

Radio World®

Vol 13, No 11

Radio's Best Read Newspaper

June 14, 1989

Radio Nets Shun NAB Show

by John Gatski

Washington DC With the opinion that the NAB annual convention focuses more on TV than radio, major radio networks pulled their lavish hospitality suites from this year's convention.

CBS, Westwood One and Capital Cities/ABC radio officials said they decided to devote this year's resources to hospitality suites for the fall Radio '89 show in New Orleans. They claimed the

spring show has taken on a TV and engineering perspective with less emphasis on radio management.

The decline of radio?

The NAB has denied the annual convention is becoming a TV and engineering show, but the association is discussing several options to renew radio network interest, according to Senior Radio VP Lynn Christian.

Of the radio hospitality suites at previ-

ous NAB spring conventions, the network setups were considered the most elaborate with numerous parties and amenities.

The suites helped the networks maintain a high profile for their affiliates attending the convention, but in recent years all the networks maintained there have been declining numbers of their affiliates' management and programming

personnel at the show.

"We sent our affiliate relations staff (to Las Vegas), but we are going to be putting most of our effort into the hospitality suite at Radio '89 in September," CBS Media Relations Director Helene Blienberg said.

(continued on page 12)

Squeeze is on in Atlanta

by John Gatski

Washington DC Although the NAB said radio exhibitors will get about the same amount of space at the 1990 spring convention in Atlanta as they did this year in Las Vegas, some manufacturers believe they have been squeezed off the main radio exhibit hall in favor of TV.

Some companies said that by the time they made their 1990 space choices during this year's show, based on the NAB's preference system, the only remaining space was in areas that TV companies will exhibit.

With only one of six halls reserved exclusively for radio/audio exhibitors at Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center,

some companies privately voiced a concern that the NAB spring convention is fast becoming a TV/video show, with radio taking a back seat.

Concern, not anger

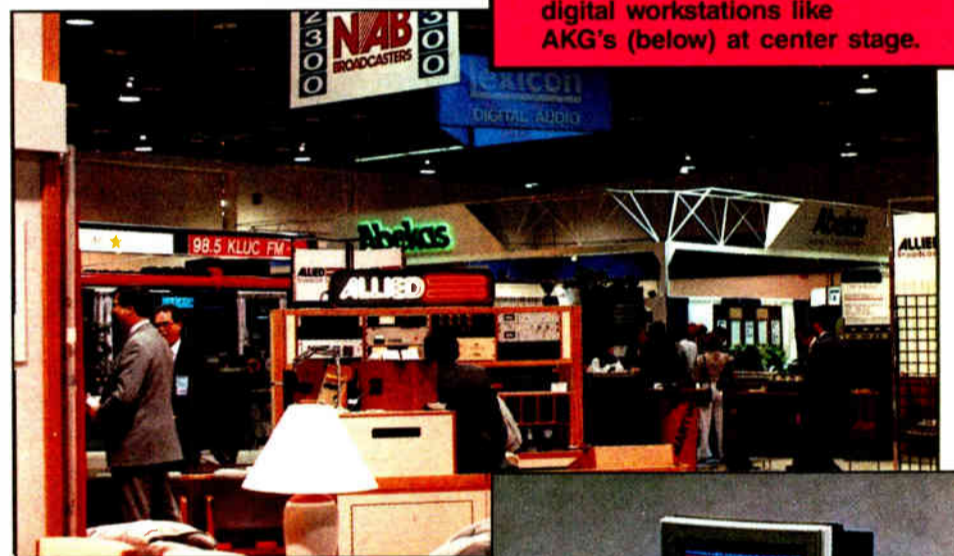
Most manufacturers are not angry about the space allotments in Atlanta, but there is some concern, one said.

"We are very unhappy about it," Gentner Electronics Marketing Coordinator Kelli Maag said. "For us, we will not even be in the radio area; we will be in TV. They (NAB) kind of backed radio into a corner."

Also, at least one company feels it may have to miss the fall radio show to keep its exhibit costs in line due to the move

(continued on page 12)

NAB show dazzles with digital workstations like AKG's (below) at center stage.



Workstations Break Ground In Audio Arena

by Frank Beacham

Las Vegas NV Recognizing the radio station market as fertile ground for a new generation of digital editing workstation, AKG Acoustics unveiled a new desktop system at NAB that, at under \$30,000, breaks new ground in price and performance.

However, AKG was not the only competitor in the audio workstation arena, as the battle for dominance in the market heated up the NAB trade show floor.

RAM-based workstation

The AKG DSE 7000 is a RAM-based digital workstation incorporating the equivalent of an eight-track recorder, an editing system and a mixer. It is designed for the preparation of commercials, promos and other short duration recordings. AKG officials said the unit is specifically targeted for sale to radio stations.

The standalone system offers "word processing"-style editing, copying, punch-ins and moving and slipping of single or multiple tracks. Its-eight track capability allows digital track bouncing without degradation in audio quality.

The integral digital mixer has ten in-



puts, including level, pan, echo send/return, track bounce and solo functions. For ease of operation, the user interface preserves many aspects of current analog working practices such as traditional mixer controls and tape motion buttons.

The workstation, which is about the size of a console analog recorder, offers digital audio in the 16-bit linear PCM format, 20 kHz bandwidth at 44.1/48 kHz sampling rate. A 15 kHz bandwidth at 32 kHz sampling rate is optional.


The standard RAM memory is capable of 4.4 minutes of audio, and may be freely allocated from one to eight tracks. Additional memory cards allow expansion.

(continued on page 17)

DYNAMAX LEADS COMPETITION BY NEARLY TWO TO ONE

The New Professional Audio Marketplace (PAM) Census and Survey from Sheer and Chaskelson Research, Inc. reports that an estimated 47.6% of all broadcast facilities planning to purchase cartridge machines in the next twelve months have chosen DYNAMAX by a margin of nearly 2 to 1 over any other brand of cartridge machine.

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80-90 Stations' Futures Appear Secure

by Charles Taylor

Washington DC It appears that most of the 684 new FM channels created as a result of docket 80-90 are secure following a recent federal court ruling that declared the FCC violated requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act in handling the docket, an FCC official said.

But it is conceivable that specific channels could be affected, where complaints against an allotment had been

filed years ago according to Commission procedures, said Karl Kensinger, chief of the FCC's allocations branch.

"One of our primary concerns is avoiding any kind of effect" from the court decision on allocated channels, he maintained.

Reeder vs. the FCC

The case was filed in a Washington federal appeals court under "Reeder vs. the FCC" and specified several arguments against the Commis-

sion's procedures in allocating frequencies within three new station classes.

The classes, established in docket 84-231, were prompted by the action in 80-90, and led to the 684 allocations.

The court ruled that the Commission violated legal notice and comments requirements, and it granted specific appeals, according to James Bayes, a partner with Wiley, Rein & Fielding, which represented two of the petitioning parties.

In response, the Commission is preparing a document to address the court's concerns, Kensinger said. No fines or penalties are imposed by the ruling, only recommendations of compliance, he said.

Still, concern has arisen that because of the success of the Reeder appeal, allocated stations may be delayed or challenged.

However Kensinger has attested that because parties were given ample time in previous

comment periods, such a backlash is unlikely.

An extreme example

"You're talking about an extreme example where someone has been sitting back for a few years, when they were free to raise those arguments in 1984 or 1985," he said. "A person who had no part in the process up to this point has waived any rights they may have had."

The principles of administrative finality foreclose people from simply sitting back and then filing at a later date when they had a perfect opportunity to participate in the proceeding at an earlier time, he added.

All of the 684 frequencies were allocated by October 1988, when the final filing window closed, according to Larry Eads, chief of the FCC's audio services division. However, it is unclear just how many have actually gone on air.

FCC officials said that a list of station assignments does not exist and would be difficult to assess because each was allocated in a separate filing.

"We just don't have the manpower to figure something like that," Eads said.

Rothschild Broadcasting's WVAY-FM in Mount Snow, VT, one of the 80-90 allocations, was scheduled to go on the air 26 May, and according to President Robin Rothschild, hit no unusual snags in the FCC process.

"I'm the only station in a 20-mile radius," near a major ski resort, Rothschild said.

Other stations allocated under the 80-90 docket have received CPs and many are also in the process of station construction, although it may be years before the full impact of the 684 new allotments are felt.

For information, contact Karl Kensinger at 202-634-6530, or James Bayes at 202-429-7000.

WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE THINK OF THIS BEFORE?

A FAST-PACED PRODUCTION CONSOLE

THE WHEATSTONE SP-6 AUDIO CONSOLE lets production people quickly accomplish 8 and 16-track work, yet easily handle routine transfers and dubbing operations. With its unique track monitor section it can facilitate simultaneous stereo mixdown during the multi-track bed session — almost halving typical production time cycles. Input channels are laid out just like an air console, with machine starts below the channel fader, so staff familiar with on-air consoles can quickly become comfortable in the production environment.

For those interested in more advanced techniques, the SP-6 employs a powerful talent monitor section designed to rapidly call up live mic and track combinations, making difficult punch-ins a breeze. Standard SP-6 input channel equalizers are more comprehensive than

those supplied as optional items on competing products, allowing much greater creative freedom. Input channel auxiliary send sections are designed to be the most versatile in the industry, providing 4 different auxiliary buses to allow digital delay, reverb, talent foldback, and mix-minus feeds. Stereo input channels can provide either mono or stereo effects sends. Even more, the SP-6 has 4 auxiliary effects return inputs that allow effects to be recorded onto the multitrack or sent to the monitor buses.

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Air Force Jet Crashes, Causes Tower Collapse

by Charles Taylor

Panama City FL An Air Force pilot flying an F-15 jet here clipped the guy wires of a broadcast tower, causing the 1500' structure to collapse.

Radio station WPAP-FM, which broadcast from an antenna on the tower, was knocked off the air overnight following the mid-afternoon collapse 18 May and lost its main transmitter when part of the tower landed on the station's transmission building. Also knocked off the air were TV stations WMBB, which owned the tower, and WFSG.

