHz phone lines carry the audio back to the transmitter site to an Optimod 9200.

On one side of the control room is a talk/ interview room containing four microphones. On the other side of the control room is the production studio where Levitt records his promos, IDs and various announcements. Protools is used for all production, as well as a CD library of sound effects and music. Levitt uses the latest technology to help run his station: the remote control software Radman can connect him from any computer in the country via the Internet. A lot of scheduling and maintenance is performed from the computer at Levitt's home.

**Equipment List** 

AKG K240 Studio headphones Aphex Compellor 320D BSI Simian DBX 2031 EQ DBX 266XL compressors DBX 286A mic processor Digidesign Protools Event Project Studio 5 speakers Gorman-Redlich EAS Mackie SR 24-4 Mackie VLZ 1202 Orban 9200 Shure SM-7B mics. Tascam CD-A500 CD/cassette deck A Windows XP Professional network links the six computers at Sacred Heart Radio. The BSI Simian computer, which contains five hot swappable SCSI drives, is the main network server. The production rooms contain three workstations, all of which use Protools, and are used for scheduling and graphic design for station newsletters. One computer is dedicated to running the webcast, and one other is used for correspondence with the benefactors. A final one is plugged into the network and is intended as a backup.



## Sacred Heart Radio

Levitt runs the station by himself, with part-time help from the engineer and an office manager. Simian keeps the station automated 24 hours, and Levitt continues to produce and air local material mixed with EWTN's programming, broadcasting at a 1,000W daytime, and 30W nighttime. A Canadian station plagues Sacred Heart's nighttime signal,



Bill Levitt in the control room taking care of the day's business.

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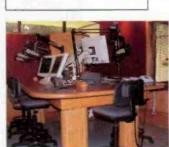
and at 30W, it can be difficult to receive the station depending on the part of town the listener is in.

Levitt is addressing this issue, which has been problematic for many years. He hired the engineering firm Khanna and Guill to conduct studies on how they could increase their daytime power. On-air solicitations ask listeners to help support this new—and expensive—venture, and donations arrive daily to help pay for the

> upgrade to 2.5kW. After completion, and the purchase of a new transmitter among other equipment, the station's listening area will expand east, west and south, increasing listenership while completely protecting the Canadian station.

> Sacred Heart Radio is unique. It is a stark reminder to the broadcasting community that without listeners, the station cannot exist, unlike the popular thinking among the large radio conglomerates. Catholic listeners appreciate Sacred Heart Radio for its national and local content, and Bill Levitt delivers a good product with professional voicework and production. The end result is a station that stays interesting and informative, a standout from other faith-based radio stations. And although the fans of the old WNOP sorely miss their jazz music and favorite personalities, a new, even larger and more dedicated audience has embraced this station, continually supporting it, and bringing the Catholic message into their homes 24 hours a day.

> Singer is a freelance writer and former radio engineer based in Cincinnati.



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# **NAB Radio Product Preview**

#### By Kari Taylor, associate editor

#### On-air control surface Wheatstone Booth 500

Generation 8: This control surface offers four faders dedicated to call-in segments to provide an interface to four callers or remotes, each with independent caller feed, independent fader feed, userselectable talkback communication and adjacent channel linking. A dedicated LCD display screen keeps the operator informed and in control. One CAT-5 wire conveys all the control from this surface to Wheatstone's Bridge Router.



Any system audio source (inputs or mixes) is available to any console fader or monitor pot (source visibility software controlled). Set destinations for mixes, aux sends and mixmunis feeds to anywhere in the facility. The surface can store and name switch and fader settings for each opera-

tor's task and recall them by spinning an encoder and hitting a take button. 252-638-7000; fax 252-637-1285 www.wheatstone.com; sales@wheatstone.com

#### Modular automation system Prophet Systems Booth 709

**Nexgen 101:** The software runs a single radio station and is based on the Nexgen software. Users buy only what they need, and add features as the station grows or the budget allows. Start with the core software, which includes the ability to process a log, then add modules to grow the system functionality as needs change.

