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For Europe's Pro AV integrators in a Networked World

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"World's Smallest Projector," Says Aussie Firm

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Save money with filter-free DLP Projectors.



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Microsoft's Sphere

At Microsoft's Faculty Summit, researchers showed off a spherical computer prototype with an internal projection and vision system.



Microsoft believes surfaces will become computer displays and "Sphere" is cousin to the Microsoft Surface tabletop computer, now being used in retail and hospitality settings.

With Sphere, users can touch the surface to control the computer, to manipulate photos, play games or watch 360-degree videos. The underlying hardware for Sphere is sold commercially by Global Imagination but Microsoft researchers made enhancements and developed special software.

Curved surfaces present unique challenges as computer displays and that makes this spherical novelty of interest to digital signage installers where technological novelty can be part of the attraction.

Go [Microsoft Sphere](#)

Go [Sphere Hardware](#)

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PROJECTA!

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Control & Integrator Solutions

Extron Introduces Fiber Optic Extender

Extron's DVI 104 Fiber Optic Extender is a transmitter and receiver set for extending single link DVI-D signals beyond the specified 5 meter (15 foot) limitation for standard DVI cables. Extron says the engineering focuses on reliability and high resolution image performance, with all digital, zero compression technology for pixel-for-pixel transmission of computer-video images up to 1920x1200 resolution, including HDTV 1080p/60. The DVI 104 extends DVI-D signals over four multimode fiber optic cables at lengths up to 500 meters (1,640 feet).



The transmitter and receiver are housed in compact DVI cable-type clamshell enclosures and connect to the fiber optic cables via industry standard LC-type connectors. The cables can be run through conduits and other tight spaces without the DVI 104 transmitter and receiver attached, simplifying installation. The DVI 104 transmitter and receiver units also connect directly to DVI sources and displays, so that no special mounting is necessary.

Go [Extron Fiber Optic Extender](#)

New Twisted Pair Products from Kramer

Kramer introduces the TP-50 twisted pair receiver and distribution amplifier for computer graphics video and unbalanced stereo audio or S/PDIF audio signals. The TP-50 is designed specifically for presentation and multimedia applications needing long-range distribution.



This product is both a receiver and a distribution amplifier, and converts the twisted pair signal back into two computer graphics video, stereo audio and S/PDIF audio signals simultaneously.

Go [Kramer Twisted Pair](#)

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Audio

Technomad Custom Colors for Weatherproof Speakers

Technomad now has a total of 14 UV-stabilized colors available for the company's weatherproof loudspeakers.



The latest color addition is brown, developed in order to help the loudspeaker blend into wood and earthen environments. Technomad mentions zoos, hotels, public walks and other tourist attractions that may want background music as well as public safety audio applications.

Technomad loudspeakers come standard in black. Custom colors are available with a slight up charge, says the company. In addition to brown, all Technomad loudspeakers are available in the following colors: white, desert sand, olive drab, forest green, light blue, dark blue, red, grey, yellow, gold, orange and maroon.

Go [Weatherproof Colors for Sound](#)

FOR-A HD Frame Rate Converter to IBC

FOR-A will show a new HD Frame Rate Converter and a new audio function card. The FRC-3000 Frame Rate Converter was developed for smaller operations, and is also housed in a compact design, fitting into a 1RU frame.



This model has text field automatic detection, which automatically recognizes scrolling text superimposed on video. This optimizes conversion for improved character depiction. A manual setting can be chosen for static field such as date, time and program titles and logos, allowing for those portions to be treated separately without performing motion compensation processing.

The new audio option card FRC-70DA16 for FRC-7000 supports an increased number of channels (16) for digital audio input and output. Delay compensation can now be performed for all audio channels, including international sporting event broadcasts where many audio channels are required, or when HDCAM SR 12-channel audio is being used for recording. The FRC-70DA16 can be equipped with Dolby E encoding and decoding as an option.

Atlas Sound Offering Campus Messaging

Atlas Sound announced ControlKom, an IP-based paging system incorporating control with SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) compatibility. The company says this compatibility allows it to be integrated with most existing phone systems, and users can simultaneously send an audio stream and/or text message to IP loudspeakers, computer screens, and overhead paging systems, all with speed, confidence, ease-of-use, and reduced operation costs.