The pilot was forced to crash land at nearby Tyndall Air Force base when the plane's left main landing gear failed to deploy, but no injuries resulted from the accident.

"For what it was worth, we were back on the air the next morning with about 30 watts," said WPAP GM Bo Bowman. "We used an exciter out of the back room, which gives us maybe a three-mile coverage."

The country-format station normally covers 290 miles.

New equipment was expected to be on-line by the beginning of June, Bowman said. The station ordered a Continental 35 kW transmitter and an eight-bay antenna, which it will place on a

1000' tower leased from a local radio competitor. The station previously operated with a Gates 20 kW transmitter and 14-bay antenna.

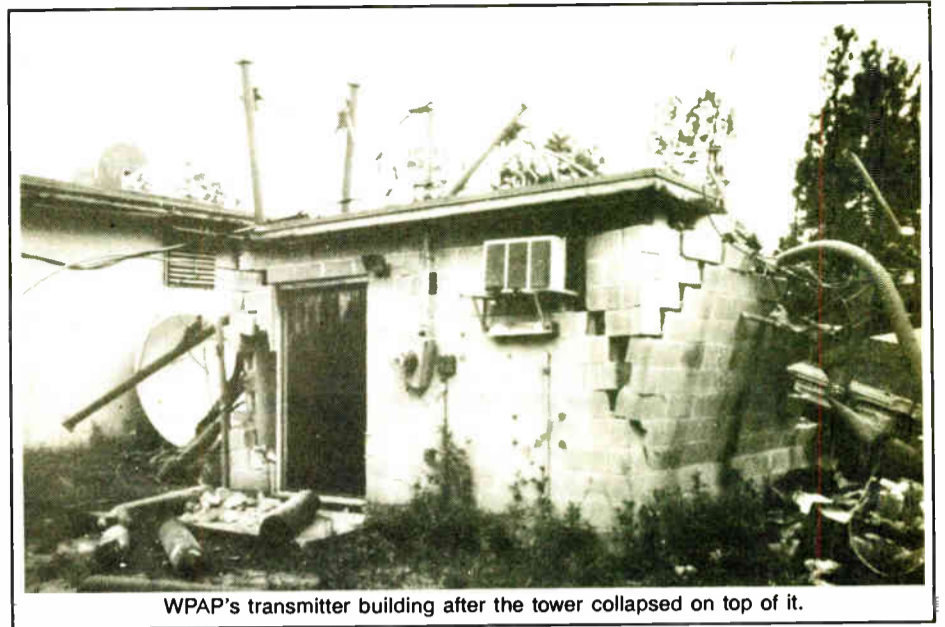
Bowman said comparable coverage is expected with the new set-up.

TV also restored service

WMBB-TV was off the air for several hours, but was able to restore service to most of its coverage area through a hook-up with the local cable television company.

"For what it was worth, we were back on the air the next morning with about 30 watts."

The station intended to switch transmission by the end of May to its microwave station 12 miles from its studios, broadcasting from a 300' tower on a 6 kW transmitter. Afterward, it will determine where a new tower will be built, according to WMBB-TV GM



WPAP's transmitter building after the tower collapsed on top of it.

David Jernigan.

"We asked our consulting engineer to look at it as a new station and find the very best place to put a tower," he said.

Details of the actual accident remain sketchy, but officials at the stations said the pilot was a Japanese exchange flier who had years of experience with the F-15 and was training pilots at Tyndall.

"There was an eyewitness in the area who said she saw the aircraft (after it hit the tower) and it was very erratic in flying," Bowman said. "She thought the pilot would lose it, but he really must have

been quite good to not crash into a populated area and to have landed the aircraft after the damage he had sustained."

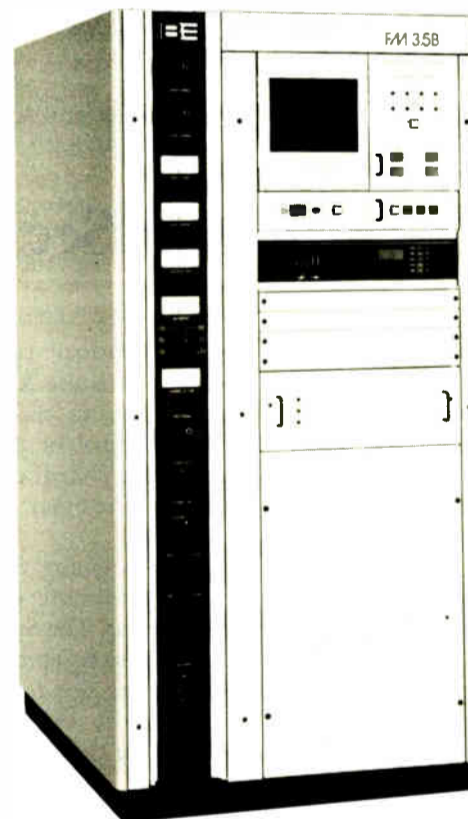
Ironically, WMBB's assistant and chief engineers had been scheduled to be at the transmitter site replacing a part when the accident occurred, but cancelled the visit when the part was delayed.

Said Jernigan, "I told them he should send roses thanking the company for their inefficiency. It saved their lives."

For more information, contact WPAP at 904-769-1408; or WMBB-TV at 904-769-2313.

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Cream of the Convention Crop

by Judith Gross

Falls Church VA All right, now that we've all had at least a little time to kick back from the NAB show . . .

What exactly were the memorable new toys that will be setting the industry on fire over the coming year?

First of all, you have to divide the answer to that question into two categories.

Category One would be the new high tech, the innovations that are not yet actual products but stand to change the technology—for the better.

In this corner are digital workstations, which are growing in number. Having seen the New England Digital and Integrated Media's Dyaxis offerings at previous shows, I'd have to give a special mention this time around to AKG.

The company featured an impressive, user-friendly demo aimed with the broadcaster firmly in mind, of its DSE 7000 digital sound editor.

In DAT, the big news was editing capability, with a not-yet-ready-for-market demo of a DAT editor from Panasonic. DAT is still a touchy subject, but Panasonic showed that it could be done.

And you had to fight your way through to QEI's booth to see the CAT/LINK digital stereo link. It lets you use T-1 lines for STL, and interest is running high in areas where microwave hops are not feasible.

My **Category Two** is for offerings that are indeed products for sale, and there are a number of noteworthy mentions. Harris' 50 kW digital transmitter, the DX-50, wowed 'em at the show.

Also drawing high marks was Broadcast Electronic's new digital FM exciter. TFT deserves kudos both for its FM synchronous transmitter and its EBS receiver. Delta's new noise generator lets you test compliance with the NRSC standard, now that it's going to be mandatory.

It would be hard to single out one new console from the wave of new boards unveiled at the show. Nearly every major

player had a new product, and they all seem to be aiming for maximum performance, ease of maintenance and cost savings.

If I had to cite just one new console, I guess it'd have to be the Radiomixer from Pacific Recorders & Engineering. Not only is the price range below what most



would associate with this high-end company, but it includes even more features than the company's bigger and costlier BMX consoles.

To round out my show picks, there are two additional products which are really opposite sides of the same coin.

Tascam unveiled a CD player and controller which is tailor-made to a broadcast environment. In addition to two remote options it features a proprietary clamping system designed to eliminate CD skipping. The new model even looks a little like a cart machine.

And proving that the market for cart machines is far from comatose, Broadcast Electronics introduced a new version of its phase-correcting PhaseTrak 90, called the DuraTrak.

In addition to being lower in cost, it is designed to be field-convertible from mono to stereo and from player to recorder.

The NAB show is not usually a place one would associate with the solemn occasion of someone's nuptials. However, two Delta Electronics employees took advantage of the expediency of Vegas laws to tie the knot at none other than Circus Circus.

Design engineer Chris Wilk and his

bride Michelle, who met at Delta, took the plunge at the Chapel of the Fountains the day before the convention officially opened. Manager of broadcast sales John Bisset brought along the prerequisite champagne for toasting.

Then Chris spent the next four days manning Delta's booth on the exhibit floor. How's that for a fantasy honeymoon? No truth to the rumor, by the way, that instead of "Just Married" the couple's car sported Delta's slogan "Splatter Matters."

Something like about half of the radio stations in the country apparently took part in the NAB-RAB Futures Committee campaign which had been endear-



"Hey honey, let's get married. At the NAB Show!" "OK . . . we'll honeymoon at the Delta booth and . . ."

ingly dubbed "30 seconds of dead air."

Listeners who may not have been clever enough to figure out that things would be a little too quiet if Marconi had never done his thing got to hear their favorite station go silent for a half a minute.

Actually, as far as some of the usual tasteless banter on the shock-jock morning menageries are concerned, 30 seconds of silence wasn't nearly enough.

Having given you my product picks of

the show, here are the first (and maybe the last) annual Earwaves NAB exhibit booth awards. Congrats (I think) to all the lucky winners:

Yummiest booth goes to Radio Systems, for its Tastykakes, with honorable mention, as always to Eventide for its ever-present chocolate bars. **Niftiest freebie award** goes to Burk Technology for its "matchbook" which was really a touchpad calculator when you looked inside.

Most aesthetic booth design goes to Wheatstone, highlighting its new furniture line with some classy art deco lines and neon.

Thickest carpet goes to Pacific Recorders & Engineering—my feet thank you.

Largest/most spread out booth goes to Harris, and even more so when you count Harris-Allied together. Allied wins for the home-i-est looking booth, too, with its soft couches and glowing lamps.

Most crowded (with attendees) booth was Broadcast Electronics, right near the entrance as always, and a place to see and be seen.

Best booth with a view was the bi-level structure at Varian/Continental—thanks for the great vantage point.

Most unnecessary-but-nice was the shoe-shine special at Satellite Music Network booth's in the Hilton Center.