800-658-4403; fax 308-284-4181; www.prophetsys.com; sales@prophetsys.com

#### Audio control surface Sierra Automated Systems Booth 812

Rubicon: A standalone control surface, the Rubicon integrates into the SAS 32KD digital audio network for mixing, switching, level control and effects.

Modular, customizable and fully programmable, this control surface is for a medium- or large- market facility. Each module features four program bus assignments and four effects/auxilliary sends. AVU/Peak LED meter bridge with a clock and a timer or a VGA monitor show metering.

> 818-840-6749; fax 818-840-6751 www.sasaudio.com; sales@sasaudio.com

#### **RF** components dealer



## RF Parts Booth 1312

Online catalog: A worldwide distributor for 34 years, RF Parts has released an expansion of its online catalog at www.rfparts.com.

The catalog provides a listing of product information, product applications and product ordering with the company's secure ordering system. The catalog lists a complete line of power tubes for broadcast, industrial and communications, including Eimac, Amperex, Taylor, Svetlana, RFP and Econco brands along with a full range of sockets through 20kW.

800-737-2787; fax 760-744-1943; www.rfparts.com; rfp@rfparts.com

#### FM antenna for IBOC ERI-Electronics Research Booth 700

Dual-feed IBOC antenna: This dual-input, side-mounted FM antenna is designed for FM IBOC applications and is capable of transmitting the analog and digital FM signals without requiring a high loss hybrid combiner or the use of a circulator to attain the required isolation between the digital and analog transmitters. The antenna is a dual-input antenna design that excites all radiating elements with analog and digital signals. The antenna allows the use of a single antenna while eliminating the combining loss as is present in the 10dB hybrid combining method and it is able to achieve 1.05:1 VSWR for analog and digital inputs. It can achieve in excess of 30dB isolation between analog and digital inputs without using an isolator/circulator.

812-925-6000; fax 812-925-4030; www.ERlinc.com; sales@ERlinc.com

#### Scott Studios Booth 705

Voice Tracker: This system allows jocks to record air shifts from anywhere with an Internet connection, Windowscomputer and microphone. When used



with Scott's SS32, times and current temperatures can air. Voice Tracker via Internet requires an Internet music server at the station to send compressed song heads and tails, in WMA format, to the announcer's headphones. It can automatically virus scan and place the recorded voice tracks in the air studio. Stations choose how many songs per hour an announcer is allowed to change for timing, or whether he must follow the log exactly.

800-SCOTT-77; fax 972-620-8811 www.scottstudios.com: info@scottstudios.com

#### Internet voice tracker

#### Digital STL/TSL system Moseley Associates Booth 1404

Starlink 9003T1: This digital STL/TSL system for T1 circuits features new LAN connectivity for transmitting Ethernet to and from the transmitter site to support datacasting for HD Radio and RDS song title and artist data. A new six-port multiplexer and built-in CSU allows combining of these

data channels with the program audio for direct connection to a T1 circuit making external interfac-



ing equipment unnecessary. This system allows stations to transition the STL portion of their air chains to digital for IBOC. The T1 unit transports linear uncompressed stereo program channels at either 44.1 or 32kHz digital sample rates. Both AES/EBU digital and analog inputs and outputs and a serial data channel are built into the system. The SL9003T1 combines program audio with voice channels for telephones and data channels for communications and control for bidirectional transport over a single digital T1/E1 line, microwave radio or license-free 5.8GHz link.

