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Industry News

Fealy Named New Chairman of the Board at AMX

Bob Fealy is the new non-executive chairman of its board of directors at AMX, replacing Craig Duchossois, who remains a member of the AMX Board.

"I believe the next few years will prove to be a very important period in the history of AMX. Following the acquisition of three companies last year, AMX remains on an aggressive growth path and, as chairman of the board, Bob will play a key leadership role in the continued evolution of the company," says Craig Duchossois, CEO of Duchossois Industries.



In addition to his new role with AMX, Fealy is executive VP of Duchossois Industries and MD of Duchossois Technology Partners, an early-stage venture capital company. He has served on the AMX Board of Directors since Duchossois Industries acquired AMX in 2005.

For more info, go to [AMX](#)

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Canon Slapped on SED by US Court

A United States court rules against Canon in a patent dispute over flat-panel displays, saying Canon violated a license agreement with Nano-Proprietary.

Nano-Proprietary's technology is used for SED TVs, said to have brighter pictures and consume less energy than LCD and plasma.

Nano-Proprietary filed a suit after Canon set up a venture with Toshiba in 2004 to jointly develop SEDs, insisting its licence with Canon did not extend to the new Japanese partner.

Canon decided to buy out Toshiba's shares, but Nano-Proprietary said that move alone would not resolve the litigation.

Without expertise in televisions, Canon had planned to outsource the manufacturing to Toshiba while making the panels on its own.

For more info, go to [Canon SED](#)



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How Many Lawyers Does it Take to Dim the Lights?

Quick: how many lawyers do it take to dim the lights?

Apparently a lot: Lutron is suing Leviton for infringing on patents for wall-box dimmers, RF transceivers in a junction box, and lighting control with 2-way status/feedback.

If Lutron wins, there's a line of other prospective patent suits (e.g., Monster Cable for its IlluminEssence line which Leviton OEMs).

For more info, go to [Lutron Sues](#)



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Projecta Earns Coveted CAVSP Certification

Hats off to Projecta BV for earning CAVSP certification: Europe's leading screen manufacturer joins a handful of European companies who qualify.

For more than 30 years InfoComm has offered certification programs. One of the most sought after is the company-level credential, known as Certified Audio Visual Solutions Provider (CAVSP), which "recognizes professionalism and expertise achieved through professional development, training, and continuously updated certification for your employees."

The CAVSP is the only company-level certification program available for the commercial AV industry: it's based on the percentage of personnel (technical, sales or customer service) who achieve either General CTS or the specialized CTS in Design or Installation. From Basic CAVSP certification, for example, that recognizes that 25% of staff are InfoComm Certified, a company can move up to Silver or Gold status.

CAVSP companies must also agree to comply with 10 Standards of Excellence that were developed in collaboration with industry experts to emphasize the best practices of AV businesses.

A quick glance at the roster of EMEA companies who currently hold the coveted CAVSP status shows an elite including 24 UK companies and one each for Norway, Qatar, UAE, Germany...and now Netherlands!

For more info, go to [Projecta BV](#)

For more info, go to [CAVSP Certification](#)

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A banner for DLP (Texas Instruments) featuring silhouettes of people in a meeting. The text reads: "DLP TEXAS INSTRUMENTS ONE TECHNOLOGY. EVERYTHING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR. AND SO MUCH MORE. 2000+ LUMENS". On the right, there is a search box with the text "SEARCH FOR DLP@ PROJECTORS, DEALERS AND PRICES." and a yellow "go >>" button.

Click above for more information

Displays

Sharp Plans New LCD Plant, Maybe...

Sharp is looking to build a plant in the western Japanese city of Himeji as early as mid-this year, claims newspaper Asahi Shimbun.

Sharp hasn't confirmed this but the Japanese press concludes the plant would produce 40- to 60-inch LCD panels, starting in 2009.

In related news, Sharp appointed a new Chairman and President, Katsuhiko Machida and Mikio Katayama (photo shown) respectively.

For more info, go to [Sharp Japan](#)



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Samsung Shows 57" LCD

At ISE Samsung introduced a 57 inch LCD display, a pro HD information panel with built in temperature management system. The 570DX panel will target narrowcasting and dynamic digital signage and Samsung seems it in flexible digital media networks like retail environments, public offices and terminals managing any information at any time.

