InNews

ABU Symposium Sponsors Up

MYS: A total of 55 sponsors, exhibitors and media partners have signed up for the 2019 Digital Broadcasting Symposium in Kuala Lumpur on March 4 to 7.

The theme of this year's Symposium is Digital Transition and Transformation and almost 50 organisations are due to showcase their products and services at the three-day exhibition from March 5 to 7.

The event's principal sponsor is WorldDAB, and major sponsors include Rohde & Schwarz and Malaysia's MCMC.

ABS Selects Eutelsat DTH

AFG / FRA: Eutelsat Communications and Afghanistan Broadcasting System (ABS) have signed a multi-year, multi-transponder contract for video capacity on the EUTELSAT 53A satellite.

EUTELSAT 53A's Ku-band resources over Central Asia will provide nationwide coverage for the launch of its new DTH platform, Oqaab HD+ for a mix of national and premium international channels.

The capacity will also enable ABS to extend its DTT network from Kabul to all other Afghan provinces by feeding DTT network head-ends.

Etere Upgrades Ad Insertion

SGP: Etere has unveiled new Ad Insertion software that comes with an improved performance and a new GUI that offers the best of both aesthetics and functionality.

Designed to be a cutting-edge solution that prepares users to be future-ready, Etere Ad Insertion's feature set covers the end-to-end workflow of content monetisation.

The feature set includes OTT and customised ad delivery driven by data analytics, targeted ad insertions, on-demand ad insertion, SCTE 104 and SCTE 35 support.

Key Platform KOBA Show

KOR: The 2019, KOBA Show to be held in COEX Hall, Seuol, on May 22 to 25, will present next generation broadcast, audio and lighting technology, and a busy conference and seminar programme.

The conferences are again hosted by The Korea Broadcasting Engineers & Technicians Association. Sound-related expert seminars will be organised by the Korea Association of Sound Artists and the Acoustical Society of Korea.

Last year's event saw some 920 exhibitors and over 42,000 visitors attend the show.
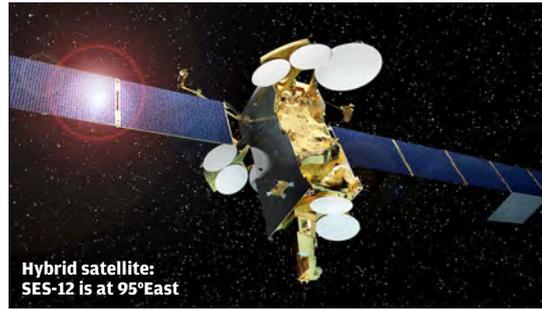
SES-12 Goes Operational

SES's newest satellite, SES-12, is now ready to serve its video, fixed data, mobility and government customers across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

The powerful satellite, which is designed with state-of-the-art wide beams and high throughput beams, will join SES-8 at 95°East.

SES-12 is the latest satellite that SES has launched to that orbital position where it will operate under the authority of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The all-electric satellite will replace and augment the services currently being provided on SES's NSS-6 satellite.

SES-12 is SES's third hybrid satellite

Hybrid satellite: SES-12 is at 95°East

with both wide beams and high throughput payload. Like SES-14 and SES-15 which serve the Americas, the SES-12 high throughput payload is SES's solution for enhancing cost-effective connectivity solutions for aeronautical and maritime customers across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

SES-12 will also be pivotal in enabling governments to provide connectivity programmes to bridge the digital divide, and in allowing telcos, mobile network operators and internet service providers to deliver reliable and enhanced cellular backhaul and faster broadband services.

Together with SES-8, SES-12 will reach key direct-to-home neighbourhoods.

The satellites will provide pay-TV operators the reliability and scalability to improve viewing experiences by enhancing their content offerings, including HD and Ultra HD content.

Japan's Bay FM Selects Calrec Artemis Light

Japanese radio station Bay FM has installed an Artemis Light audio console from Calrec in its flagship Studio One.

The station has upgraded from its analogue system so that it can

Calrec Artemis Light console at Bay FM

handle more elaborate broadcasts including live performances and on-air recording.

Koji Anzai, Technical Manager, Bay FM Engineering Division, said the Artemis can easily be arranged vertically like an analogue mixer or by using the soft panels across the desk, which made the transition to it very easy, given his experience with analogue desks.

"Another consideration we made when deciding on a digital console was the amount of I/O and busses because we regularly host musical performances as well as talk shows," said Anzai.

