



INSIDE CI



DAVE SLATER was in Amsterdam for *ISE* and the extensive selection on offer gave him lots to marvel at. Here is what really took his fancy in the halls of the RAI...

Well the biggest show of the year is over and what a show it was. Dressing in layers was certainly the theme as the bitter chill of Siberia had descended on the RAI in Amsterdam, but this was only outside as the technology on show inside the RAI was red hot. With attendance on the up again, you could tell this was going to be a very important show for the tech game. With CEDIA cancelling the *Home Technology Event* in London I was keen to make good use of my time here at *ISE*.

Throughout the different halls, it was clear that manufacturers and distributors were beavering away showing off new kit. I always find this show to carry weight when it comes to business- its business for breakfast, lunch and dinner and then it spills over to the bars.

Moving onto some of the stands I was keen to see some of the new kit that had been promised. Speakercraft were showing off their new RootS speakers, which are a high gloss Sub-Sat range of speakers which have already won a Home Cinema Choice best buy award, and you can instantly tell why, they sound really focused and detailed.

Made to measure

As with CES in Vegas, there was a raft of screens showing 4K and gorgeous looking OLED screens a plenty on the Sharp, Samsung and Panasonic stands. Panasonic commercial were showing the larger range of plasmas with some great 3D content. Now screens are only the end link of an install and equally important for a great picture is content and how it arrives at the screen so I was interested to see on the AMX stand their new HD Matrix switchers. The Enova DGX 16 and Enova DGX 32 Digital Media switchers are ideal for all those seeking a future-ready HDMI/HDCP solution that can scale any resolution to multiple screens. The AMX units use SmartScale to overcome the challenges that can occur when the homeowner has a selection of old and new screens throughout the dwelling- all waiting for different resolutions and hand shaking from the HDMI format. Now this does not sound a big deal but believe me, we at DSE waste far too much time explaining to the client why he has to dump his 3 year old plasma for a brand new one in order for it to work with his

matrix, without having to drop the resolution to a common resolution that will work. Another great feature of the Enova DGX is the modular form factor allowing you to specify the input output boards to have different connections making the switcher compatible with your kit.

Crestron were next on my list and having been invited to a breakfast meeting at 8:30 on the Wednesday, I was pin sharp and ready to see the new kit on show. With a gallon of coffee in my system, I was off to the Crestron lecture on capture solutions. CaptureLiveHD enables a simple and efficient end-to-end solution for recording, scheduling, processing, online distribution, and remote presentation content. With two models to choose from, CAPTURE-HD PRO features a 3G SDI input to support SDI, HD-SDI, or 3G-SDI cameras. CAPTURE-HD provides a composite input for lower-resolution cameras, in addition to recording high definition VGA and HDMI signals from your AV presentation systems. Commercial products were not the only new things on show from Crestron. Their new 2.8-inch touch screen, the TPMC-3SMD this is a discrete and affordable solution which is designed to fit into a single gang back box. The TPMC-3SMD includes a custom touch screen graphics and buttons for controlling lights, music and cinema rooms.

From the source

With control and screens sorted, it was onto source kit and one must visit stand was to Kaleidescape where they proudly demonstrating the new M700 Disc Vault. The M700 has been designed to take the chore out of burning movies onto your hard disk system with up to 320 discs being able to be put into carousel, the system then starts to load the movies and music onto your system. Once copied, the Blu-ray disc must remain in the disc vault for it to be played, and DVDs or CDs can be ejected and still be played. The M700 Disc vault when paired with a 1U server will cost around £12000 plus VAT. A new feature of Kaleidescape systems on-screen user interface is that it can take advantage of a 2:35 screen format in some modern day home cinema setups, this allows for 12 more discs to be displayed on the screen, a nice feature if you own a high end cinema. One last thing I had a little play with is the free app available. The app allows you to browse your movies on your iPad without interrupting playback, making it easy to filter through artists, genres, and actors that are in movies. The app will also allow you to see what is playing in other rooms and this can even be done when you're not at home.

Back in Blighty (and the cold weather has followed me home) for now but I'm only here for a short couple of days as I'm now off to London and Surface Design where my good friends at Redline and Rako are involved in a talk on how to integrate lighting and sound into the design market. So to make good use of the trip to London I will also be dropping into the brand new Artcoustic showroom, check out my column next month for my verdict.

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