805-968-9621; fax 805-685-9638

#### RF station monitor Coaxial Dynamics Booth 1502

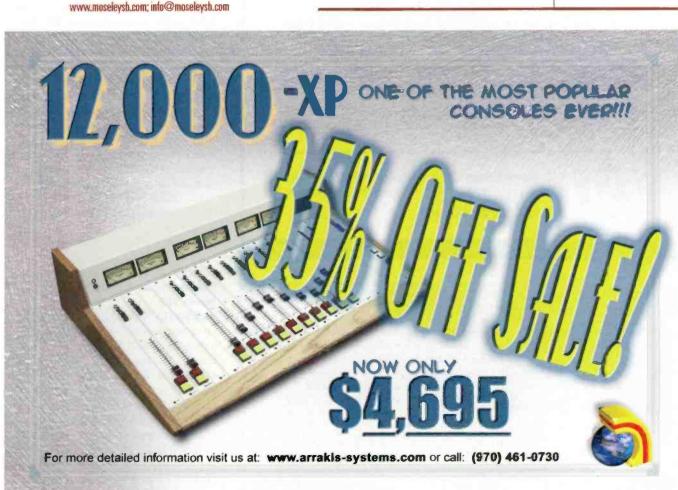
**81095:** This microprocessor-controlled, rack-mounted Watchman monitor/alarm measures and displays forward and reflected power simultaneously in 50 $\Omega$  transmission systems. Using LCD displays, it also provides direct reading of VSWR. It is compatible with the company's series of 7/8" to 61/8" line sections and will accept elements from less than 5W to 100kW full scale from 2MHz to 2.3GHz. Installation consists of the Watchman, a dual-socket line section and two elements for monitoring. The Watchman is supplied with two 25'

dc cable ass e m b l i es for connection to the line section and a 6' ac



power cord. An audible single tone alarm will indicate a system/transmitter malfunction. Relay contacts are provided for remote alarm and reset switching.

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## **NAB Radio Product Preview**

## **RBDS** encoder **Burk Technology** Booth 1505

RDS Master: Audemat-Aztec and Burk

RURE . ........... Technology have introduced an RDS encoder powered by Audemat-Aztec's FMB80. The FMB80 is capable of scrolling song titles and artist information on any kind of RDS receiver using the scrolling PS feature. Communication with the automation software and configuration are simplified with serial and TCP/IP ports. The FMB80 has an embedded Web server and supports HTTP, TELNET, UDP and TCP protocols. Firmware

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#### transmitter



**Booth 1410** J1000: The Jazz J1000 is a 1kWAM transmitter in a 19" rack mount package. It uses direct digital synthesis (DDS) technology

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to produce logic-level RF drive and modulation encoding. Ultra linear extended band performance supports HD Radio and DRM digital transmission formats. Control and monitoring is provided through a software-driven 240 x 64 graphic LCD display in conjunction with a diagnostic flow diagram. The redundant modular design has two complete and independent 500W wideband power modules comprising high efficiency RF amplifier, modulator, switch mode power supply and integral ventilation fan. The transmitter has provisions for six preset RF power levels.

207-947-8200; fax 207-947-3693 www.nautel.com: info@nautel.com

#### **50kW AM transmitter Broadcast Electronics** Booth 702

4MX 50: The 50kW AM transmitter is based on a patent-pending modulation design and is about half the size of comparable models. The transmitter is IBOC and DRM compatible. Notable features include PA modules that can be accessed from the front of the transmitter, lift-off rear panels to provide access to power supplies and all ac connections, nighttime power capability as low as 250W, 15" XGA GUI for operation and diagnostics that are also available via IP, and power factor greater than 0.98.

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## **NAB Radio Product Preview**

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#### Digital console Radio Systems Booth 1110

Millenium Digital: This console provides analog or digital inputs on every channel, 32-bit resolution, sample rate conversion on every input and CRT companion metering/timer and set-up display. All the outputs are available in analog or AES/EBU digital format and the console offers 10 extra auxiliary output busses. The system also features 10 fully programmable mix-minus outputs and a serial RS-232 interface. 856-467-8000; fax 856-467-3044; www.radiosystems.com; sales@radiosystems.com

#### Field strength meter Audemat-Aztec Booth 1710

Navigator 007: This portable FM field strength meter offers built-in modulation metering, stereo pilot monitor and RBDS monitor.It is delivered with an external GPS



receiver for mobile RF survey on a single FM station. While driving, RF readings and GPS coordinates are recorded on a laptop. After the campaign, results can be viewed as a text file or can be exported to mapping or predictive software. The unit is accessed with any terminal program software. The unit includes a carrying case, with 115/ 230Vac power supply and vehicle power supply.