Best away-from-the-show respite goes to Studer for its wine tasting at the Sahara. Good wines with a great "nose," Tore, especially the cabernet. And the view of the strip was pretty spectacular.

And next time we're in Vegas, why doesn't someone have a press conference at that water slide which looked like a real blast from the Studer suite. (Or was that merely the effects of the Chardonnay?) It would have made for a real "cool" show.

Heard something interesting? Spill your guts to Earwaves. Write PO Box 1214, Falls Church VA 22041, or call me at 703-998-7600. Best tidbit of the month wins a coveted 1989 edition Radio World mug.

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FM Class A1 Architect Details His AM Concept

by Richard Arsenault

Millville NJ AMs are facing increasing advertising revenue losses due to the audience shift from the AM to FM radio band. The majority of AM broadcast stations without a co-located FM station has an urgent need to correct this situation or many of these stations are unlikely to survive in the highly competitive radio marketplace.

Most of these AMs have served their local communities effectively for 30 years or more, in many cases with only daytime service, or in other cases on a fulltime basis with less than adequate nighttime coverage. The AM radio rule changes adopted this decade have provided insignificant solutions to the problems of standalone AMs and in

ference to existing FM stations must be adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. Accordingly, I have submitted a Petition for Rule Making to the FCC, requesting rule changes by creating a new FM Class A1 facility for the purpose of simulcasting programs of existing standalone AMs.

Class A1 FM secondary assignments as proposed would be made available "only" to standalone AMs, would not require amendment to the FM Table of Allotments as currently required for other commercial FM facilities and would be made available only upon proper showing that no interference would be caused to the primary coverage area of each and every existing FM authorization.

This same assignment method has been used now for about a decade by (secondary) Class D educational FMs, which elected to operate on commercial FM channels. An effective radiated power of up to 1000 watts with antenna 100 meters (328 feet) above average terrain is proposed, allowing primary 1 mV/m FM (60 dBu) coverage of up to approximately 10 miles from the transmitter site.

AMs could take advantage of FM Class A1 for a relatively small investment. This plan would permit most AM daytime and fulltime stations the opportunity to take advantage of such a proposal and provide clear FM coverage on a fulltime basis to their local communities and surrounding areas. Numerous communities nationwide could receive a local fulltime interference-free radio service for the first time.

As a result of this petition, I've received responses from broadcasters nationwide, all strongly in favor. Success of this petition will depend upon the active support of a large number of broadcasters. Respond in writing to: Chief of the Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554.

...

Richard F. Arsenault is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), an SBE senior member and Certified Senior Broadcast Engineer. Mr. Arsenault, a telecommunications consultant, can be reached at 609-825-0124.

READERS FORUM

Maintenance and common sense

Dear RW:

Your 8 February article, "Towers Brought Down in SC, MD" was a bit ironic. Being a radio tower contractor, I have to believe that a little common sense would have prevented this crumpled heap of metal trash.

It is my understanding that the location of the dumpsters were too close to a guy point. Persons entering and leaving the premises are not aware of existing overhead wires (workmen rarely look over the tops of the vehicles for clearance).

Only human error is to blame for this misfortune. Maybe after the new tower is erected, the garbage dumpsters can be relocated to avoid future tragedies.

As for the WGMS-AM in Maryland incident where an 80 mph wind brought

It's time for NAB to give serious thought to splitting radio off from its spring convention.

The size to which the yearly gathering has grown, the clamoring for booth space and the increasing emphasis on TV issues make this a logical move for both the association and the industry.

The radio networks have already taken a stand by diverting their money and focus away from the spring convention in favor of the fall radio-only gathering.

Their action could be a bellweather of growing sentiment in favor of radio building a stronger fall convention.

Instead of having to develop engineering, management and programming sessions for a radio audience twice, NAB could put all of its efforts into building up the sessions at the fall show, thereby attracting more attendees to that convention.

It would also be an assurance to the association's radio members that their interests are being well-served.

Many companies already bear the expense of attending both shows each year. As the TV side of the industry continues to grow some radio exhibitors are feeling the squeeze in the exhibit hall.

Those who wish to reach both TV and radio attendees would still be able to exhibit at both shows, or put the majority of their efforts into one show and maintain a suite or other more modest effort at the other show.

It will be hard for NAB to relinquish the certain dollars of having radio companies exit the spring show. And it will be equally as difficult for radio vendors and manufacturers to take the bold first step and wait out the spring show in favor of the fall convention.

But after some initial shuffling and jockeying for position the smoke will clear and the broadcast industry will be left with the benefits:

A more manageable spring show which can focus entirely on such weighty TV issues as a high definition standard, and the world's greatest radio show each autumn with increased attendance and attention to all aspects of radio.

—RW

Time For Separate Shows

Errata

The 10 May RW story on Richard Arsenault's petition to the FCC unfortunately contained several inaccurate statements which need to be corrected.

The proposal is aimed at helping all standalone AMs, not just daytimers. It asks that the current rule requiring the maximum to minimum radiation in the horizontal plane of 15 dB be waived for the proposed class of stations and there is no limitation on antenna height stated in the petition; only a proposed ERP of 1000 W at antenna height 100 meters HAAT.

FM channels 201-300 actually refer to the entire FM band and WCTR was misidentified as an FM station—it's AM.

RW regrets the errors.

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FM Class A1 Eligibility Requirements (as proposed)

Any party requesting authorization to construct and operate an FM Class A1 station must meet the following requirements:

1. Class A1 stations will only be granted to licensees of AM standard broadcast stations.
2. The Class A1 stations must simulcast the programs of the AM station with which it is authorized.
3. The Class A1 station will only be licensed to the same community as the AM standard broadcast station with which it simulcasts.
4. Only one Class A1 station will be authorized to each eligible AM standard broadcast station.
5. Class A1 FM broadcast station licenses will not be issued to any party (including all parties under common control) if such party directly or indirectly owns, operates, or controls one or more FM broadcast stations and the grant of a Class A1 license will result in any overlap of the predicted 1 mV/m contours of the existing FM station and the proposed Class A1 station, computed in accordance with part 73.313.

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Console Products Emphasize Variety

by Thomas McGinley

Las Vegas NV Console manufacturers introduced a full smorgasbord of new models at this year's NAB convention. Not in my recent memory have so many companies shown so many new designs at one show.

The menu specialized in budget-priced consoles in the \$4K to \$10K class with features usually found in more expensive units.

Even Pacific Recorders & Engineering, widely regarded as a top-of-the-line company, unveiled a new BMX look-alike priced substantially lower than any studio console it previously produced. "Radiomixer" is a full-featured radio control room console with two mainframe sizes accommodating up to 12 and 20 input positions.

To cut costs, PR&E designed a new mainframe which eliminates most of the labor-intensive umbilical wiring harnesses. Plus the channel modules use a new Apex VCA control with Penny and

Giles (P&G) faders.

While the BMX and ABX consoles achieve better noise and distortion performance without the VCA architecture, Radiomixer's SNR is still very respectable at -82 dB below +8 dB reference output. All other features in the Radiomixer are cloned from the BMX design, including logic, control, tally, cueing, and intercom.

A typically configured 20 channel mainframe lists for about \$16,000, which makes Radiomixer an affordable control console for stations previously priced out of the upper end of the market.

Battle of the budget

The battle for the budget line console market was launched last year when Radio Systems introduced the RS-series linear fader broadcast console. Using a non-modular motherboard layout in six, 12, and 18 channels, the RS family made a real breakthrough in performance and features at very low prices.

Hot on the heels of Radio System's RS

effort is Arrakis Systems with its 12000 series consoles. Based on three mainframe sizes of eight, 18, and 28 channels, this series uses modular construction like its popular 5000 series, enabling input modules to be added or relocated.

Standard features include three output busses, P&G faders with VCA control, ITT Schadow switches, gold-plated connectors and a comprehensive logic system for remote start, tally, muting, timer reset, and talkback.

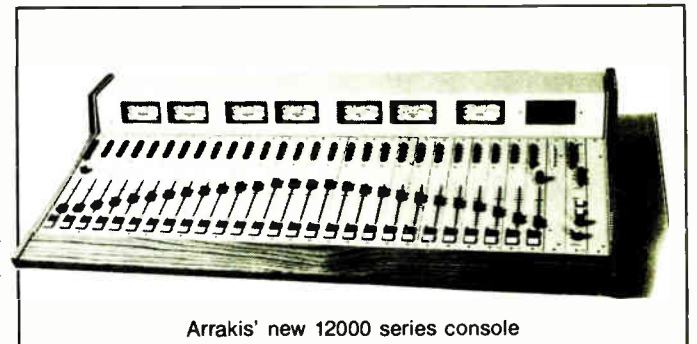
Prices are almost identical to the comparably equipped Radio Systems RS line, making the Arrakis 12000 series lots of console for the money. Performance specifications were not available.

Arrakis also showed its new Turbo-SC series. The model SC-T consoles incorporate numerous changes, improvements, and additions to the popular SC series, including lower distortion, pre-fader patch points, built-in mic preamp, digital clock and timer and new expanded manuals.

Arrakis has also expanded into the prefabricated modular console furniture business with an exclusive deal with Allied. Each Modulux cabinet can be shipped separately via UPS and as-

sembled on-site into a completed system.

Autogram Corporation, makers of the forever popular and durable IC series consoles, introduced its new Pacemaker



Arrakis' new 12000 series console

transformerless series. Three non-modular mainframe sizes of six, eight, and 10 channels use P&G faders, VCA control, electronic switching, no audio transformers, modular preamp cards and shadow selector switches.

The 648 six-channel Pacemaker features eight inputs per channel. All three models accommodate up to eight mic inputs. Three output busses are standard—including mix-minus—and all input levels are trimmable. Prices range from \$5500 to \$7200.

