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has issued a Certificate of RoHS Compliance covering all of its products including digital snakes, personal mixers and input and output modules. The Certificate confirms that Aviom's products comply with the European Union's Restriction on Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive. The RoHS Directive was originally established to address concerns regarding the accumulation of hazardous wastes resulting from consumer products. Aviom now certifies that its products are manufactured free of lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent Chromium (CrVI), polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB's) and polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE's). This compliance came into force on July 1st, 2006.

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Swingin' With EtherSound

AUSTRIA: Jazz Sommer Graz has been taking advantage of summer's long nights to showcase the world's leading jazz musicians since 1998.

This year, the festival expanded to two venues in order to accommodate a line-up that ranged from Bo Diddley to Oregon. The Kasematten is a 2,800-seat outdoor venue on a hill overlooking the city, while the Schlossberg is a more traditional jazz club.

"This was the ideal moment to think about new technical solutions," says Wolfgang Peschmann, whose sound company inPhase has provided production services to the festival since its inception. The

Kasematten in particular could be difficult: it's long and narrow, with parallel stone walls on both sides. inPhase decided early on that Nexo's newest tangent array system, the GEO D, would work well in this venue.

To help get acts on and off stage quickly, and provide a familiar control surface to visiting engineers, Peschmann selected a Yamaha PM5D mixing desk. Those choices opened up the possibility of an all-digital signal path. "With Nexo's NX242 on the output side and the PM5D at front of house, it was logical to connect the system in the digital domain," Peschmann explains.



The Kasematten, a 2,800-seat outdoor venue overlooking the city

The NX242 Digital Controller has an EtherSound input option and EtherSound is also available for Yamaha digital audio products, via interface cards and software from

AuviTran. EtherSound was the obvious choice, but Peschmann also wanted to be sure that the benefits of distributing digital audio via Ethernet would be both audible and deliverable. "After testing the components for functionality and reliability, we did some EtherSound versus analogue listening tests," he recalls. "All of the people we invited preferred the Ethersound feed – it is an outstanding improvement in sound quality."

The decision was made to go digital from end to end, and inPhase invested in AuviTran AVY16-ES cards for its PM5D and AVKit-ES cards for the AD8HR stage inputs. In between are redundant fibre optic cables, with a pair of AuviTran's AVED-ES Redundant Links Manager units ensuring minimal latency and automatic switchover to the highest-quality link.

The Camco-powered Nexo GEO D cabinets are arrayed nine per side, with four CD18 cardioid subwoofers on either side of the stage. "The PA is pretty silent on stage," says Peschmann, "which makes the job of the monitor engineers easy and the musicians happy. This was the first year when no one changed our system set-up or house EQ. In fact, both Tower of Power and their engineer told us that this was the best-sounding PA they had heard on this tour."

DANIEL DIVER

CONTACT >> INPHASE

WEB >> www.inphase.at



UK: Taking to the London West End stage for the first time recently was Orbital Sound's CSC Audio Playback & Control system, specified for use in the latest adaptation of the *Rocky Horror Show*. CSC – available for purchase or hire from Orbital in both Pro and Lite versions – is designed to provide cost-conscious, software-based sound playback and system control. In addition to sound designer Rick Clarke's utilisation of the system at the Playhouse Theatre, CSC has also been delivered to another London venue, The Gate Theatre in Notting Hill. ■

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