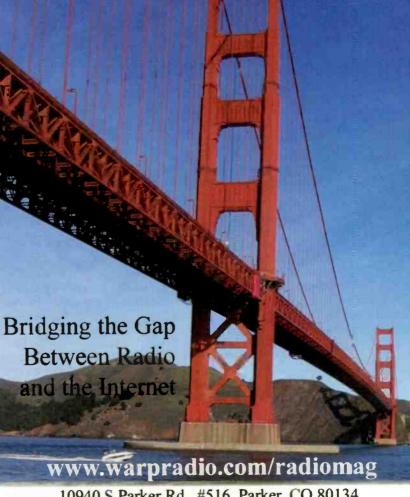
305-692-7555; fax 305-682-2233 www.audemat-aztec.com; contact@audemat-aztec.com

## Solid-state FM transmitters DRS

## Broadcast Technology Booth 1306

Continental 815D5 and 815HD5: The new line of FM solid-state transmitters, beginning with the 815D5 and the 815HD5, is a 5kW solid state FM line with an RF combining and splitting system designed to withstand as much as three times its operating RF requirements to ensure long-term, reliable service in harsh and often time abusive loads. This transmitter line wields a unique combiner system that ensures that the most RF possible gets to the output in the event of single or multiple amplifier module failure. The 815 series includes 24.5" (12RU) of user-available 19" wide rack space and built in ancillary equipment power outlets. This area is located in a non-interlocked area and accessible from the front or rear.

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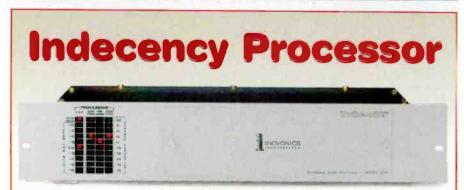
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savings in electricity and maintenance costs over an older transmitter ...and as a bonus they get exceptional reliability and that major market sound for free.

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No, this product doesn't remove naughty words, but if you do run a profanity delay or simply have a buildup of digital latency, talent can't listen to the processed air signal. Instead, their feed is probably direct from the console. Compared to the air sound, this can seem weak, dull and lifeless.

Our Model 255 Triband Spectral Loading<sup>™</sup> processor has zero delay and can deliver a dense, tight, and punchy 'broadcast' sound to headphones and control room speakers... a sound you can't achieve with a general-purpose "utility compressor." Other 255 applications include the program feed to telephone hybrids and IFB processing.

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Model 255 - \$2100

Visit www.inovon.com for full technical details

## **NAB** Radio

Audio engine and consoles Logitek Booth 100



Digital console enhancements: Several enhancements have been introduced for the Logitek digital consoles including a twostage talk show delay, silence-sense capability, EQ and dynamics processing, input metering on every fader and compression metering on faders where activated. The Optical STL is available as part of the Logitek Audio Engine and offers 64 channels of bidirectional audio to be sent as far as 10 miles without data loss or compression. The system also provides intercom functionality that can operate as a stand-alone system or as part of a Logitek digital console. Other enhancements include a full X-Y router, mixed analog and digital I/O, multiple mixminusbuses, IP and multisite operation, and physical and virtual controllers.

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#### Surge suppressor Superior Electric Booth 303

Stabiline TB1: The unit protects against damaging electrical disturbances, high frequency noise and high energy disturbances. Available in two sizes: 20A/ 45kA or 40A/65kA ratings. TB1 models use metal



oxide varistors in parallel arrays placed at the input and

output to protect critical

loads from high-energy transient damage. They also use UL-recognized inductors and X and Y capacitors to filter errorproducing high-frequency noise. Singlephase 120,220 and 277Vac types provide three modes of protection. Split-phase 120/240 and two of three phase types provide six modes of protection.

