



For Europe's Pro AV integrators in a Networked World

Volume 4, Issue 10 - 12th March 2008

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InfoComm Registration Opens

InfoComm 2008 registration is now open. The exhibition includes three halls, two shows (InfoComm and NXTcomm08 networking) and the integration of the NSCA Systems Integration Expo.

InfoComm takes place at the Las Vegas Convention Center June 14-20. And don't forget: Projection Summit, EduComm and Digital Signage Technology Summit '08 conferences require separate registrations!

Gary Kayye will deliver the keynote at EduComm this year.



To register, go to [I'm Going to InfoComm!](#)

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NSCA Announces Plans for InfoComm 08

The National Systems Contractors Association (NSCA) will, for the first time, integrate their show with InfoComm.



NSCA University will feature more than 80 courses, including Eight Steps to Increased Profitability, Hiring the Right People – Sales, Techs, Admins, etc., and Project Management for Owners. Any industry professional who attends InfoComm 08 may take NSCA continuing education classes.

The NSCA Zone on the show floor will showcase how NSCA is protecting your business and boosting your profits. Other events include a charity golf tournament at Rhodes Ranch, a membership breakfast, the ExpoJam! and the Drunk Unkles concert.

To read about courses and link to online registration, go to [NSCA at InfoComm](#)

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3D Test with Rugby via Satellite

BBC showed the RBS Six Nations rugby match between Scotland and England live in the first ever live test-screening of an international sports event in 3D HDTV via satellite.

The event, at Riverside Studios in London, was a joint venture between BBC Sport and The3DFirm (consortium comprising media communications firm, Can Communicate, 3D specialist company, Inition and hire and post production house, Axis Films.).

The3DFirm and BBC Resources produced a stereoscopic (2 x HDTV) signal from a 3x camera Outside Broadcast at Murrayfield stadium in Edinburgh and delivered the signal via satellite to an invited audience in London.

The event at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith was hosted by The3DFirm, drawing upon its big screen knowledge to give the audience a "best seat in the house" experience. They used 3D camera rigs specifically designed to bring 3D to the entertainment industry.

David Wooster of The3DFirm says: "Premium sporting events, where demand for tickets outstrips supply, lend themselves perfectly to live 3D transmission. 3D creates an immersive, 'almost as good as being there' experience. Unlike traditional television coverage, 3D 'places' the audience in the stadium, as if they were actually there, giving a heightened sense of reality."

Aashish Chandarana, BBC Sport Innovations Executive, said before the test that the process is very much at a test stage: "We're trying to do something no-one's tried before and bounce dual HD signals around and re-encode them as a 3D experience," said Chandarana. "Editorially it will not be a fast-cut TV experience but more the experience you'd get if you were at Murrayfield. This exciting event is part of broadcasting history, and shows BBC's commitment to explore new technologies with a view to bringing maximum enjoyment to audiences."

Coincidentally the Riverside Studios, once owned by the BBC, was the location of the BBC's first broadcast of colour transmissions in 1967.



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Displays & Mounts

Pioneer Stops Plasma Production

Pioneer will phasing out plasma production and focusing on LCD and LED development and production!



Their official release says "...we have judged that maintaining the cost competitiveness of plasma display panels at projected sales volumes will be difficult going forward. Accordingly, we have decided to terminate in-house plasma display panel production and to procure these panels externally, after panel production for our next series of models is complete."

This move allows Pioneer change their business model for displays from vertically integrated, capital-intensive operations to a leaner business model geared to making value-added product proposals.

Pioneer is in discussions to buy-in panel modules that may incorporate the Company's proprietary technologies.

Go [Pioneer Re-Structures](#)

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Commercial 52" HD LCD from NEC

NEC brought a new commercial LCD display to the Digital Signage Expo in USA. The LCD5220 supports 1080p, is 52 inches in size and is specified at 2000:1 contrast ratio and 8 ms response time. It also comes with the SpectraView II color calibration kit, which gives you color uniformity and fidelity across individual and multiple screens and giving a matched image in tiled environments. Also for tiling and videowall applications, it comes with a very thin bezel of 19 millimeters / 0.7 inches.





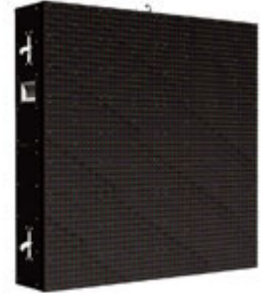
It uses TileMatrix, which enables video walls (up to 25 displays in a 5x5 matrix equaling almost 20-ft. diagonal) and improved CableComp+ technology, which equalizes the video signal. There is a built-in expansion slot for integrating future third-party components, and there are various input options.