ControlKom can be deployed within a single building, throughout an entire campus, or through multiple campuses. Working in conjunction with IP loudspeakers using true POE (Power Over Ethernet) capabilities, the ControlKom platform supervises and controls loudspeakers, digital clocks, bells, and zone controllers for transmission of audio and text messaging to one or multiple zones within a system.

The clock and bell tone scheduling allows separate schedules to be set for an individual building, floor within a building, or any other defined area. Messages -- prerecorded or live -- can be broadcast to an unlimited number of IP-enabled devices as well as all other sources of communication both visual and audible within a system.

The system also has an optional function that lets it trigger other events, such as monitoring motion detectors, fire or security panel contact closures, door contacts, and wall-mount call switches.

Go [Campus Communication](#)

One Systems' Long-Throw Stadium Speaker System

One Systems' new Cross Field Array is designed to provide very high acoustic output in long-throw applications. These are IP 45-rated and weather-resistant systems.



At InfoComm, the company demonstrated the system to a crowd standing 200 yards away from a single Cross Field Array speaker system.

The system will ship with a gray fiberglass cabinet for better UV resistance and heat tolerance. It will also ship with barrier strip input terminals, but can also include Neutrik Speakon connectors. Installation models will ship in September.

Go [Long-Throw Stadium Speaker](#)

Displays & Mounts

[TV One 6-Input HDTV 17" at IBC 2008](#)

TV One will display its new high performance multi-format LCD monitor for the broadcast and professional market at IBC 2008. Multiple analog and digital video sources can be viewed on the new LM-1750HD: six inputs can accommodate SD/HD-SDI (with an active output), HDMI, Analog RGBHV, YUV or YPbPr Component Video and 2x Composite Video.



A YC (S-Video) input can also be used in lieu of one of the Composite Video inputs if desired and both PAL and NTSC television standards are supported and automatically detected. Stereo Audio monitoring is also available using the five Stereo inputs and dual internal speakers, driven by a 3 watt amplifier.

Contrast, brightness, sharpness, colour, hue, black stretch and other parameter necessary for optimum monitor performance can be adjusted via the menu system and on-screen display. The menu language is also selectable between English, French, German and Portuguese. A Sync Delay mode allows viewing of the vertical/horizontal sync as well as the vertical blanking intervals and a Blue Only mode allows accurate setup when viewing colour bars.

Go [6-Input HDTV](#)

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Projection & Screens

Lightspeed HD 3D Projector to Siggraph

Lightspeed will unveil its new HD 3D projector at Siggraph. The DepthQ projectors are specified at 1280 x 720 or 1024 x 768 resolutions and are capable of projecting a 12-foot diagonal 3D image. They are based on TI's DLP and BrilliantColor technologies.



They are also specified at 2000:1 contrast ratio and weigh less than seven pounds.

The company is targeting both commercial and residential applications with their 3D projectors: film production and game development, information analysis, product design, engineering and research and home video games and movies, for example.

The company says these are priced below \$6000 and they will ship in September.

Go [HD 3D Projector](#)

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Toshiba Adds 3 More Business Projectors

Toshiba adds three new DLP projectors, models t360, t420 and tw420, to its business projector portfolio.



The new t Series with XGA resolution has prioritized ultra-high brightness via Brilliant Color™ technology and NCE4™ chip. Toshiba also focused on connection versatility by adding features like an additional DVI input. The wireless tw420 also has a USB port and Windows Vista Network function for easy connection to LAN or WLAN.

With brightness from 3500 ANSI lumens for the entry-level t360 to the 4000 ANSI lumens of the t420 and tw420, Toshiba's three new projectors offer exceptional brightness for their class.

Models t360, t420 and tw420 are available from August at a recommended retail price of 1860 Euro, 2290 Euro and 3190 Euro respectively. Prices are shown exclusive of VAT.

Go [Toshiba T-series](#)

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Digital Signage

NetFaze Digital Signage Showroom in Vegas

NetFaze opens a 5100-sq.-ft. showroom for the company's neTVizon PCTV digital signage network and kiosk products.



They describe their solutions as plug-and-play and all-in-one displays.