New from RAM is the SX series console, featuring a modular design which is expandable upon station growth by adding modules. There are three mainframe

(continued on page 39)

Is Radio Lagging in Digital?

by Frank Beacham

Las Vegas NV At NAB 1989, radio and television equipment manufacturers were separated into booths at opposite ends of the huge convention center exhibition hall. Though both camps have a common interest of delivering high quality audio to their audiences, one end of the hall was clearly on a fast track to the future while the other seemed glued to the past.

On the TV side, the crowd around Sony's new 16-channel digital audio mixer was so large it was hard even to get a peek. The packed throng around Panasonic's R-DAT editing

system reminded one of the scene at a rock concert. There was the buzz of excitement in the air that comes when the envelope of technology has been pushed to a new limit.

On the radio side, it was a different story. Crowds were much thinner. That buzz of excitement was missing. Sort of business-as-usual.

Why, a novice observer asked, are the big advancements in audio coming from the video people? Since radio only has one product—sound—why doesn't radio, instead of TV, lead the way in developing things like digital consoles?

In search of an answer, **Radio**
(continued on page 20)

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Disc, DAT and D'Other

by Ty Ford

Las Vegas NV Like it or not, digital audio has arrived. It was in full bloom at the Las Vegas NAB convention. The two days I had allotted to prowl the exhibit floors were not enough.

Panasonic showed not only its studio and portable versions of DAT, neither of which are yet actual products for sale, but also a DAT editing system which closely resembles the videotape editing systems Panasonic has been handling for years on the video side of the business.

At last, an editor

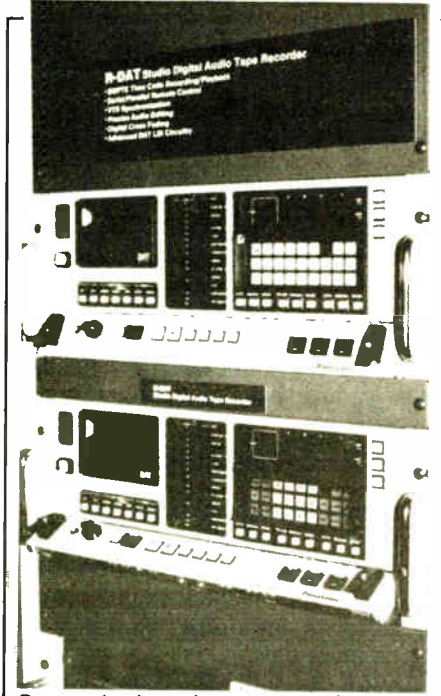
Chris Foreman, marketing manager for Panasonic's professional audio department, prefaced his explanation of the Panasonic DAT controller by saying, "We have a technology demonstration going on. These are not products. They are not for sale, and they're not in production."

With that as a disclaimer, what we're talking about are Panasonic's concept of a portable DAT, a rack mount DAT, and an edit controller. The machines are expected to be SMPTE compatible. DAT time code will be via the NHK- and other manufacturer-backed new timecode standard.

Both rack mount and portable will be designed to operate at the AES/EBU digital standard. Sample rates of 32 kHz,

44.1 kHz and 48 kHz will be available in record and play back.

The editor will control two machines and will allow video-style assemble editing or simultaneous operation of both machines via timecode lock. The editor also has five seconds of audio RAM memory for edit previews, adjustable



Panasonic showed a prototype of an R-DAT editing system.

ramp in and ramp out.

Macintosh users will be interested in the new computer interface which allows the Panasonic SV 3500 DAT machine to be controlled by on-screen commands from a Mac. Using a third-party developer "black box," you can sequence the selections on the tape for automation.

A stack of DATs to go, please

If rumors about hard disk crashes make you feel a bit nervous about placing all of your audio in one system, consider the CAPS I or CAPS II from Concept Productions, or the Schafer World system.

According to Dick Wagner of Concept Productions, both CAPS I and CAPS II are designed for live-assist or various amounts of automation.

The CAPS I computer aided programming system uses a rack of 10 DAT machines and either an IBM XT or AT computer. The Sony DTC-1000 or the Harris XD-001UH DAT offered in this package go for \$1750 each.

The CAPS I basic system includes a 640K PC compatible computer with dual disk drives, monochrome monitor and keyboard, system clock with battery backup and output control board with

the machines.

Schafer World's Bob Dix at the Schafer World booth was also showing DAT, CD and cart-based automation systems, in addition to console and power backup and filtering systems.

The standard cart, 30-tray random access Schafer Ready Spot costs \$17,000. Expansion to a total of 90 trays is possible using a single controlling source. Schafer uses the Century 21 programmed CDs and the Sony CDK-0006 "jukebox" for its CD-based automation.

For \$10,900 you get the 7000 RAM based controller with micro-floppy backup, real-time clock with 66,000 events for a seven-day clock, plus 3600 sequential program events. More RAM is available to raise the sequential events to 10,000 events.

The Century 21 Digital Studio System includes two Sony CD changers, cables, AutoFaders, on-air studio software and interface cards, spot start and EOM interfaces all for \$10,995.

With 120 CDs with 150 hours with an excess of 3000 usable titles, the cost per cut is lower than any other hardware system. The music selections come already programmed and ready to go.

Studer's production workhorse

Although \$3500 may at first seem a lot to pay for a CD player, Dave Bowman of Studer/Revox explained there is a lot going on inside the company's A730.

The A730 comes with cue wheel, consumer format digital audio output, analog output via fixed and variable RCA jacks, fixed XLR outputs, ±10 percent varispeed, monitor speaker and headphone jack, cue by time, memory for up to three cues per disc for up to 100 discs and 25 pin parallel remote connector.

A SMPTE/EBU bus via RS422 is planned for video controllers. Bowman expects a translator soon which will convert CD time code into SMPTE time code. The A730 is a top loading machine which makes cleaning of the lens easy.

I later spoke to Phil Blyveis at Studer/Revox who offered that one of the

(continued on page 34)



Radio Systems' RsDAT adapts DAT to broadcasters' needs.

code generators and silence sensor.

The CAPS II system includes everything in the CAPS I system plus a 20 megabyte hard drive and a tape loader and power supply. The CAPS II system, I was told, allows up to 62 DAT cassettes to be shelved and moved to any one of

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together by means of a precision handwired crossover unit, utilizing robust low loss components, and heavy-duty input terminals which will accept standard 3/4" spaced banana plugs and the majority of high quality, specialist audio cables. Transducers and crossover assemblies are neatly housed in a stylish, high density, partial wrap cabinet, specially designed to minimize unwanted cabinet resonance, and high frequency reflection. In summarizing, we have left the best feature of all for last "price versus performance."

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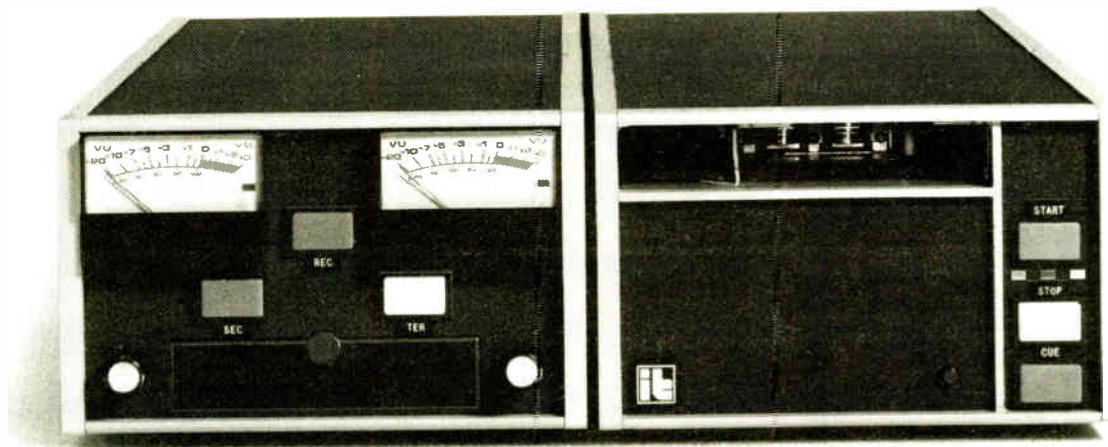
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Digital Interface Debate

by Frank Beacham

Las Vegas NV The newly formed NAB Digital Interface Committee, meeting during the NAB convention, has decided to assist the Audio Engineering Society in completing a standard for the interconnection of digital audio equipment, rather than writing its own.

Despite NAB's commitment to help complete the digital interface standard, which was implemented in 1985, some company representatives said it is too late to have a universal standard because too much equipment is already being developed.

Nonetheless, the committee decided to assist in completing technical documentation to remove ambiguity surrounding the existing standard (AES3-1985).

According to NAB Staff Engineer Stan Salek, the NAB panel will also help establish, along with an AES subgroup, a special appendix to the AES standard for broadcasters and form a working group to investigate RF problems affecting digital audio.

Interface problems

With regard to the AES/EBU standard appendix that NAB will help write, AES recognized there have been digital inter-



The NAB's Stan Salek (far right) helps coordinate the first attempt to set a digital interface standard.

facing difficulties for broadcasters in such areas as patching. The appendix will attempt to reduce vague interpretations of the existing standard, according to NAB.

Overall, Salek said the committee's objective is to come up with a more universal standard that is compatible with most digital audio equipment.

The committee also plans to take a look at other types of interfaces including optical formats and multichannel audio formats.

Because of the confusion over digital interface standards, Salek said the NAB soon will begin education efforts to alert broadcasters of the differences between consumer and professional equipment interface formats, which can cause such problems as a loss of synchronization.

He said many broadcasters mistakenly believe the consumer equipment, which mostly uses the Sony/Philips format, will interface with the AES/EBU format.

To generate discussion on the digital interface issue, Salek conducted what he termed "a fishing expedition" among those in attendance to gauge their concerns.

Panelists skeptical

There was some skepticism as to whether the committee could have any impact at this late stage of digital equipment development.


"I don't think a general interface will happen," said panel member Bart Locanthi of BNL Research Associates.

Others in attendance agreed. "It's naive to think so," said Bob Finger of Matsushita Electric.