800-787-3532; fax 860-582-3784 www.superiorelectric.com; info@superiorelectric.com

## **Product Preview**

#### Production music Westar Music Booth 203

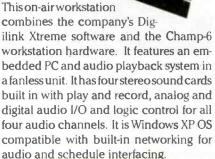
Music library: This company provides production music for broadcast, corporate video and multimedia use. Westar offers production library music in seven primary categories: Sports and Corporate; Rock,Dance and Pop;Jazz and Blues;Easy Listening; Country and Western; Drama and Film Scores;and Specialty Music. Within each category are many music genres and



styles. The website also offers resources to play audio demos for every CD and order a copy of a demo package, get a listing of the complete contents of its audio demo by CD number, track and title view its CD master list in order by CD number, and use the electronic cue sheet templates and music reporting information.

866-463-0100; fax 905-886-6800 www.westarmusic.com info@westarmusic.com

Stand-alone automation system Arrakis Booth 606



970-461-0730; fax 970-663-1010 www.arrakis-systems.com sales@arrakis-systems.com



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## **NAB Radio Product Preview**

#### **Studio telephone**

access center Comrex

**Booth 1005** 

STAC6 and STAC12: These Studio Telephone Access Centers (STAC) for listener lines, talk shows and call-in segments in-



corporate two digital telephone hybrids handling up to four callers. It is offered in six and 12 phone line versions with the ability to upgrade in the field. The accompanying con-

trol surface supports unique producer and screener configurations. IP-based call screening and control is embedded, enabling operation from almost anywhere. Other unique features include auto-attendant and support of as many as four control surfaces.

800-237-1776; fax 978-784-1717 www.comrex.com; info@comrex.com





Optimod-FM 2300: Key new features of this processor include stereo enhancement, built-in Ethernet and RS232 serial connectivity, full-featured remote control through any Windows 2000 or XP PC, standard AES/EBU digital input/output,Orban's half-cosine interpolation composite limiter and a multiplex power controller for countries required to meet the ITU-R BS412 standard. The 2300 is targeted to small- and medium-market broadcasters as well as non-commercial and educational broadcasters. Supplied in a compact, 1RU chassis, the processor offers a processing chain that includes a stereo enhancer, AGC, equalizer, program-adaptive high frequency enhancer, twoband compressor/limiter, distortion-canceling clipper, overshoot compensator and stereo encoder with composite limiting. The main clippers and overshoot compensator operate at 256kHz sample rate and are anti-aliased. 510-351-3500; fax 510-351-0500; www.orban.com; custserv@orban.com

#### Radio automation system D.A.V.I.D. Booth 1512

Digasystem Latitude Edition: The Latitude Edition is a scalable platform with network capabilities designed for the demands of small to medium-size broadcasters. The basic

version consists of three complete preconfigured workstations and a server with all of the software modules required forediting, organizing, scheduling and playing programming. Latitude can be upgraded by 20 options to add and customize additional features such as Web applications, automation, file transfer or import modules for a wide range of applications. Expansion with additional workstations or an update to the full version of a Digasystem installation is possible at any time.

703-396-4900; fax 703-396-4939 www.digasystem.com; info@digasystem.com

Digital FM processor Inovonics Booth 302



Omega\_FM: A largely software-based digital on-air processor/generator, Omega\_FM offers a short and direct program signal path that keeps latency at a minimum. The user interface includes a no-menu front panel setup that suits a variety of applications, or allows any PC to be connected for control over all processing parameters.

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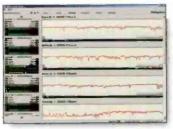
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www.broadcastregs.pf.com 1-800-255-8131 ext. 248



Pike & Fischer, Inc. 1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 1400 Silver Spring, MD 20910

#### **Digital logging device**



#### Mediatouch Booth 613

Imedia Logger: Ideal for time shifting, delayed broadcast, logging or skimming, this software can auto record without spots. This program can

record 12 audio sources simultaneously, and each workstation can record 12 stereo sources at the same time. Users can record four streams from each audio source using multiple compression formats and recording qualities. This system uses MPEG 1 Layer 1, 2 and 3, PCM, Windows Media Audio and Real Audio files.