Features include the unique Temperature Sensor, body wrapped into special casings, Samsung's special Lamp Error Detect, a contrast ratio of 1200:1 (Dynamic Contrast of 3000:1), a brightness of 600 cd/m² and a response time of 8 ms. Samsung 570DX can be delivered with an external portable Hard Disk Drive Lacking Case.

Viewing angle is 178/178° and it comes with easy VESA mount techniques that Samsung supports

For more info, go to [Samsung LCD](#)



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LG Aims for Organic Displays

According to a report from Display Search, LG's OLED sales grew by 179% percent, just behind Samsung SDI, the market leader with a 21% market share, (LG closely has 19.6%).

While OLED is a small market compared with LCD or plasma, some hope it might replace both in the future. LG Electronics last year doubled its OLED production



capacity to 2.4 million units. Its sister company LG.Philips LCD also operates a separate OLED research team that has OLED monitors up to 20 inches.

For more info, go to [LG OLED](#)

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Click above for more information

Projection & Screens

Samsung Multi Use Pocket Projector

Another product featured at Samsung at ISE, Samsung sees its P310 Pocket Imager as a pocket projector, an instant theatre and a toy or game projector as well. The slim line Pocket Imager can fit into your hand, and plugs in by using D-use or Composite for HD quality.

With only measurements of 127 x 93 x 50 mm and a weight of 700 gram the Samsung Pocket Imager P310 even has a special monitor me-function can be helpful for businesses. This function allows the Pocket Imager to be used as a second monitor, simply by using the USB slot.



This very mobile projector's battery is powered 2.5 hours of continuous operation without any external power supply. It is rechargeable with or without the Pocket Imager.

For more info, go to [Samsung Pocket Imager](#)

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Control & Integrator Solutions

TV One Releases Three HDMI Switchers with Flexible Control

If you are off to the NCSA Exhibition show, you'll see TV One-Task added three HDMI Switchers, the 1T-HDMI-821, 1T-HDMI-841 and the 1T-HDMI-881, which offer control by front panel push buttons, IR or RS-232 interface.



The 1T-HDMI-821 has two inputs, the 1T-HDMI-841 has four inputs and the 1T-HDMI-881 has eight inputs. All three are certified compliant by the HDMI Authorized Test Centre and HDCP and RoHS Compliant.

The Switchers can be controlled via the front panel push buttons, IR or RS-232 interface. An IR Remote Control unit is included. An Optional IR Extender is available which allows the IR Receiver to be up to 50 feet from the unit.

HDTV Resolutions of 480p, 720p, 1080i and 1080p are supported as well as standard definition 480i. They will operate as desktop units. Alternatively, the 1T-HDMI-821 and 1T-HDMI-841 can be mounted in a remote location using optional special mounting hardware and the 1T-HDMI-881 may be mounted in a standard 19" rack using rack mounting hardware that is supplied with the unit.

For more info, go to [TV ONE](#)

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Smart-e: They've Got "Plasma-friendly Eyes"

Smart-e's SNX-16x16 now includes a filtering system reducing the effect of infra-red interference while also extending control range



To overcome the problem of interference emitting from large plasma and LCD screens, audio and video distribution equipment company Smart-e has developed a filtering system which substantially reduces the effect of infra-red interference and, at the same time, extends the control range between handset and screen.

Smart-e MD Jon Lane comments, "The high level of interference experienced from large plasma and LCD screens has become a hot topic in the industry; the bigger the screen, the greater the interference. We undertook a major development programme to design a 'plasma-friendly eye' solution that could be integrated into all our video distribution switches, and by improving the immunity to infra-red interference, we have also managed to increase the operational distance between handset and screen."

The system has now been fitted to the entire range of Smart-e matrix switches, making life easier for AV designers and installers, as there is now no need for the expense of additional equipment to counteract interference. In addition, the infra-red control distance has been increased, allowing viewers to be located further from the screen. As the system allows for wide-bandwidth infra-red pass-through, it is compatible with a wide range of infra-red protocols and handsets.