Go [Netfaze](#)

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GestureTek Special Effects for Interactive Displays

You might remember 7 years or so ago when GestureTek displayed an innovative presentation system with body tracking technology that let a presenter stand in front of the screen without blocking the data projected behind.



This time, it's with an enhanced version of the company's GestureFX library of multimedia special effects applications for interactive display systems.

GestureFX is an interactive projection and visual display system for advertising and entertainment in public and corporate spaces. It uses camera technology and the previously-mentioned body tracking software. The system intelligently responds to body movement in order to project dynamic interactive multimedia content, interactive advertising or games onto any surface of any size -- including tables, floors, bars, counters, windows, screens and freestanding panels.

The company says this new version, GestureFX 1.5, has more than 70 applications and special effects that can be used right out of the box. The system can be installed by GestureTek's team or self-installed by the client -- the company says the system comes with a manual with more than 50 examples of applications and instructions on how to create them. You can also put your own branding on all of the new effects.

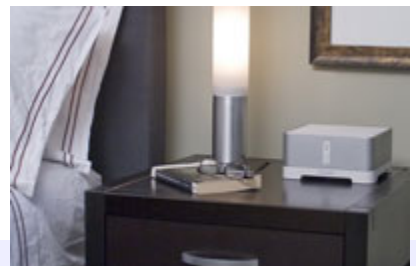
Go [GestureTek and Interactive Displays](#)

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Residential Systems & Digital Home

Sonos: New ZonePlayers

Sonos announces the first product overhaul from the company -- introducing two new ZonePlayers - the ZonePlayer 120 and ZonePlayer 90 that double the wireless range:



For the new ZonePlayer 120, Sonos was able to shrink the size of ZonePlayer 100 by 35%, yet add more power (55 Watts per channel vs. 50) and has doubled the wireless range. The smallest, most compact amplifier on the market with that much power, says the maker.

The new ZonePlayers and the new Sonos Bundle 150 (€ 999) are available to customers already.

Sonos also introduces Sonos Software 2.6 to all Sonos customers today. The new feature update includes more than €150 in DRM-free music offers, support for music collections with up to 65,000 tracks, and more.

Go [New Sonos ZonePlayers, Software, Bundle](#)

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Feature

Projection Summit 08 Proceedings Available

by Steve Sechrist
Editor/Analyst, Insight Media

Business, marketing, and technology leaders from all levels of the big screen display value chain gathered again this year for the 7th annual Projection Summit Conference. The Summit offered a unique opportunity to learn about the technology and market forces that are shaping the ProAV and consumer markets. The sessions and follow-up panel discussion focused on key industry trends and issues including:



LED and Laser devices look unstoppable -- LEDs will power pico and pocket projectors, but did you know they will soon power home theatre projectors? 700-900 lumen LED projectors will arrive in 2009. Laser projectors for TVs arrive this year, and will start to power projectors from pico to large venue in 2009. At the Summit, we heard from Luminus Devices, Sypro Optics, 3M and Osram Opto Semiconductors, as the group kicked off the Projection Summit talking about advances in ultra-high brightness LEDs and how solid state sources can be used in compact projection systems.

Since these companies are some of the key leaders in development of Pico and Pocket Projectors, they provided a very good understanding the current state of the market and the roadmaps for development that will help enable this new and very exciting class of projection system. For example, speakers like **3M's Mike O'Keefe hinted of a "Q3 launch" of a cell phone "accessory projector"** for that company with a live demo of working prototypes (and we have pictures.) We also heard how to get there from cell phone accessory pioneer, Drew Osterman, now a QPC Laser vp, who worked to bring the first CMOS camera technology to Nokia cell phones.

The Image Quality session featured 3LCD and Texas Instruments squaring-off, each with profoundly different views on how to measure and judge image quality in projection systems. Participants heard a lively (and at times heated) discussion from experts in both camps on how they see **image quality improving going forward** and ways that end users might be able to quantify (measure) this image quality--or not. THX speaker Michael Rudd was also on the agenda with his company's take on the viability of gray vs. white screens in improving contrast in the Image Quality. This is cutting edge. On the screen side, we also heard from AccelerOptics who developed a new projection screen technology that can be very effective in a digital signage environment. This can enable very large displays at much lower price points than flat panel alternatives.