888-665-0501; fax 204-783-5805; www.mediatouch.net; omt@omt.net

#### Data importer, exporter Harris Booth 902

Flexstar HDI-100 and HDE-100: The Flexstar HDI-100 data importer and HDE-100 program exporter can broadcast supplemental audio and implement data services, maximizing available bandwidth within the transmission chain. The HDE-100 exporter multiplexes the data leaving the importer with a station main program channel and feeds all the data as one bandwidth-efficient bit stream to an IBOC exciter.

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## **NAB Radio Product Preview**

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Desk surface Omnirax Booth 1707

Presto: The desk surface of this product is wide enough for large keyboard controllers, control surfaces or smaller mixers, while providing eight rack spaces in two bays within easy reach. The shelf above the rack spac-

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## **NAB Radio Product Preview**

#### **Online legal reference** Pike & Fischer Booth 101

Web services: A subsidiary of The Bureau of National Affairs, this company has launched three legal reference services on the Web for cable, broadcasting and wireless professionals. The services, Cable TV Regulation, Broadcast Regulation and Wireless Telecommunications Regulation, offer subscribers desktop access to current FCC rules and regulatory information critical for industry compliance. Communications executives can quickly access current and proposed rules as well as all regulatory mandates issued by the FCC.

800-255-8131; fax 301-562-1521 www.pf.com; pike@pf.com

## **Call-in guick dialing** RCS

## Booth 106

vw.beradio.com

SMS short codes: The SMS short code 22022 and other short codes open a new avenue of messaging to and from radio station listeners. The codes allow a simple way to get instant input from the thousands of mobile phone users. The CSCA initiative of late 2003 was an agreement among the major telephone service providers in the United States to follow a common short code five-digit standard for allocating numbers across all carriers. This means broadcast contesting can be set for all mobile phones instead of just one carrier.

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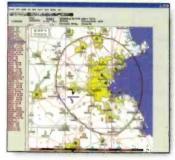
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FM Commander: The program uses a new mapping engine compatible with V-Soft's Probe 3 and AM-Pro polygon-based mapping databases. Some of the new features include the ability to automatically design directional antenna

patterns with one click of the mouse, the ability to overlay population centroids, airports, towers and AM stations. interactive labeling and terrain profile graphing. The USGS National Elevation Dataset (NED) 30-meter database can be used with Probe 3, Terrain-3D and Plot Path.

> 800-743-3684; fax 319-266-9212 www.v-soft.com: info@v-soft.com

# **Reader Feedback**

## The fall convention solution

have read several comments in trade publications that advocate making changes to the location or structure of the Radio/Audio hall at the Spring NAB convention in Las Vegas. One credible idea came from Neil Glassman.

While I understand and appreciate what Neil wants to accomplish by moving the Radio/Audio (R/A) Hall into what is now the South Hall, I feel that it is a bandage on a hemorrhage.

When the R/A section was located in the South Hall, many exhibitors in the R/A section complained that it was not big enough to efficiently house all of the vendors who wanted to exhibit there.

In time, the R/A section was bounced around the convention center and even reduced in size—despite the desire of more R/A manufactures wanting to exhibit—because of the demands of the large TV exhibitors.

We complained to deaf ears. It was obvious that those with the gold would rule this show; the gold of the huge prices the TV folks were willing to pay.

More often than not, small R/A companies were pushed into the fringes and found themselves like desert islands, drowning in an ocean of huge TV displays, being passed by the masses of TV attendees marching through. Foot traffic yes; foot traffic of quality.no!

## **Dealing with the problem**

While it is an option to take a space equal in size to the present R/A hall in the middle of the South Hall as Neil suggests, the move would most likely alienate the NAB's largest exhibitors. It would force some out of the TV conclave and into the North Hall. And the change wouldn't solve the R/A

Hall problem. We would continue to bleed



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## **Reader Feedback**

comments?

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as the R/A-related domestic attendance continues to shrink.

There would be no room to grow, with again the great potential to be shrunk back to the North Hall or drowned by the huge TV exhibits.