For more info, go to [Smart-e](#)

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Bosch Puts ACS International Schools at Top of Class

Praesideo Public Address System from Bosch Security Systems has been selected by SDD Sound and Light for use in an extensive project for the three campuses of ACS International Schools in Greater London.

With a combined area of over 300 acres, the three vast ACS International School campuses in Cobham, Hillingdon and Egham enrol a total of 2,400 students offering both day and boarding education. The students come from over 70 countries, predominantly the USA.

Given the high profile nature of the school, security is a key concern. In upgrading the small paging system in place, it turned to UK-based installers SDD Sound and Light to provide a campus-wide system, which could be linked together to provide pre-recorded announcement and other advanced security features across the three sites.

SDD Sound and Light chose Bosch Praesideo, the world's first fully digital public address and emergency sound system, because unlike traditional PA systems, which connect all elements to a central controller, Praesideo uses a network configuration, thus offering outstanding flexibility in terms of zone assignments and numbers, call stations, audio inputs and outputs. Working in the digital domain brings unparalleled functionality, excellent sound quality and virtually limitless possibilities since system elements can be connected to practically any point.

At each of the ACS International Schools sites, engineers split the campus into different paging zones, enabling individual control access across the zones to target specific areas. The largest campus, Cobham, was split into some 70 zones ensuring that emergency/PA messages can be sent out to individual or multiple zones as required. Fibre optic cabling links the buildings, thus ensuring signal integrity and allowing for considerable distances to be covered. In addition, the systems are linked over the Internet enabling pre-recorded announcements to be sent out simultaneously across the campuses, and allowing for the entire system to be monitored both in-house and remotely at the SDD offices.

This was an extensive installation as Nigel Clark, Operations Manager at SDD Sound and Light explains: "This is the most complex installation of the Bosch Praesideo system in the UK to date. It took a team of eight SDD engineers six months to complete, using all of the expertise of our IT engineers to successfully link the three systems together over the Internet.

"At each campus, fibre optic connections link the buildings. The project required an extraordinary total of 30km of fibre optic cables and 20km of copper cabling for speakers. The system is so advanced that if, for example, a microphone is accidentally unplugged, an alert is transmitted over the Internet to the SDD offices.

"The Bosch Praesideo system can also be used in non-emergency situations. At the state-of-the-art sports facilities on the Cobham campus, the Praesideo system serves a dual purpose as an integrated music and paging system, broadcasting music and MTV in the main arena, two gyms, two dance studios and the competition standard pool, as well as sending out important pre-recorded announcements.

For more info, go to [Bosch Security](#)

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INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS...



Click above for more information

Mounts & Accessories

Web Tool: No More "Hey, Which Bracket Fits This Flat Screen?"

It's a fact: LCD and plasma displays generally use different mounting patterns for fitting to the bracket. If that drives you crazy, now there's a web site to help installers know which bracket fits.

A special team at Vogel's Professional maintains an installer's bracket database with all of the "A" brands of flat screen TVs available in Europe—including industry trends in the flat screen arena.

The team measures all mounting patterns, and even lists whether or not the models are VESA compatible. When a display is not VESA compatible (and does not use standard bracket/support) you can generally mount many different models using a special interface that allows you to attach the support and the screen.



Flatscreenfitter

Flatscreenfitter.com promises to be a great help to installers, saving time by providing up-to-date information just when it's needed.

For more info, go to Vogel's Flat Screen Fitter.com

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D-Sub Connectors in XLR Panel Receptacles

Switchcraft's EH Series range – panel mount XLR receptacles fitted with USB, FireWire, BNC, phono, PS/2 and SVHS connectors – has been expanded with the addition of versions fitted with 9-way and 15-way HD D-sub connectors. The EH family uses Switchcraft's E Series XLR housings that fit industry-standard 24mm diameter panel cutouts.

Switchcraft®

The new D-sub versions have three feed-through options – male to male, male to female and female to female – and can be supplied with nickel or black plated front flanges. Male to female inserts are reversible to provide maximum flexibility for installers and mating cord connectors can be secured by tightening locking screws into the front flange.