Go [NEC LCD5220](#)

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New Indoor, Outdoor LED Products from Barco

Barco introduces two new LEDs, one for outdoor and one for indoor.



The T-20, specifically for rental and staging, is a 20mm outdoor display with high brightness and contrast. It has a new geometric shader design that improves the black levels in all daylight conditions which, together with the increased brightness, deliver the improved contrast ratios. The T-20 also incorporates new generation LEDs which give a much higher fill factor impression, and a new mechanical design for easier build up and tear down and servicing.

Go [Barco Outdoor LED](#)

There are two new Barco indoor LED products. The NX-6 is a 6mm true black LED display, while the ILite 6 BK increases the contrast ratio of the widely-used ILite platform.

The NX-6 is a brand new 6mm indoor LED display based on the same black LED platform as the 4mm NX-4. The NX series is designed for deep blacks and are specified with brightness of 2,000 Nit and contrast ratio of 4000:1 for the NX-4 and 4200:1 for the NX-6.

The ILite 6 BK is a new 6mm black LED display that has redesigned shaders and is specified at a contrast ratio of 3000:1 and a 2000 Nit brightness output.

Go [Barco Indoor LED](#)

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Projection & Screens

NEC Goes Wide

NEC has a new installation projector specifically for widescreen presentations. The



NP3151W is specified at 4000 lumens and 1280 x 800 WXGA resolution, and weighs just over 16 pounds. This is an LCD model.



The projector can connect to wireless networks, and with optional quick-mount bayonet style lenses, can project an image from 40-500 inches. It includes HQV video processing. Interestingly, it makes use of the Windows Network Projector functionality within Windows Vista via the wireless adapter or integrated RJ45 without the need for additional proprietary software. And USB connection for a mouse and keyboard allow desktop control when using the NP3151W to connect to a remote desktop via a wired/wireless network connection.

Go [NEC NP3151W](#)

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Control & Integrator Solutions

Crestron Introduces Lighting Expansion Modules

Crestron introduces the CLS-EXP line of lighting expansion modules to be used with Crestron dimmers and lighting solutions. These new modules enable the Crestron iLux integrated lighting system and other Crestron lighting dimmers to handle more load types, a wider range of voltages, and larger loads.



There are four models in the line. The CLS-EXP-DIM model allows each output channel of the iLux system to dim a fully loaded circuit of incandescent, magnetic low-voltage, neon/cold cathode, or dimmable 2-wire fluorescent lighting loads up to 16 Amps. Residential integrators will welcome the CLS-EXP-DIMU Universal Dimmer model, which supports electronic low voltage (ELV) commonly found in recessed lighting. Additional models support 3 and 4-wire dimmable fluorescents, as well as switching for non-dimmable lighting and motors.

CLS-EXP modules support a wider range of voltages, from 120 to 277 Volts. Also, with the ability to support a greater number of loads, CLS-EXP modules enable integrators to add up to five expansion modules to each iLux output for a maximum of 80 Amps per zone. iLux units feature six independent outputs and can support up to 8 additional units, expanding a system to 54 lighting zones.

Go [CLS-EXP Line](#)

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Rotating Organization on New Tributaries Power Strip

Tributaries Cable has a new power strip, the T12, that smoothes those installations where you have a lot of power cords. The T12 has 12 outlets, eight of which can rotate up to 90 degrees. It provides 4320 joules of surge suppression and noise filtering for AC power, and signal-line protection for telecom (RJ-11), network (RJ-45), and cable, antenna, and satellite (F-connector) signals.



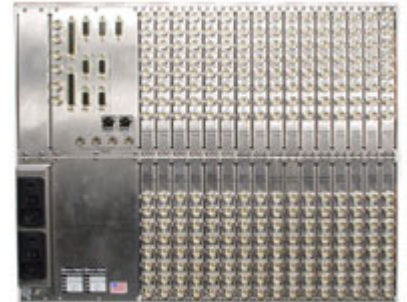
The T12 has two status LEDs. The blue "Grounded" LED will illuminate when the electrical system is properly grounded; the red "Protected" LED, when lit, shows the AC surge protection is operating properly. The T12 is rated for heavy duty use at 15 amps for up to 1875 watts of load.