"The performance and sound quality of the preamps was important to us, and the Artemis comes out on top in both of these areas when compared to other desks we tested. Multi-track playback/recording with Dante is also very easy with the modular Dante card, which has increased our workflow flexibility."

The installation was handled by Calrec's official Japanese distributor, Hibino Intersound.

With five studios in total, Bay FM broadcasts music and news throughout the Chiba Prefecture.

BNC Equips 24-Hour News Studio with Ross Video

Malaysian-based 24-hour BERNAMA News Channel (BNC) recently decided to build a brand-new studio at its HQ in Kuala Lumpur, and to increase the amount of live content being broadcast by the channel.

"Broadcast professionals love working with live content," said Hakimi Zuffrida bin Mohd Zain, Chief Operating Officer at BNC. "It's exciting and brings energy and freshness to our programme schedule.

"However, live content has traditionally been expensive and can sometimes be unpredictable. Ross is known for offering great value and the company's expertise in live production

was an important consideration when choosing a technology partner."

Following consultation with Ross and the team at UXERA, BNC purchased a range of solutions including the Ultrix routing/AV platform, the Graphite all-in-one switcher/graphics/audio solution, and several seats of XPression Prime.

According to BNC's Engineering specialist Wan Anuar Bin Wan Jusoh, the new products are having an impact: "Our engineers and technical teams have been able to manage and operate the Ross equipment with little difficulty and the Ross technical

BNC Malaysia deploys Ross XPression Prime

support team have always been on-hand to guide us when needed.

"The mobile production flypack has already proved its worth, enabling us to cover more news and live events more efficiently."

The BNC television network owned by the government news agency in Malaysia.

Broadpeak Expands Singapore Office

SIN: Broadpeak has added to its APAC office, with the appointment of Kenth Andersson as its new Director of Sales.

Andersson will be responsible for orchestrating sales strategies and increasing revenue by assisting APAC customers with deployments of the company's CDN, nanoCDN multicast ABR, BroadCache Box local video caching, and analytics solutions. Prior to working at Broadpeak, he was the VP of Sales and Head of APAC at Net Insight. Andersson has also held leadership sales and engineering roles at Cavena Image Products and Digital Vision, respectively.

Over the past year, Broadpeak has experienced strong business growth in the region as a result of widespread deployments of its solutions.

South Asia EditShare Sales Director Named

GBR: EditShare has named Sundeep Menon as Sales Director for South Asia.

He will be responsible for defining the business development strategy across all sectors of Media & Entertainment, supporting EditShare's market expansion.

Menon said: "Broadcasters and media companies today simply cannot offer the same programming or add OTT to survive. They have to drive contemporary media strategies to engage and grow viewership. This requires a new approach to the media foundation and an immense level of flexibility. I look forward to engaging these media businesses and pioneering new workflows with EditShare innovation."

Menon has developed media strategies for companies including Viacom 18, Network 18, Times Now, Sun TV, and Republic TV.

Ikegami Adds To Engineering Team

JPN / GER: Ikegami Electronics (Europe) has added to its sales engineering team at its headquarters in Neuss.

"Ikegami is at the forefront of broadcast camera and monitor equipment development," said Lieven. "What fascinates me the most about the broadcast business is the symbiosis of many different products and technologies which can be combined to create the best possible viewer experience.

"The television media industry is a vast sector which has made rapid progress with the transition from analogue to digital production and delivery and the growing popularity of TV viewing on tablets and phones."

Lieven joins as Junior Sales Engineer specialising in broadcast equipment. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Zixi Partners With Digistor In ANZ Region

Zixi has announced a reseller agreement with Digistor for the ANZ region.

This will allow Digistor customers to quickly adopt the Zixi transport, management and analytical offerings that are being used by the world's biggest players in OTT, broadcast and cloud video delivery.

"Digistor's long history and reputation as a knowledgeable and trusted technology solutions provider made this partnership an easy decision," said John Wastcoat, SVP Alliances and Marketing, Zixi. "Their market familiarity and technical expertise will bring Zixi offerings to customers and technology partners across the ANZ region, empowering them to deliver video *via* any IP network reliably and securely."

Digistor, a respected provider of technology solutions to the VFX, post-production, broadcasting and digital media industries, provides product, design, installation and technical support to companies including the ABC, Disney, Foxtel, Warner Brothers and Endemol Shine across Australia and New Zealand.