Wavien believes that **lamp life is an issue**, especially in the growing education market. Fortunately, they have developed a solution that can greatly extend lamp life and you will want to hear about. And, Wavien can use this technology to create a bright 3D display too.

Barco presented in the Large Venue Projection Systems session describing how **LCoS technology is alive and well**,

serving the demanding needs of the simulation market. And in the Digital Signage session we heard from Sanju Khatri, principal analyst for projection and large screen displays at iSuppli, who presented her analysis of different signage markets and Peter Gamby editor of Display Monitor who analyzed the various corporate players in this application by display size, technology and geographical region. What's clear is that **signage is become a growth engine for the ProAV community**. New products are emerging and better system integration and easy to use system platforms making it simpler to operate even complex systems. We also see some savvy manufacturers adding 3D into the product mix making them a hit in attention-getting advertising venues.

And Corning joined Insight Media and Pacific Media Associates to close out the conference talking about the Pico/Pocket Projector Opportunities. There are many opinions on the viability of these segments and all three companies presented analysis that included a Corning presentation on new metrics for evaluating microprojectors, details on the recent Insight Media pico projector forecast, and a review of the demand side of pico/pocket projectors by Bill Coggshall of Pacific Media Associates.

But beyond the sessions and discussion, for the first time the event also featured three technology showcase areas. These technology exhibit areas included the cutting edge in - Pico- Pocket-Projector Showcase, Light-rejecting Screen Showcase, and the Short-throw Projector Showcase. The showcase areas were open to all Projection Summit and InfoComm registered attendees and media.

There were **six projectors shown in the Pico- and Pocket projector showcase** at Projection Summit, from various manufacturers. "These new classes of projectors are generating a lot of excitement in consumer and professional segments, and having a collection of them in one place, before the start of InfoComm, to facilitate viewing and interaction with developers offered a great value to attendees and exhibitors alike," said Chris Chinnock, President of Insight Media, the organizer of Projection Summit.

Projection Summit also featured its first ever **Light-rejecting Screen Showcase**. The screen is a critical factor in determining the quality of a front projected image, and this showcase provided an industry first, the opportunity to see in one location the latest light-rejecting screen products and technologies. The exhibit presented the screens under realistic and similar conditions to give attendees a realistic basis for comparison.

The **Short-Throw Projector showcase** was also a first for Projection Summit. "The recent and substantial commercial success of this class of front projector products makes this showcase both timely and important." Chinook said. The short-throw projectors were presented side by side and under similar conditions, allowing visitors to see all the latest products and technologies at one time and in a single venue. The space is also getting wide and deep. Last year we saw a few dipping their toes in this solution, but this year, Hitachi, 3M, Sanyo, NEC, Smart Technologies and BenQ were at InfoComm and/or at the Short Throw Showcase Pavilion to show off their wares. This segment is growing and the products offer a real value proposition.

Projection Summit featured a mix of speakers from leading technology developers, major branders, and market research firms with the latest insights on new technology, markets, applications and competitive issues covering the display industry.

The thought provoking sessions produced understanding of the key drivers that shape the future supported by ample question and answer sessions that brought concepts down to face the market realities.

So if you missed the Summit, don't worry...

Projection Summit Proceedings Available

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Do you have a special topic you would like to address industry-wide? We're open for **Guest Editorial** comments on the industry from Europe... Sorry, no commercials...this is just for industry issues. Contact: rAVeEurope@gmail.com

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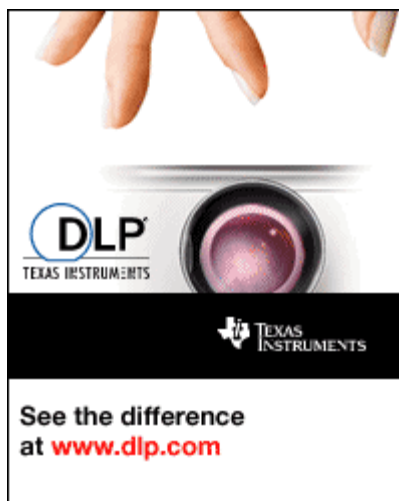
Well, that's it for this edition of rAve Europe! Thank you for spending time with us as we follow the industry happenings.

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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