Noting that some broadcasters are using consumer digital equipment in their facilities, Locanthi pointed out that consumer models have interfaces which are deliberately different from professional models to prevent the unauthorized duplication of software by consumers.


Even in developing professional models of digital equipment, manufacturers sometimes interpret the AES/EBU specification differently, said Finger. He said part of the interface problem is a general lack of understanding of how digital interfaces work.

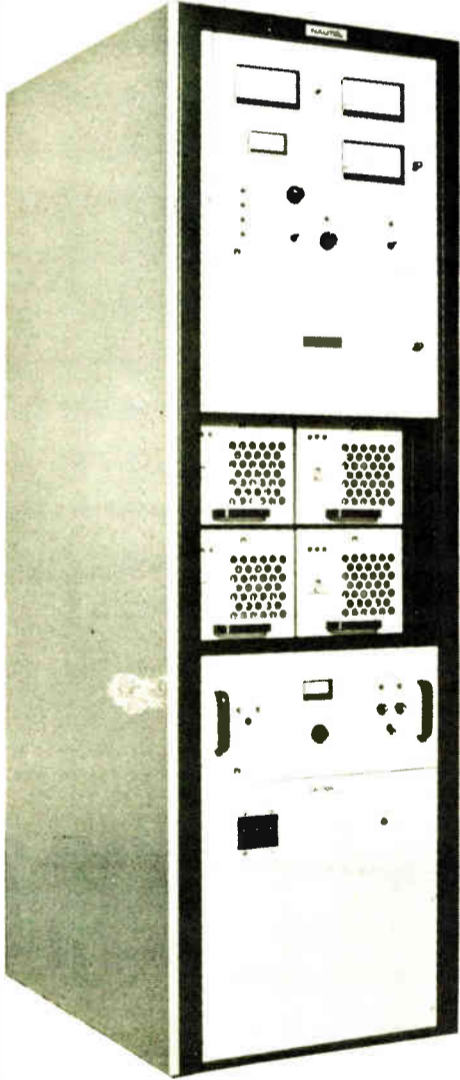
Another committee meeting will be scheduled for this summer, according to the NAB.



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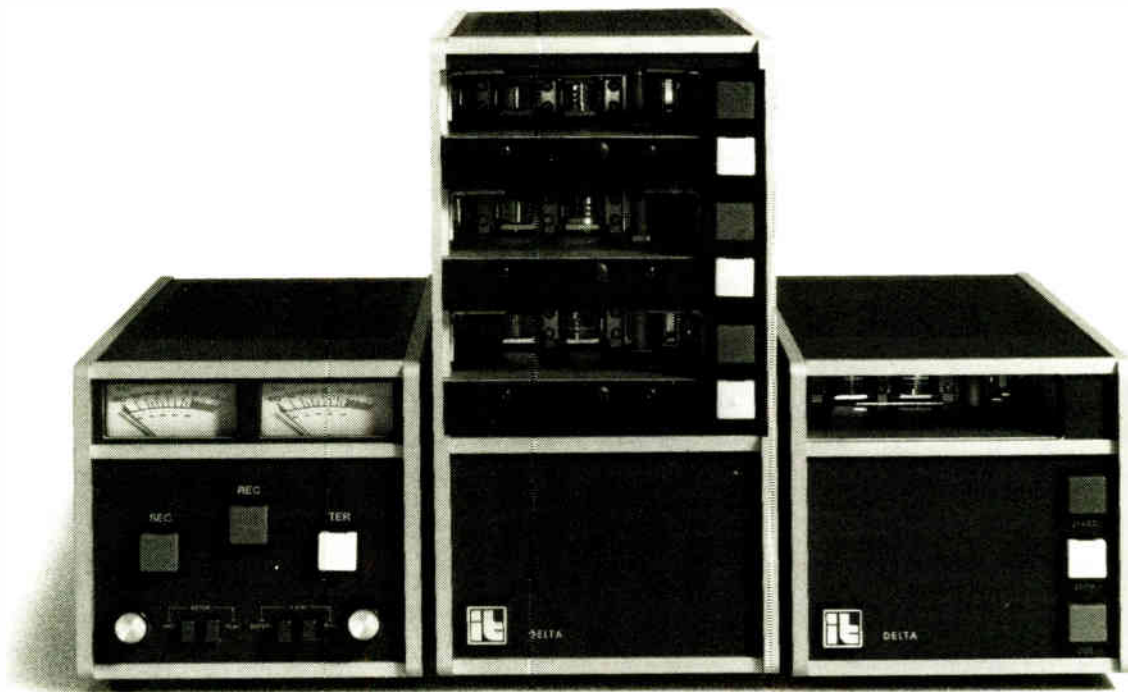
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Firms Pushed from Radio Hall?

(continued from page 1)
to Atlanta.

Other companies also had to choose exhibit space outside the convention center's radio hall.

"We wanted into the more general radio hall, but we couldn't get in," Allied Broadcast Equipment National Marketing Manager Dave Burns said.

"I don't think there is a general displeasure (among radio exhibitors), but we could have been happier," Burns added.

QEI Inc. Marketing Senior VP William Hoelzel said his company was forced to buy a larger-than-needed space, because his first choice was not available.

Although the company has not been to the NAB radio-only show, this year in New Orleans, for a few years, the company was considering that option, Hoelzel explained.

But with the extra money needed for the Atlanta space, QEI may skip the fall show again, he added.

NAB Exhibits and Associate Membership Director Rick Dobson maintained that many companies' concerns are based on their uneasiness about going to a different facility in Atlanta.

More space than Vegas

He said there is actually more overall space in Atlanta than in the Las Vegas Convention Center, which is not available for the 1990 convention because of a planned renovation.

Dobson noted, however, the Georgia World Congress Center does not have the spill-over advantage that radio exhibitors are used to in Las Vegas, which made the radio exhibit space seem larger.

At the Las Vegas Convention Center, the main radio/audio exhibit area was located in the north hall, Dobson explained. The adjacent south hall, initially slated for TV, had become a spill-over area for radio companies because TV and video exhibitors mostly avoided it in order to be closer to the main TV area in the east hall.

In Atlanta, there are six halls. Hall D is reserved for radio/audio.

Halls A, B, C, E and F will be filled by mostly TV/video exhibitors and those that did not get into the radio hall,

than the Las Vegas Convention Center. He said the center has a central core of hotels near it, but when those hotels

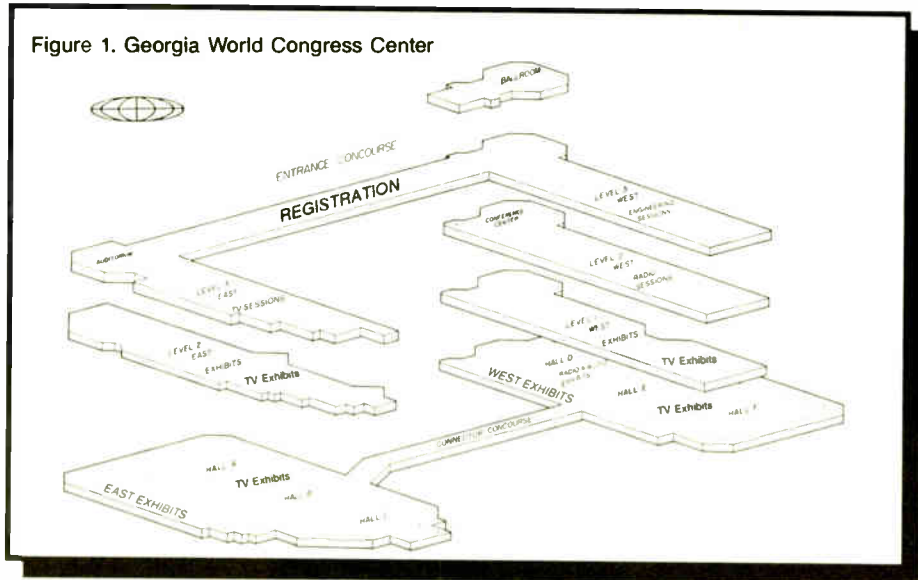
reach their capacity, NAB convention attendees will have to use accommodations further out from the convention center.

Despite the rumblings of discontent over the space and general worry about the convention being held in Atlanta, most exhibitors had high praise for Dobson's convention space preference system.

The system gives companies a preference based on a point total, which takes into consideration the number of previous years and the amounts of space purchased in those years.

"Dobson has done a fantastic job," Hoelzel said. "You must give some advantage to people who have been here year in and year out," he said.

For more information, contact Kelli Maag at 801-975-7200, Dave Burns at 317-962-8596, William Hoelzel III at 609-728-2020, Anders Madsen at 619-438-3911 or Rick Dobson at 202-429-5335.



he added.

"If you can't get in the main radio hall, you may have to move further out," Dobson said. "But if you exhibit at NAB, those who want to find you will seek you out."

Pacific Recorders & Engineering Sales and Marketing Manager Anders Madsen said PR&E is in Hall D, but he understood the concern of those who are not.

Because there are few cities that can handle a convention of this size and hardware, Madsen said, "I don't know what the alternative is for these folks," he said. "Atlanta is not going to be that bad."

Most exhibitors agreed that Las Vegas is ideal for the NAB convention and most other cities are going to compare unfavorably.

"Atlanta is going to be a little more difficult than Las Vegas," Dobson said.

But once exhibitors become familiar with Atlanta and the Georgia World Congress Center, Dobson said he thinks they will like it.

Those attending NAB in Atlanta may experience a traffic crunch, he noted, because the Georgia World Congress Center is located in a more congested area

Networks Pull NAB Suites

(continued from page 1)

She said the affiliate relations staff had a small suite in Las Vegas, but its function was limited to business meetings and it was not open to general attendance, as the larger suites have been in past years.

Blieberg said the decision to put its efforts into the fall show was based on the evaluation of prior spring conventions where suite traffic has been declining.