For more info, go to Switchcraft

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Audio

Audio-via-IP Experts Group Test to EBU Standards

Audio-via-IP Experts Group announces the successful execution of transmission tests carried out according to draft European Broadcasting Union (EBU) standards.

Orban recently joined the Audio-via-IP Experts Group to provide its customers with a standards-based solutions for professional audio transmission over IP Networks. The other two members are AETA Audio Systems (France) and MAYAH Communications (Germany).



The three member organizations deployed their codecs applying the SIP/RTP protocols determined by the emerging EBU

guidelines (covered bi-directional transmission using G.711 and G.722, as well as MPEG Layer 2 and Layer 3 audio coding).

MAYAH Communications CEO Detlef Wiese says, "This illustrates the importance of the efforts being put into the Experts Group. Codec recognition with SIP/RTP is becoming mature, and automatic connection set-up has now become a reality for IP-based transmissions. In combination with pre-defined compliance to the draft EBU recommendations, there is a solid base for further developments which will be to the benefit of end-users."

For more info go to [Audio Via IP](#)

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K.M.E. Presents New Portable Series

KME presents VERSIO a new series developed to portable requirements. The new VERSIO-Design has a trendy black comb grid with acoustic foam behind to protect the speakers from dust and dirt. All models are invariably available in black polyurethane coating. Inside work high resilient drivers developed to the latest technologies, which also contribute to a weight reduction due to neodymium magnets.

Each top unit is equipped with a 1" high-frequency driver.

For more info, go to [KME VERSIO](#)



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Alcons Cinema Ribbon Monitor System

Alcons Audio's CRMS, Cinema Ribbon Monitor System is a unique hybrid 3-way main-/2-way surround-system. Featuring a RBN401 pro-ribbon driver, the MHF section can act both as MHF section for the main/front system, as well as full-range surround system. This design results in a very uniform sound stage throughout the listening area. Applications include screening-rooms, post-production houses, dubbing-stages, as well as pro-level home-cinema systems.

The 3-way CR1 sound system offers a wide frequency-response in an unusually-shallow cabinet depth: only 17cm. This design offers advantages in space-saving requiring installs, yet the peak power handling doesn't compromise the system's output. CR1 can be flown, stacked or wall-mounted.

For more info, please go to [Pro Ribbon Technology](#)



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Distribution News

AWE's Tickle Wins UK "Best Driver"

Stuart Tickle, MD of UK custom installation trade distributor AWE, was officially crowned 'Britain's Best Driver' in a national competition by Shell, in association with BBC's Top Gear magazine.

After thousands of applicants in Britain's Best Driver competition, 10 men and 10 women took part in a two day challenge at Silverstone race circuit. All drivers were put through their paces taking part in a Caterham drifting Challenge, skid control test, the Ferrari Formula One pit-stop challenge, a 4x4 experience and a mini Le Mans amongst others as well as proving their knowledge with a tough theory test. Impressively,

Stuart took pole position in seven of the ten events and scored 100% in three of them, to win top prize.



His victory now paves the way for AWE customers who want to go head to head in a soon-to-be announced Motorsport promotion by the distributor.

To view video clips of the driving challenges, go to www.shell.co.uk/bestdriver

For more info on the products that drive custom install, go to [AWE](#)

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Invision UK Launches Logitech Harmony 1000 at Bristol Show

Logitech reinvention the Harmony 1000 remote control made its UK debut on the Invision UK stand at the Bristol Sound and Vision Show 2007.

While it looks as expensive as traditional high-end, custom-installed remotes, the Harmony 1000 remote is more affordable, is easier for consumers to set up, and sets a new standard for ease of use.

"The Harmony 1000 remote delivers affordable luxury - it simplifies control of today's complicated home entertainment systems at a fraction of the price of traditional custom-installed remotes, and it's luxurious in its sophisticated design, which adds an element of prestige to any living room," says Bryan McLeod, VP of Logitech's remote control products. He added "The Harmony 1000 remote is the interface that people crave for their home entertainment system - it's sleek, it's easy to use with its one-touch activity based control, and it comes without a prohibitive price."