"Zixi's ability to deliver live broadcast quality content over IP gives our customers a very simple and cost-effective way to share their content around the world," said Andrew Mooney, Managing Director, Digistor. "We are very pleased to partner with Zixi and are already seeing the potential that this opens up for our clients."

The Asia Pacific video streaming market offers great growth potential, with a substantial 25% year-on-year increase. The new partnership with Digistor will build on Zixi's expanding presence in the APAC region.

Gearhouse Motorsport Comms Deal

In Australia, Gravity Media's Gearhouse Broadcast and Triple Eight Race Engineering Australia Pty Ltd have entered into a four-year service partnership on communications systems.

The deal sees Clear-Com's FreeSpeak II digital wireless intercom system providing communications between car controllers and their support staff.

Triple Eight Team Manager Mark Dutton, said: "The tune-ability of the system to suit and support our needs is truly next level, no other system in the past has come close to the functions, features, and clarity of the system. FreeSpeak II is a high-performance

Comms based on a Clear-Com Eclipse-HX system

system which has allowed to communicate in high pressure situations in a way we only dreamed of in the past."

Mitchell Lockyer-Lane, Business Development Manager for Gearhouse Australia, said: "The communications systems that we've put together for Triple Eight, based on FreeSpeak II and the Eclipse HX Delta assures the teams that their intercom system is something they won't have to worry about."

The communications equipment includes a Clear-Com Eclipse-HX based system with nine 12-key panels and with 15 FreeSpeak II belt packs roaming between four FreeSpeak II transceivers.

Gearhouse will also supply other communications equipment, including custom designed high noise headsets (modified for FreeSpeak II), equipment racks and solid-state recorders.

Lawo VSM Is A Winner For Sky Racing

Professional Audio & Television (PAT) in co-operation with Sky Racing Australia (Tabcorp) has rolled out Lawo's Virtual Studio Manager (VSM) at Sky Racing's Sydney and Melbourne sites.

Initially Sky Racing opted for two medium size VSM systems with 6400 x 6400 crosspoints, a modest amount of control ports for DANTE Matrix control, DMX control and control of their video routers in Sydney and Melbourne.

Each system has storage groups enabled to create, load and save

Sure bet: Lawo VSM control system

presets including labels, crosspoints, GPO states, parameters and panel layouts using mimic buttons. Also enabled are vsmGadgets which allow Sky Racing to control up to 500 third-party parameters.

Each system has 18 virtual vsmPanels, which were custom configured to meet Sky Racing unique workflow requirements.

In their Sydney Frenchs Forest facility, Sky Racing uses VSM to unify all legacy systems to prepare for the transformation to IP. A second system is also deployed in the new Tabcorp office at Collins Street in Melbourne where VSM is managing the routing of the Race Day Control Room. This comprises 18 desks, each with three Genelec 8010APM speakers having DANTE audio routed into them *via* the VSM virtual control panels.

All 54 Genelec speakers were also supplied by PAT with a DANTE monitoring bridge.

China's Nanjing Radio Connects with NTP Penta Technology

Nanjing Radio, one of China's largest regional broadcast networks, has invested in NTP Technology Penta 720 audio embedder/de-embedders and 721 routing/networking interfaces at its studio headquarters in Nanjing City. Nanjing Radio is a family of radio stations transmitting *via* terrestrial FM and AM across the Jiangsu region of the People's Republic of China and more widely online.

"Nanjing Radio identified the Penta 720 and 721 as the ideal way to interconnect four of its studios *via* audio-over-IP and MIDI," says NTP Technology Sales Director Mikael Vest. "Each Penta 720 includes a 1024 x 1024 multiplexer and is able to route all inputs and outputs *via* up to three MADI I/O connections or IP audio. Configurable from a range of optional modules, it supports eight channel AES3 I/O channels, MADI, two IP audio Ethernet I/Os and an Avid Pro Tools interface. Additional features include SDI embedding/de-embedding as well as analogue-to-digital and digital-to-

NTP Technology Penta 720 and 721
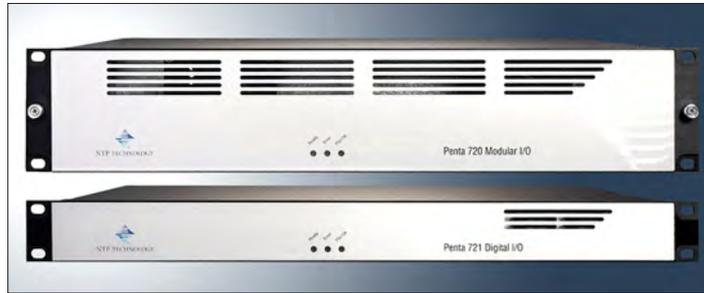
analogue conversion."