The NAB's Radio Committee needs to face the reality of the changing marketplace. They need to allow the convention department to eliminate the Fall Radio Show and consolidate it with the Spring Show making a single Radio Show a part of the spring convention.

Eliminating the fall show would infuse the R/A hall with more qualified attendees, as this would combine the large international attendee base of the spring show with all of the potential domestic radio attendees in Las Vegas.

The NAB would double the floor traffic in the R/A hall, which would help the R/A exhibitors not only justify the huge expense of attending the show, but it would also help the radio industry by getting the best and most creative minds together at one show. These opinions are my own and do not in any way reflect the position or opinion of my employer or fellow employees at Armstrong Transmitter.

> Ernie Belanger sales and marketing manager Armstrong Transmitter

## Watching big brother

Chriss' August Viewpoint on logging requirements takes us down another slippery slope. During Watergate President Nixon believed the tapes would exonerate him, but instead had the opposite effect.

I believe it places a burden on some if not all broadcasters who will (if enacted) have to maintain another function of their broadcast outlet.

If it's a violation of community indecency values, let the petitions begin. Maybe the recordings would justify a broadcaster's position, but why would it allow such an incriminating device in a case. Public outcry over the incidency at last year's Super Bowl showed the indignation of viewers. Radio has the same watch dog.

Our satellite friends at XM and Sirius have a loophole because they are not affected by the potential rulemaking. Case in point: Opie and Anthony begin on XM in October.

> Dick Tyler retired ABC Radio network engineer Burlington, NJ

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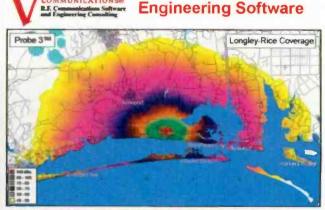
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## **Contributor Pro-file**

Meet the professionals who write for *Radio* magazine. This month: Managing Technology, page 10.



Kevin McNamara President **Applied Wireless** Elkins Park. PA

The technical consultant on management and computer technology, Mc-Namara has more than 30 years of

broadcast experience. He is the former director of engineering for the Beasely Broadcast Group, and he also held the positions of chief engineer at stations in Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, DC. His career has provided him with extensive broadcast facility design and construction experience. He has also presented papers at the NAB and NAB Radio conventions. He holds an Amateur Radio Advanced class license, he is a Certified Netware Engineer, and he is a member of the SBE and the IEEE.



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# Sign Off

BLEEPHINE 6

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By Kari Taylor, associate editor

## Do you remember?

With the active interest in on-air indecency, we looked through the archives and found an early entrant in the solid-state profanity delay arena. In 1982, the Comex Systems Bleepmate 675 profanity delay provided six seconds of 7.5kHz



bandwidth delay. The unity-gain device offered 72dB of dynamic range and selectable three-second or sixsecond delay modes. The unit was designed for

conventional rack mounting and required 2RU. Distortion was less than one percent THD at 0dBm output with a maximum output of +12dBm and a frequency response maintained within ±1dB out of 5kHz with the -3dB point at 7.5kHz.

## That was then

0

In this 1955 photo, Dick Brewer of WDLB-AM 1490 in Atlantic City,NJ,reads a commercial using an RCA 77-DX mic feeding an RCA BC-2B Consolette console. The WLDB studio was located on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Senator Hotel in Atlantic City,NJ.

Featured in a 1955 article in the *RCA Broadcast News*, the station was outfitted almost completely with RCA equipment.

The RCA BC-2B Consolette was designed for use in small stations. One outstanding feature of the console was the mic preamps, which RCA used in other equipment. The tube



preamp is still admired for its tonal qualities. The Consolette had eight pots and a master level control.

(CNA)

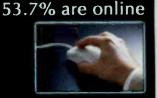
## Sample and Hold

## 70 percent of media users consume more than one medium at a time.



While listening to the radio:





46.9% are reading a newspaper

17.7% are watching T\

Source: www.Trendwatching.com



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