For more info, go to [Invision UK](#)

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Residential Systems & Digital Home

Best Buy Gets Out of Structured-wiring Business

To a lot of applause from CEDIA style integrators, Best Buy tells its partners it will be "ending our structured wiring business within the next 30 days."

The retailer blames "Constant price cut demands from builders and the highly increasing commoditization of the products and labor involved have made it difficult for (anyone) to be profitable in the current market."

Best Buy for New Homes -- the group that installed systems for residential communities -- will be folded into the new ConnectedLife group (Best Buy for New Business unit, the group offering a USD\$15,000 home automation and entertainment system)..



For more info, go to [BEST BUY](#)

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NetStreams Partners with Helvar Lighting

NetStreams releases a Helvar driver for the DigiLinX Multi-Room Audio and Control system.

Helvar provides state of the art digital dimming technology systems that are simple to use, creative and cost effective.

Working with DigiLinX, the Helvar Driver now means that installers, both commercial and residential, have opportunities to quickly and easily incorporate lighting control into active and new DigiLinX projects. Helvar lighting scenes can be custom named using the DigiLinX set-up software and then simply uploaded to the DigiLinX system with a minimum of fuss.



Using the NetStreams home automation interface – the ControlINX CL100 – the integrated driver will enable control of either Helvar lighting on a TouchLinX touch screen, a wireless web tablet, PDA or PC instead of using extra control keypads. Moreover the homeowner has visual feedback of which lighting scene is selected.

For more info, go to [NetStreams](#)

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Kohler's AV Shower

Integrators have been putting A/V in the bathroom for a while now, but now Kohler puts it inside the shower. A new Kohler DTV system uses a one-piece electronic interface to allow the creation of custom showering configurations.

No more fiddling with the temperature or repositioning the showerhead. The Kohler DTV system has six separate user-configuration settings for temperature and showerhead positioning and water output. The interface can be mounted either inside or outside the shower. A thermostatic valve is required as part of the system.



For more info, go to [Kohler](#)

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Control4 Gets New Sales Senior VP

Industry veteran Jim Arnold has been named sales senior VP for home automation systems manufacturer Control4, responsible for worldwide sales activities. Arnold comes to Control4 from DirecTV, where he spent almost nine years as sales and distribution senior VP where he was responsible for retail, distributor, lodging and commercial distribution.



For more info, go to [Control4](#)

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Home Control Provides 'Wow Factor'

Maximising the desirability of a property for sale was the major reason to install of a state-of-the-art AMX home control system in a newly refurbished £10.5 million, four storey Victorian house in London.

London-based specialist installers, SMC, designed and installed the control system to combine lifestyle convenience with an added 'wow factor'.

New householder can control every aspect of their living environment: selecting and setting heating or air conditioning systems, controlling lighting moods, opening or closing electric blinds and curtains, and even calling up music or DVD films from a central 'media server'.

For potential purchasers during real estate agent viewings, SMC actually programmed a temporary demo. This turns on waterproof TV screens in the master bathroom and Jacuzzi, and selects and plays CDs through speakers concealed in the walls of the entrance hallway. These speakers are actually built into the walls and scrimmed over with plaster over

so they are invisible, maintaining the period appearance of the property. The demonstration also selects a lighting scene throughout the house, with colour change lighting on the main stairs.

For more info, go to [AMX](#)

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Ceiling of Stars

And now...there's Fiber Optic Star Ceilings. Star Ceilings create a positive distraction for home theaters, game rooms, children's bedrooms, bathrooms, library reading rooms, children's hospital rooms, or healthcare offices. Your customers just plug it in to fall asleep under the stars!



For more info, go to [Star Ceiling](#)

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Well, that's it for this edition of rAve Europe! Thank you for spending time with us as we follow the industry happenings.

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A little about Gary Kayye, CTS, founder of Kayye Consulting: Gary Kayye, an audiovisual veteran and columnist, began the widely-read KNews, a premier industry newsletter, in the late 1990s, and created the model for and was co-founder of AV Avenue - which later became InfoComm IQ. Kayye Consulting is a company that is committed to furthering the interests and success of dealers, manufacturers, and other companies within the professional audiovisual industry. Gary Kayye's rAVe was first launched in America in February 2003.

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