

INSIDE CI



Keeping his air miles ever on the up, our omnipresent industry Newcastle-escapee, DAVE 'Perpetual Motion' SLATER, brings us his cream of the custom install crop from over in Amsterdam...

The biggest show in the CI calendar has come and gone; *ISE 2013* promised to be an exciting show and it certainly delivered. With this being the 10th anniversary of *Integrated Systems Europe* we just knew it was going to be special. We like the show for two main reasons, it takes you only 45 minutes to fly from Heathrow to Schiphol airport and everybody who is anybody in this game is there. And the show certainly did not disappoint, with extra halls and all the different sectors grouped in a more logical way.

I like *ISE*, as most of the major manufacturers bring out fresh kit for the new season and it was no different this year – Wyrestorm had a great new amplifier, the Amp-001-010, which you can connect to your TV to give you great sound. This could then be controlled via the Wyrestorm network, making it a simple product that can do complex things, and we at DSE always tried to get a simple solution for TV installs which we fitted into furniture and which required outboard speakers to be connected, it even comes with a subwoofer out connection. Enado was another interesting product I cannot wait to get my hands on. In essence, it's a powerful and intuitive multi-platform control system comprising of server and Encoder hardware with browser based user interface that is very simply to program. It will control all your devices and Wyrestorm matrix with ease from iPads, iPhone or any other tablets out there. The software comes with a large database of IR and RS 232 codes.

Hall of the Matrix King

HDbaseT was the buzzword of Hall 5 with Wyrestorm, HD Connectivity and CYP all within HD-throwing distance of one another. HD Connectivity was proudly showing off their new British-made modular matrix and gorgeously machined Apple-style enclosures. Wyrestorm also had a modular version of their Pro range on show and CYP were showing off new matrixes with simplified EDID management and new Lite versions of their most popular matrixes. Taking their amplifier up one notch further, the new 2x 30W AU-A300 is compact in design and can integrate audio from a CYP matrix input, as well as other independent sources, and with the shift to internet ready TVs, this will be a great edition to your multi-room environment giving much needed improvement to TV speaker sound.

Moving further up the hall to the Sonance stand, I discovered their new range of outside speakers; we always struggle to get good sounding, discreet outside speakers, so this particularly caught my al fresco ear. Sonarray, as it is known, is an all-in-one package, with satellite speakers and subwoofer, all priced at around £2500 SRP. You get eight distinctive satellites and an 8-inch dual-coil underground subwoofer to add that all important bass to outside. The Sonarray SR1 speaker which incorporates a 3.5-inch anodised aluminium cone is discreet enough to lose under plants and foliage so the system will integrate in the garden design very easily without upsetting the Alan Titchmarsh types.

In the same hall were JBL Synthesis and Harmon with a demo cinema room to die for. The sound pressure from this setup was amazing with a scene from *Ratatouille* (*Warning: David Slater may contain spoilers – Ed*) where the old lady with the shotgun takes pot shots at *Ratatouille* still ringing in my ears one week later. Other sexy looking products on their stand were a new range of Revel speakers: the F208 is an 8-inch floor-stander, with the F206 being the smaller 6-inch. The F208 is priced at £5k per pair and comes in high gloss black and high gloss wood veneer, with the F206 adding high white gloss to the choice. All models are available now from Karma-AV in the UK.

A must-see stand to visit was Lutron where they displayed their new range of shades and blinds. Called 'Serena', RF controlled and powered by internal batteries lasting up to three years, the blinds can be added into a QS system with ease or independently controlled via iThings through Homeworks. One comment I always get back from installers, is on the ease of specification of Lutron products. It's a great way to sell – you get your sample books from Lutron, sit down with your client and sell the concept, then measure up, and 3-4 weeks later you take delivery of the blinds or shades. Retro fitting is a won



Lutron lights up the whole Dam place.



The crowds begin to 'clog' the aisles...

massive opportunity as no longer do you have to get power to the window. Get one foot through the door with blinds and curtain tracks, and the world of possibilities opens for AV and lighting.

Hall or Nothing

The challenge with *ISE* was getting around the vast show, but one hall I needed to visit was Hall 8 where Control4 and their partners were showing some neat kit. Extra Vegetables had a nifty new solution in a remote radiator valve which can be controlled via your Control4 system. This is a great cheap solution to controlling zoned heating systems that would normally cost you thousands to do. The eQ-3 MAX system enables intelligent control of radiator valves to provide a fully zoned retro-fitable heating system. The existing TRV valve heads are replaced with the wireless battery powered MAX! units in a matter of minutes. No plumber is required and the heating system does not need to be drained. The MAX! units then communicate wirelessly with the MAX! Cube which is connected to the home network. The Control4 driver then enables the MAX! system to be represented on the Control4 UIs as individual thermostats for each room. Set points, full scheduling, hold durations and even vacation modes can be set on either system making this a full two way solution.

There was so much more to see and with sneak peeks at Crestron with 64 x 64 matrixes and their new speaker range for the custom installer, I needed at least another week to catch up on all the stands; well there's always next year!



Kit & caboodle.



Hot stuff from Extra Vegetables.

Dave Slater is MD of DSE Group, incorporating DSE DIGITAL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

+44 (0)1914 914 141 dave@dsegroup.co.uk www.dsegroup.co.uk