"The overall radio attendance is higher at the fall show. You have to put your dollars where they will do the most good," Blieberg said.

Westwood One, owner of NBC Radio Network and Mutual Broadcasting, also is shifting its emphasis to the radio-only show where it will have two hospitality suites.

More TV

Although the network had an affiliate relations staff at NAB, Westwood One said the decision to have a hospitality suite only at the fall show was based on

the spring show's perceived television emphasis.

"It (the spring show) has become TV-oriented," Westwood One Public Relations Director Katie Garber said. "We consider the fall show more of a radio show."

Garber said NBC Radio will consider setting up a hospitality suite at the NAB spring convention in Atlanta, but that the decision has not yet been made.

Capital Cities/ABC plans to have a hospitality suite and a large party at Radio '89, according to ABC Radio Network Advertising/Publicity Director Susan Storms.

She said the network decided to opt out of the spring convention because it has become more of a TV and engineering show.

"We felt the spring show was not profitable. We are interested in seeing our network affiliate program directors at the suites, but we felt there were not enough (over the past few years) to warrant coming back to the (spring) show."

Could return to spring show

Storms said the decision to have suites at the various shows and conventions is made each year and the network could return to the spring show in Atlanta.

Christian said the NAB is discussing some ideas to get radio networks' hospitality suites back to the spring show.

The options include setting up a large room at the convention, similar to the press room, so the network officials can meet with the affiliates.

Christian said he is not "super alarmed" at the networks decision to reduce their presence at the spring show.

"The networks really have cut back on all their shows," he said.

Christian denied the de-emphasis of radio at the spring show, saying thousands of radio people still come to the convention and there are still many radio exhibits and sessions.

"I don't find anyone saying it's a TV show," he said.

For information, contact Helene Blieberg at 212-975-3771, Katie Garber at 213-840-4383, Susan Storms at 212-887-5508 or Lynn Christian at 202-429-5417.

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Gannett's Paul Donahue Analyzes Today's Radio

Editor's Note: Paul Donahue is engineering VP for the radio division of Gannett Broadcasting that owns seven AMs and nine FMs. During the NAB Convention, for which Donahue served on the engineering conference committee, he talked with News Editor Alan Carter about some issues important to radio in the US today.

RW: With a trend toward heavy modulation and clipping, do you see any concern about giving up quality for loudness?

Donahue: There's no question that extreme amounts of clipping, whether it's baseband clipping on a composite level or whether it's audio clipping, gives up some quality for loudness. There seems to be a trend toward more clipping with little consideration for the consequences.

As consumers buy better equipment for their homes and automobiles, FM broadcasting has become a secondary source for quality music.

It's interesting to consider audio processing and the loudness quality tradeoff. This deals with a significant issue, which may be out of the hands of engineers.

Processing, as it has evolved today, is substantially more art than science, which means design of a system from a purely engineering perspective does not necessarily meet the needs of a programmer. There are probably a handful of people in this country—literally one

handful—who understand the ramifications of processing as it is today. And those people are people in the field, not necessarily manufacturers.

RW: What is the ramification of art versus science in audio processing?

Donahue: I think the gap is going to widen between what engineers do at the station and what programmers do. I'm not sure what the answer is or even if there is an answer. Virtually every broadcast group has some customized version of a standard piece of processing equipment or it "daisy-chains" multiple boxes together. Almost no one in a major market buys exclusively one box.

Personally, I believe the industry has gone in a direction where we risk impairing our ability to reach listeners. Other radio stations are not our toughest competition.

As consumers buy better equipment for their homes and automobiles, FM broadcasting becomes a secondary source for quality music. If we degrade it to the point where it is no longer listenable or tolerable, people will switch to alternatives, which are cassettes, CDs.

FM has taken a direction which may be counterproductive. Fortunately, none of it is irreversible. It's reversible just like that. (Finger snap.)

RW: The NRSC standard is on the books for AM, and the Committee now is moving on FM issues, including multipath. How does its work rate?

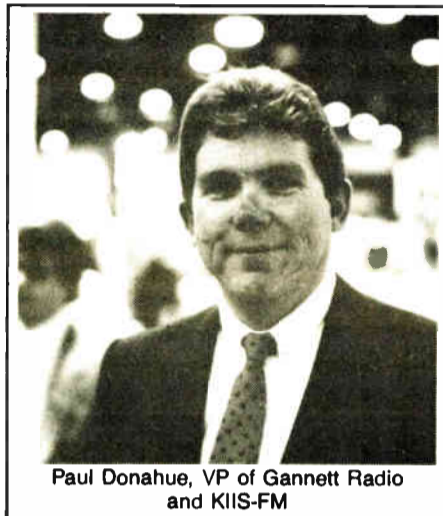
Donahue: NRSC for AM is overwhelmingly necessary. The FCC allowed too many AM stations, with inadequate interference criteria.

That's part of the problem. The FCC created a situation where there are so many AM stations without the foresight that cities might outgrow their coverage

boundaries and allowed so much interference that NRSC is actually the best Band-Aid out there.

The NRSC preemphasis and filter is on all the Gannett AMs, and we've noted a dramatic improvement. It is not an improvement to our stations' audio quality, per se; the real improvement has been from the RF mask. We're not creating interference to others, which generally makes the AM band better all the way around.

What's good about what the NRSC is doing and why did we do it? Because we want something that the receiver



Paul Donahue, VP of Gannett Radio and K11S-FM

manufacturers can build on.

As for FM, multipath has been a problem, apart from the issue of whether too much clipping exists right now. Excessive clipping is an immediately reversible situation. What is not immediately reversible are standardized preemphasis curves, standards for digital systems and multipath reduction techniques. These standards take time and energy to develop.

RW: What do you say to broadcasters who do not comply with the standard?

Donahue: It's like running old tires; you run the risk of hitting a nail and being stranded. Why would you not adopt something that is clearly beneficial to your industry?

At Gannett, we've gone to stations where we have second adjacent interference and we asked them to install it. We've even paid for them to install it because it benefits us. It benefits the whole industry.

RW: On another issue under serious debate

at the FCC, what will be the effect of using directional antennas in short-spaced FM situations?

Donahue: There are some major issues that need to be addressed. I have no concerns about directional antennas. Directional antennas can work.

But, what you have is a Commission that is using outdated FM interference standards. It is not dealing with the real world. Without further input, we risk destroying the FM band.

RW: Do you think the FCC has gone too far in using the marketplace philosophy?

Donahue: Yes, the marketplace does not have a clue on technical issues. Ask consumers how much they have been bothered by multipath. I'll guarantee that most probably don't even know what multipath is.

There are certain things the marketplace can determine, and I think it already has, but we're not listening to the clues on an FCC level.

The marketplace has determined, by consumers' buying habits, that it likes better quality, but how does better quality translate to more stations with more interference? There's no correlation to me. The FCC is not listening to the true clues from the marketplace.

The decisions the marketplace is making is that consumers are saying they want better quality and they are willing to pay what it takes to get it.

The FCC that's suppose to protect broadcasters from interference and direct technical standards needs to re-evaluate its current marketplace position.

RW: There's another controversial issue for FM: FMX stereo extension. Does it work?

Donahue: I've heard stories both ways.

RW: Do you use it in any of your stations?

Donahue: Not currently.

RW: Have you tested it?

Donahue: No.

RW: Will you?

Donahue: We may. Remember the commercial, "We'll drink no wine before its time." We feel that way about a lot of things.

We don't mind being innovators in some areas that are not going to have the potential of negatively impacting us.

(continued on page 27)

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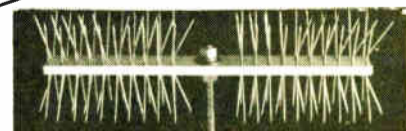
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The PR99 MKIII Headblock

Whether you're downlinking or uplinking satellite feeds, taping news call-ins, producing commercial spots, or using the Playback Only version of the PR99, the new MKIII is the vehicle you want. This is a machine that won't quit. And proves it everyday in radio stations throughout the world.

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- a true Autolocator with digital counter in hours, minutes and seconds
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- rack mounts standard.

In whatever terrain you operate—in radio production or on-air work—the PR99 MKIII is a no-nonsense machine that gets you where you want to go. Before you buy, check out the MKIII for value and performance. Over the long haul, the Revox PR99 MKIII leaves the competition in the dust.

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Circle 95 On Reader Service Card

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2. GERRETT CONOVER

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3. BILL WOHL

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These guys are pretty busy these days, because RS Series consoles from Radio Systems are shipping to studios around the world.

They serve in radio and television facilities, at major satellite and business networks, even on a U.S. aircraft

carrier. RS Series consoles are used by more than 160 of the nation's leading broadcasters, and the number is growing daily. ■ Find out

what keeps the RS-3 hopping. Call 800-523-2133 for more information about RS Series consoles.



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Circle 6B On Reader Service Card

World Radio History

AKG Joins In The Desktop Audio Craze

(continued from page 1)

sion to 17.5 minutes of storage time. A hard disk for additional storage is a planned option. Other expansion options include digital EQ, reverb, effects, time compression and amplitude compression.

NED stays in the fight

Undeterred by new competition, New England Digital (NED) unleashed new software enhancements for its existing systems and touted the recently-introduced PostPro system as the ideal workstation for radio broadcasters.

The PostPro, which starts at \$80,000 and can exceed \$300,000 in a fully-expanded Synclavier system, is an eight-track direct-to-disk workstation specially configured for broadcast applications.

NED made it clear to broadcasters that development for the completely tapeless radio station is on the fast track. The company announced radio station sales of \$1.5 million in audio products in less than a year.

ABC Watermark, NED revealed, is now using the PostPro to produce "America's Top 40 with Shadoe Stevens," "American Country Countdown with Bob Kingsley" and other national programming.

According to NED, ABC Watermark's PostPro, with 800 track minutes, is the audio industry's most powerful disk-based digital recording system.