Go [T12](#)

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Expansion for Ponderosa Multi-Format Routing Switcher Line

Sierra Video announces a major expansion to its line of Ponderosa Multi-Format Routing Switchers. You can now get I/O sizes up to 128x128, digital-to-analog conversion boards, and analog and digital audio options. The HD-SDI/SDI video routing switcher family is designed to be modular and with features especially suited to critical broadcast, production, and post-production facilities.



The routing switchers can be built up to 64 x 64 in a 4RU frame and now up to 128x128 in 8RU. Populated in increments of 8 inputs or 8 outputs, digital-to-analog (D-to-A) conversion boards may now be used on the frames' outputs allowing HD-SDI/SDI video routing and SDI signal conversion in a single frame. Internal D-to-A conversion means that, while users can output high quality HD or SDI signal to its ultimate destination, an SDI signal can also be converted, and then output, to less expensive analog displays used for monitoring the outgoing video.

Go [Ponderosa](#)

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Digital Signage

Symon's "Digital Signage Solution in a Box"

Symon's new digital signage product is a media player called the Symon Integrated Appliance (SIA). Symon says this is an entry level digital signage solution – a multimedia box pre-loaded with Symon software for deployment and direct playback to a flat panel display.



The system in a box is actually called LobbyView. This is a new bundle including an integrated 42inch LCD monitor, the new SIA media player, and Symon digital software packaged as an all-in-one application.

The company says this is especially suited for deployment in remote areas that are far away from the main signage systems, or for small businesses.

Both offerings include pre-loaded software licenses for Symon Enterprise Software (SES), one copy of Symon Design Studio (content management and data control software), and Symon Digital Appliance (SDA) media player software. Additional copies of Design Studio as well as SDA media players can be added.

As with other Symon media player implementations, one SDA provides content to one or many flat panel displays delivering the same channel. The SIA and LobbyView are delivered with Design Studio standard layouts and several additional "skins" to help the customer build their own custom shows.

Go [Symon Integrated Appliance \(SIA\)](#)

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New Avocent Serial Products Add VGA Over CAT 5

In demonstration at the Digital Signage Expo, Avocent introduced the Avocent Emerge EMS series of VGA over CAT 5 extenders. The company says these new AV extenders deliver high resolution video and CD quality stereo across installations up to 1,000 feet away. With the newly added RS232 support, video display panels can be controlled and interrogated remotely, making it especially useful for signage.



The Avocent Emerge EMS2100T transmitter and EMS2100R receiver deliver point-to-point VGA video, audio, and serial data over standard CAT 5, says Avocent, and video performance up to 1600x1200 resolution. Each individual EMS2100R receiver supports two displays and two audio devices.

The Avocent Emerge EMS2110R VGA over CAT 5 receiver product has integrated skew correction with a 300MHz bandwidth. The Avocent Emerge EMS2400T extends a single high-resolution video, high fidelity audio and RS232 signals to 4 different receivers. The EMS2400T also has support for a local port to connect a local screen, speakers and serial device, and it supports cascading for linking multiple transmitters together for enterprise expansion.

Go [Emerge EMS Series](#)

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Pro Audio

Meyer Sound Plays A Few New Notes

Meyer Sound is making some changes. First, it has established Meyer Sound UK Limited.



"The continuing development of Meyer Sound's business in Europe has made it essential for the company to form a strategic presence in the UK, which is one of the most influential professional audio markets in the world," says Helen Meyer, Executive Vice President of Meyer Sound.

Recent UK projects that feature Meyer Sound equipment include London's Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Led Zeppelin's reunion concert at the O2 Arena, the Kanye West tour, and the West End musical productions of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Sound of Music, and Wicked.

Second, Dave "Wiggy" Wiggins has accepted the newly created position of Director of Marketing for Europe.

Third, Meyer Sound releases the self-powered UPA-1P wide coverage loudspeaker for theatricals, nightclubs, houses of worship and corporate AV applications.

Fourth, Meyer Sound has announced two promotions at Meyer Sound Germany; the appointment of Jim Sides to the position of CEO and the promotion of Sascha Khelifa to Managing Director.

An addition to the company's UltraSeries™ loudspeakers, UPA-1P delivers a peak power output of 136 dB SPL with low distortion while offering flexible rigging options, wide vertical coverage and gradual off-axis rolloff to accommodate a range of installation requirements.

In a patented trapezoidal enclosure, UPQ-1P weighs in at 105 pounds (47.63 kg) and measures 19 inches x 28 inches x 18 inches (482.60 mm x 711.20 mm x 457.20 mm). The high-performance loudspeaker is distinguished by its 80-degree by 50-degree constant Q horn, for uniform response throughout the wide coverage area and gentle high-frequency rolloff.