"IP audio networking is more flexible and less costly than the traditional AES/EBU, AES50 or MADI point-to-point distribution. The Penta 721 routing interfaces allow digital audio distribution *via* IP-based Gigabit Ethernet.

A full-bandwidth uncompressed audio routing network can be established quickly and easily, connecting multiple remote sites such as regional broadcast stations through a local or wide area network. The IP audio protocol used in the Penta 721 is powered by Audinate Dante

technology and is compatible with Dante-compliant third-party products." "The project was negotiated *via* our long-standing sales partner in China, Infomedia Digital Technology," he adds.

Designed for use in production studios, OB vehicles, and public-event venues, the Penta 720 occupies 2U. Up to eight optional cards plus an optional mini module can be incorporated to match specific operational requirements. The range of available plug-in cards includes an eight-channel analogue input interface, eight-channel

analogue output, two-channel SDI/HD/3G embedder interface, two-channel SDI/HD/3G de-embedder interface.

NTP's Penta 721 can route up to 512 channels across a 1Gbs network, within a latency of less than a millisecond. Additional channels can be accommodated if the network capacity is higher. The interface is TCP/IP controlled *via* one or two Ethernet ports. Signal sources and destinations can be configured onscreen *via* any standard browser using NTP's RCCoreV4 routing control software.

Each Penta 721 chassis incorporates eight AES/EBU input/output channels plus up to three MADI input/outputs, two IP Audio Ethernet inputs/outputs and an interface allowing direct operation from Avid Pro Tools. Dedicated control software compatible with Microsoft Windows can be employed for controlling and setting up the Penta 721 on a unit-to-unit basis when less advanced operation is required. ■

Cinecastar Aims To Revolutionise ANZ Film Distribution

Silver Trak Digital has partnered with IPSTAR, a leading broadband and satellite support provider, and KenCast to provide Cinecastar, a revolutionary method for providing rapid cinema content distribution in Australia and New Zealand.

The service, currently operational throughout the U.S., takes the traditional DCP, uploads it to the KenCast secured cloud-based distribution platform and server and automates the forward transmission and download to participant cinemas wherever connected in Australia and New Zealand.

Silver Trak COO Christian Christiansen says: "The cost and efficiency advantages of using Cinecastar are significant with the removal of physical HDD delivery and the instant recognition of content delivery."

Silver Trak Digital's extensive experience in processing, creating and QC analysis of DCPs plays an integral part in the preparation of the content

for satellite transmission and is completely integrated into the delivery service alongside the company's traditional services including DCP creation, KDM management and HDD delivery.

Christiansen adds: "There are major benefits to distributors and exhibitors including reduced total cost of ownership by providing a secure and efficient end-to-end IP delivery platform. We are also using proven KenCast technology that securely and efficiently delivers content to over 2,700 cinemas in the US and reports on delivery of that content."

IPSTAR also owns the satellite bandwidth and provides a dedicated service from the satellite down to the earth station that connects it to the company's data centre in Sydney where DCPs are ingested. Thus, the service is not reliant on the service performance or limits of exhibitors' individual internet connections.

Christiansen concludes: "With

IPSTAR owning and controlling the satellite bandwidth, Cinecastar can immediately scale bandwidth as required to meet demand which means we can always ensure reliability of service. We can also offer excellent disaster recovery as, in the event of cinema site equipment failure, we have a backup system whereby we send HDDs directly to the affected site at no extra cost to any party. In parallel we arrange a service call for the site at no extra cost to exhibitors. In short our Cinecastar system is cheaper and more efficient than the current method of shipping content around the country *via* couriers which is good news for the vast majority of cinemas in Australia and New Zealand."

Silver Trak Digital is a technology company providing content owners and media companies with innovative, software, cloud-based media logistics and distribution services.

With over 30 years of experience, the company is trusted by the industry's

Silver Trak COO Christian Christiansen

biggest names and is an important supplier to broadcast, media, production, distribution, government and corporate markets.

Silver Trak Digital's staff have a wealth of experience in versioning and compliance, content aggregation, media management and sales fulfilment. ■