NED courted radio broadcasters with special NAB demonstrations and stressed that it now offers hard disk storage capacity enabling continuous stereo recording and playback times of up to ten hours for automation of entire airshifts.

Other offerings included two gigabyte optical disk sound data bases that provide on-line access to 5.5 hours of sound effects and other program elements; and up to 200 track recording for production in the digital domain with no generation loss.

The new NED product lineup for NAB included the DESC, a new system controller that simplifies editing functions and MaxTrax, an enhancement that doubles the number of available recording tracks in existing NED systems.

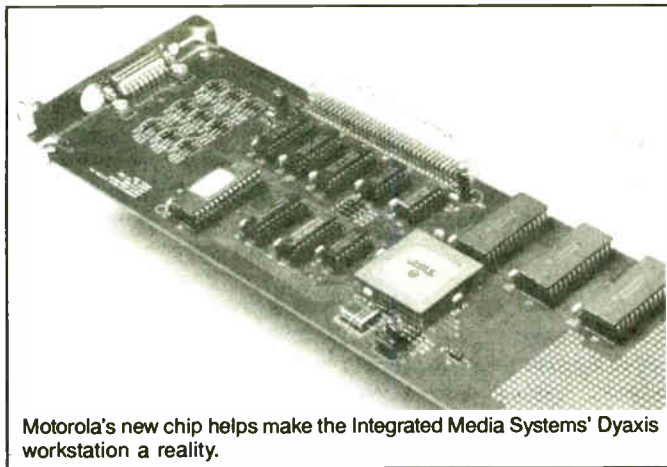
Also new from NED was MIDInet, an enhancement which enables Synclavier series systems to become the master controller/processor in a MIDI-based studio and a new optical disk for quick storage and retrieval of sound effects by PostPro systems.

IMS stakes its claim

Not to be left out of the workstation war, Integrated Media Systems (IMS) firmly staked claim to the low end of the market with enhancements to its Dyaxis system.

Designed to work with an Apple Macintosh computer, the Dyaxis offers random-access two-track recording and playback and multitrack offline sound file assembly. Without computer, the price begins at about \$10,000.

IMS announced new radio station sales to The Legacy/Metropolitan Group and Gannett Broadcasting. A Dyaxis sys-



Motorola's new chip helps make the Integrated Media Systems' Dyaxis workstation a reality.

tem equipped with a 640-megabyte hard disk drive, capable of holding up to 60 minutes of stereo audio, will be installed

at Legacy's KDWB in Minneapolis. Gannett ordered IMS systems for KIIS-FM in Los Angeles and KSDO in San Diego, the company said, bringing Gannett's total Dyaxis ownership to four units.

New Dyaxis features unveiled at NAB include a direct digital interface, a high-speed DSP processing card,

MacMix Version 2.1 controller software and an Abekas digital videodisc interface. The digital interface allows the

Dyaxis system to be directly connected to Yamaha's DMP7D digital mixer and processing gear. The same interface can be utilized with the Mitsubishi and Otari digital multitrack recorders.

The DSP card provides extended mixing and real-time digital signal processing and the new controller software offers enhanced digital mixing functions, time code slaving with dynamic offset control, full-function scrub editing and custom keyboard macros for dialog editing and radio production.

Several other manufacturers offered digital workstations at NAB, but most were high-end units aimed at the film and video post-production industries.

■ ■ ■

Frank Beacham is RW's west coast editor.



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The RS-1000 is an integration of the Sony DTC-1000 and a special microprocessor-based controller from Radio Systems. Its features include:

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NAB SHOW STOPPERS



New England Digital's tapeless studio.



Wheatstone unveiled a sleek furniture line.



Ram showed one of many new consoles.



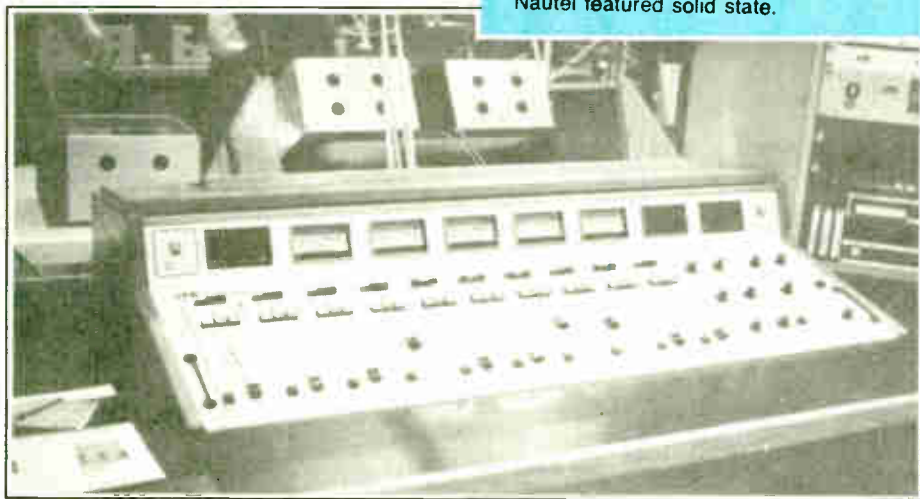
Nautel featured solid state.



QEI broke ground with its CATLINK.



TFT introduced its synchronous FM exciter.



The new LPB Citation II console.



BSW featured the new Autogram console.



Media Touch Touchstone workstations added features.

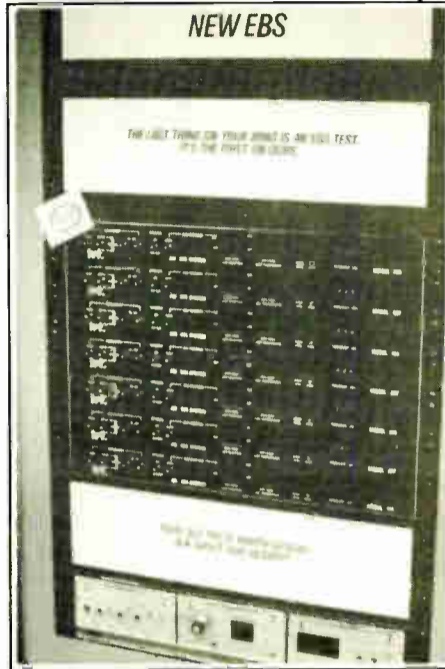
A look at the hot products which had convention-goers "buzzing!"



Legacy's Doug Howland works with the Dyaxis from Integrated Media Systems.



Dolby showed SR for cart machines.



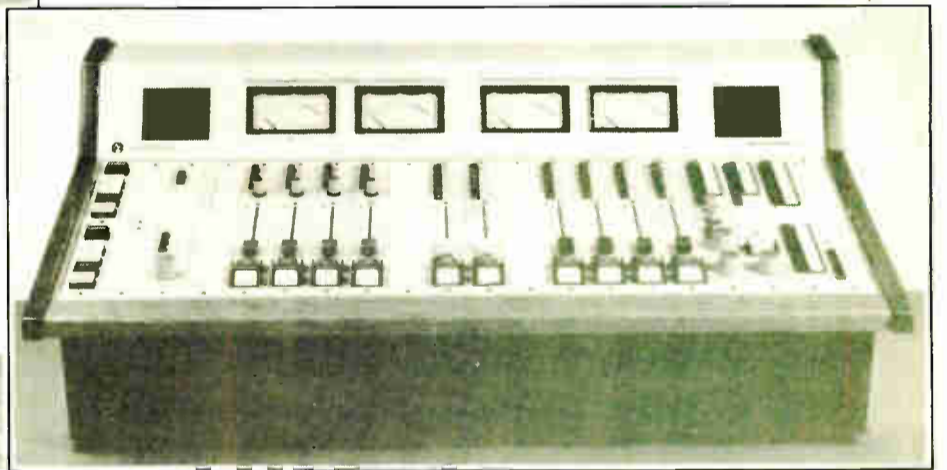
TFT unveiled an EBS monitor.



The CRM remote mixer from Gentner.



There were many new products at the Arrakis booth.



The new Radiomixer from Pacific Recorders & Engineering



Jim Woods features his Inovonics FMX generator.



Orban, sold to AKG, featured its full line of processors.

C-QUAM the Standard, Quello Says

by John Gatski

Las Vegas NV If the FCC were to reconsider the adoption of an AM stereo standard, at least one commissioner said he would vote for Motorola's C-QUAM system.

In remarks made at an FCC/Congressional staff breakfast at the NAB convention, Commissioner James Quello responded to the AM stereo issue after being queried by a broadcaster.

"As far as having a standard, I've always believed in it. I was on a panel here two or three years ago . . . and I said if I were a practical broadcaster, I would probably wait and see what standard of stereo

General Motors accepts and puts in its cars," Quello said.

"It (GM) took Motorola. That is pretty much the standard," he continued. "I would vote for it and codify it immediately. I assure you that you wouldn't have too much trouble getting that through the Commission."

The FCC declined in 1981 and 1988 to choose one of the proposed technologies for the national AM stereo standard. By 1988 the decision had boiled down to two of the original five: Motorola's C-QUAM system or the ISB system, invented by Leonard Kahn.

The defacto standard

As Quello noted, many broadcasters already consider C-QUAM the unofficial standard, with about 700 stations using C-QUAM worldwide; some 500 in the US. Kahn claims 100 stations are using the ISB system, but counts by others place the number at substantially less—Motorola maintained there are only 32 remaining Kahn-ISB stations.

Many analysts believe the FCC did not choose a standard because of a fear of litigation from the side not chosen.

Motorola and Kahn are embroiled in a lawsuit and counter lawsuit involving patent claims on the technologies and there are fears that if the FCC were to choose a standard now, the Commission would end up in a legal battle, too.

Acknowledging there could be even more legal battles if the Commission chooses C-QUAM as the standard, a Motorola official had mixed feelings about Quello's comments.

"We would like to see it," Motorola AM Stereo Engineering/Broadcast Equipment Manager Donald Wilson said. "But the threat of tying it up for five more years is what we are afraid of."