Its high-frequency section employs a four-inch diaphragm compression driver and a 15-inch neodymium magnet cone driver provides low-frequency content.

A narrow coverage version of the UPQ loudspeaker is in development; the UPQ-2P will feature a 50-degree by 50-degree narrow and symmetrical coverage pattern.

Go [UPQ](#)

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Distribution News

Gefen Opens German Distribution Office

Gefen expands its presence in Europe with Gefen Distribution GmbH, based in Munich, to offer a full-service distribution and storage facility for 20 countries throughout Europe.



With direct shipping and local customs control, Gefen Distribution GmbH enables a timely delivery of audio/video enhancement equipment made. Led by Florian Goebel, general manager, the 12-member team services the European region with shipping, warehouse facilities, technical support, sales and marketing services.

"This was a natural transition for us," says Goebel, founder of the Gefen Distribution GmbH & Co. "We distributed Gefen solutions for many years under SDI GmbH to the German market, and believed it was time for a larger presence in an area where digital TV is rapidly developing."

The German offices supply the full line of Gefen's professional extenders, switchers, scalars, splitters and cables, as well as the new GefenTV line for prosumers and home theater enthusiasts.

"We're thrilled to have a more robust presence in the European market," said Hagai Gefen, president and CEO, Gefen Inc. "We're dedicated to improving our local availability and delivering solutions to these key European countries in a timely manner with support readily available during local business hours."

Gefen Distribution GmbH handles sales and distribution for: Austria; Belarus; Bosnia; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; Germany; Greece; Latvia; Lithuania; Poland; Romania; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia and Sweden.

Go [Gefen in Europe](#)

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Residential Systems & Digital Home

HDCP over OWLink's DLI Fiber Optic Links



OWLink's DLI Fiber Optic Links gets Digital Content Protection (an Intel company) approval for transmitting high definition digital content protected (HDCP) video signals.

OWLink Technology is a provider of technology that transmits high definition digital video, audio and control signals over a single transparent DLI™ Fiber Optic link.

By adhering to the HDCP standard, OWLink ensures that all the video, audio data transmitted on DLI link is secure and protected.

“We are delighted to have our DLI technology approved by DCP for secured high definitional video transmission,” says Paul Tzang, president and CEO, OWLink. “Adherence to a video transmission standard like HDCP is critical for digital home entertainment equipment makers to achieve in order for customers to fully benefit from their investment. ”

Digital Content Protection, LLC, which manages Intel’s HDCP standards adherence, reports that HDCP over DLI has become the latest standard interface for encrypted HD video transmission. All video data transmitted over DLI output is protected by the HDCP encryption scheme.

Go [OWLink Technology](#)

Go [HDCP](#)

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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, Chief Visionary, Kayye Consulting, Inc, and founder of rAve Publications:

Gary Kayye, CTS is chief visionary at Kayye Consulting, a Chapel Hill, NC, USA-based firm specializing in marketing consulting and training development services to the ProAV and HomeAV markets. Recognized as InfoComm’s Educator of the Year in 2004 and NSCA’s Instructor of the Year in 2007. Gary is a columnist with Sound & Communications Magazine and founder of rAve Publications, publisher of the premier HomeAV industry’s eNewsletter (rAve HomeAV Edition – published in conjunction with CEDIA), rAve ProAV Edition, rAve Rental [and Staging] and the newly launched Reviews By rAve. Prior to forming Kayye Consulting, he spent 11 years at Extron and AMX as VP of Sales and Marketing and has previously served on the InfoComm Board of Governors, as the chairman of the Projection Shoot-Out and chairman of the AV industry’s Professional Education and Training Committee.

Gary is currently serving on NSCA’s Industry Advisory Board (IAB). In addition, he donates four weeks of his time a year as an active educational leader in the ProAV and HomeAV markets through free seminars and workshops at shows like NSCA, InfoComm, CES and CEDIA. He is a lively and fun speaker and every time he speaks, he mixes a visionary look into the future with a keen eye on how to get there. His clients have included Sony, InFocus, Crestron, Hewlett Packard, Steelcase, NEC, Da-Lite, Epson, Clarity, Apple, Scientific Atlanta, Cisco, JBL, Crown and Harman.

Finally, Gary’s passion is a non-profit he co-founded called the Swim for Smiles Foundation (www.swimforsmiles.org). Swim for Smiles raises money for the North Carolina Children’s Hospital through fun, active athletic events involving kids and swimming.

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