The first SSAIRAs produced some surprises and some predictable placings courtesy of the readership of Studio Sound.

The 104th AES Convention in Amsterdam saw the introduction of the results from Studio Sound's Audio Industry Recognition Awards—the SSAIRAs—at an exclusive presentation dinner held at The Grand Hotel. The SSAIRAs were instigated after numerous requests from Studio Sound to place its weight and integrity behind an independent awards scheme that would be judged by the magazine's qualified readership.

The SSAIRAs are a celebration of the unique relationship between Studio Sound and its readership—a relationship that now spans 40 years. To recap on the selection process, nominations were invited at the beginning of the year for 13 categories and everyone was free to nominate a product providing it shipped for the first time after the European AES in Munich last year and before the Amsterdam AES this year. Products that failed to ship within the allotted timescale may be renominated for next year's SSAIRAs.

Following the nominations, we progressed to the voting stage of the exercise with only readers, not manufacturer-associated personnel, qualifying to cast actual votes. To vote, readers had to quote their unique reader identification number from the label on their personal copy of the magazine. Because Studio Sound has a fully audited circulation, it was possible to weed out manufacturing-base infiltrators attempting to influence the results. Nonqualifying votes were commended and winning manufacturers will receive SSAIRAs logo artwork that they will be free to use on their letterheads and promotional material. There will be no official recognition of products that have been nominated because of the nature of the nomination process.

These are exclusive awards that aim to give praise only where praise is due.

The SSAIRAs logo represents official recognition by the world's leading audio title. By definition this readership is sophisticated and knowledgeable and judged purely as a market research exercise. The results of the SSAIRAs are as strong an indication as you can get of the type of products that end users want. Winners and commendations are all judged to be doing something right.

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**Large scale console**

Winner Soundtrac's DPCII

**Outboard equaliser**

Winner AMS Neve 1081C

Commended TL Audio EQ5013

**Medium–small console**

Winner Tascam TM-D8000

Commended Audio Developments AD149

**Outboard dynamics**

Winner Amek 9098 compression limiter

Commended Drawmer MX30

**Outboard reverb**

Winner tc electronic FireworK

**Outboard preamp**

Winner DACS MicAmp

Commended Martech MSS10

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