Remain unofficial

Since so many more stations are already using C-QUAM, "Being the unofficial standard might be the best way to settle it right now," Wilson said.

He said AM stereo also is facing other problems, including AM stations' reluc-

tance to adopt it.

The broadcasters are saying there is no demand for AM stereo because manufacturers are not building any AM stereo-equipped radios, he explained.

Wilson said, however, that many auto manufacturers and radio manufacturers are making AM stereo radios.

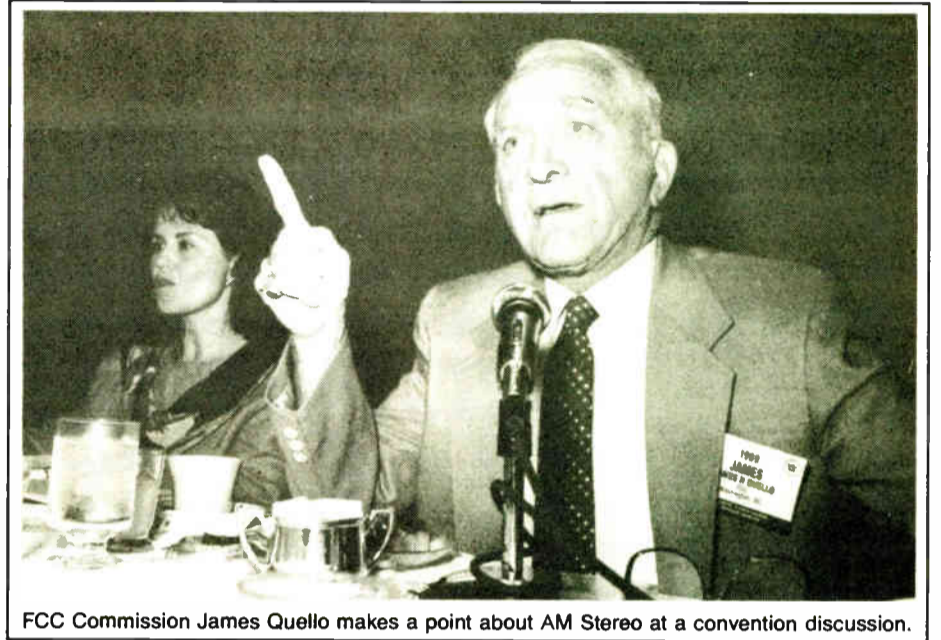
He said about 35% of cars built since 1985 have an AM stereo radio. "Chrysler

does not make an AM mono radio any longer," he said.

Wilson said stations are only hurting themselves by delaying installation of AM stereo because the longer they wait, the more listeners will switch to FM.

"They (broadcasters) are the ones that have to make the improvements," he said. "The broadcasters are going to have to start pulling. We have pushed as much as we can."

For information, contact Donald Wilson at 312-576-0554.



FCC Commission James Quello makes a point about AM Stereo at a convention discussion.

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Circle 7 On Reader Service Card

Radio's Digital Deficit

(continued from page 7)

World broached the question to four leading manufacturers of audio consoles for radio stations. Their answers, quite candid, reflected more the state of radio in the marketplace than the state of technology in radio.

Write a check today

"You can write a check today and buy a digital console," said Jack Williams, president of Pacific Recorders & Engineering Corp. "You can write a check today and buy a tapeless studio. You write a check today and do digital editing. It's not a matter of technology. It's a matter of market."

"Currently, the industry is operating quite profitably and quite successfully producing and putting stuff on the air pretty much the way they have for the past several years," Williams said.

"Do radio stations view these digital systems as something they can use to bring more to the bottom line? Managers look for cost justification when they start writing checks for any pieces of capital hardware. So, it's not a matter of availability, it's a matter of 'Is it a tool the radio industry is looking for?'"

Radio Systems President Dan Braverman said his company serves the middle and low-end user in the radio station marketplace. "Many of these users are just upgrading from tube consoles to solid state," Braverman said. "We've got enough trouble trying to convince them that DC-controlled technology is the way to go—leave alone digital."

Wheatstone President Gary Snow said, cost aside, current state-of-the-art analog consoles are better than current digital consoles anyway. "The performance of our analog board is clearly superior in terms of noise, distortion and overload characteristics to digital boards using 16-bit conversion," Snow said.

"Digital audio is now limited practically to about 90 dB of dynamic range," Snow said. "Whereas, an analog console like we make is nearer to 114 dB dynamic range."

Digital overload

A digital console used in a live situation is apt to be put into an overload situation, Snow said. "Digital overload is pretty horrendous. It's so bad that you'll need to run your digital console considerably below that overload point and then you'll run into quantization noise problems and the grittiness people have complained of. In this situation what you're really experiencing is something like 12-bit quality, which is not too hot," he said.

When will Wheatstone build a digital console for radio stations? "I see a time we'll build one when we get 20-bit conversion. Then we'll think it's a console worth building," Snow said.

Steve Sage, president of Auditorics, predicted it will be three to five years before a digital console appears for radio stations. "The technology exists now but the price is prohibitive," Sage said. "And the consoles we see today, as far as distortion and noise and so forth, are pretty good. Is the radio station going to buy something just so they can say it's digital? Does digital help you sell your station time for any more money?"

Braverman said most radio stations simply won't pay for a digital console. "If I owned a radio station, even one with a high budget, I don't think I would go into the digital domain," he said. "A good CD or R-DAT system into a fine console—even our boards, which are very economical—I would challenge anyone in a good transmission chain to hear the difference between that and what would end up being a hundred thousand dollar console by the time you are done."

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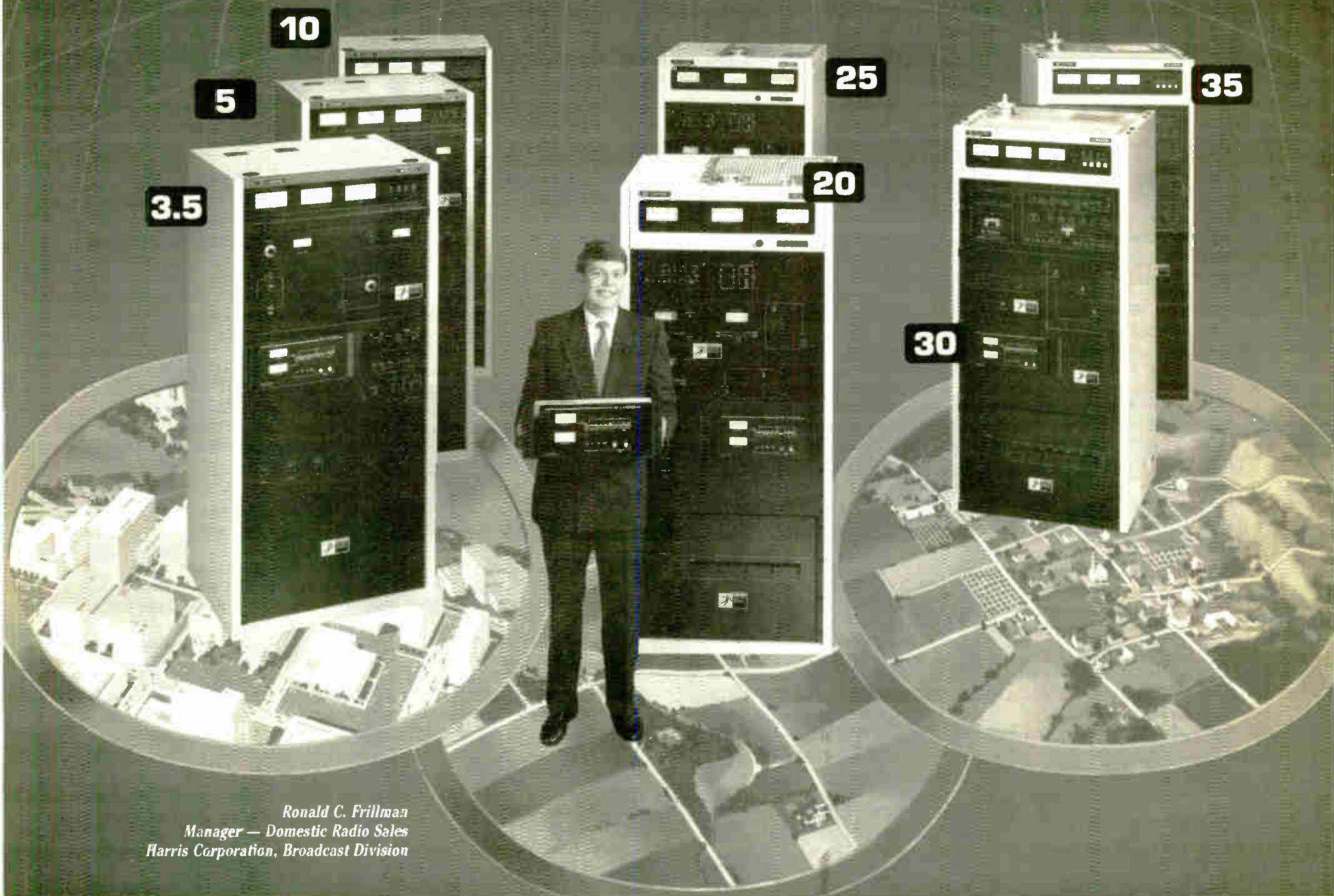
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Circle 26 On Reader Service Card

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*Ronald C. Frillman
Manager — Domestic Radio Sales
Harris Corporation, Broadcast Division*

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THE-1™. With two selectable RF power outputs, a low-profile slide-out design, ultra-linear voltage controlled oscillator and full stand-alone capability, THE-1 provides a super-clean signal, maximum reliability and minimum maintenance.

For enhanced signal performance and low synchronous AM noise, HT transmitters use a high-efficiency single tube in a standard quarter-wave cavity. Other on-air features include RF Emergency Bypass or FlexPatch™, automatic VSWR foldback, automatic power control and convenient diagnostic systems.

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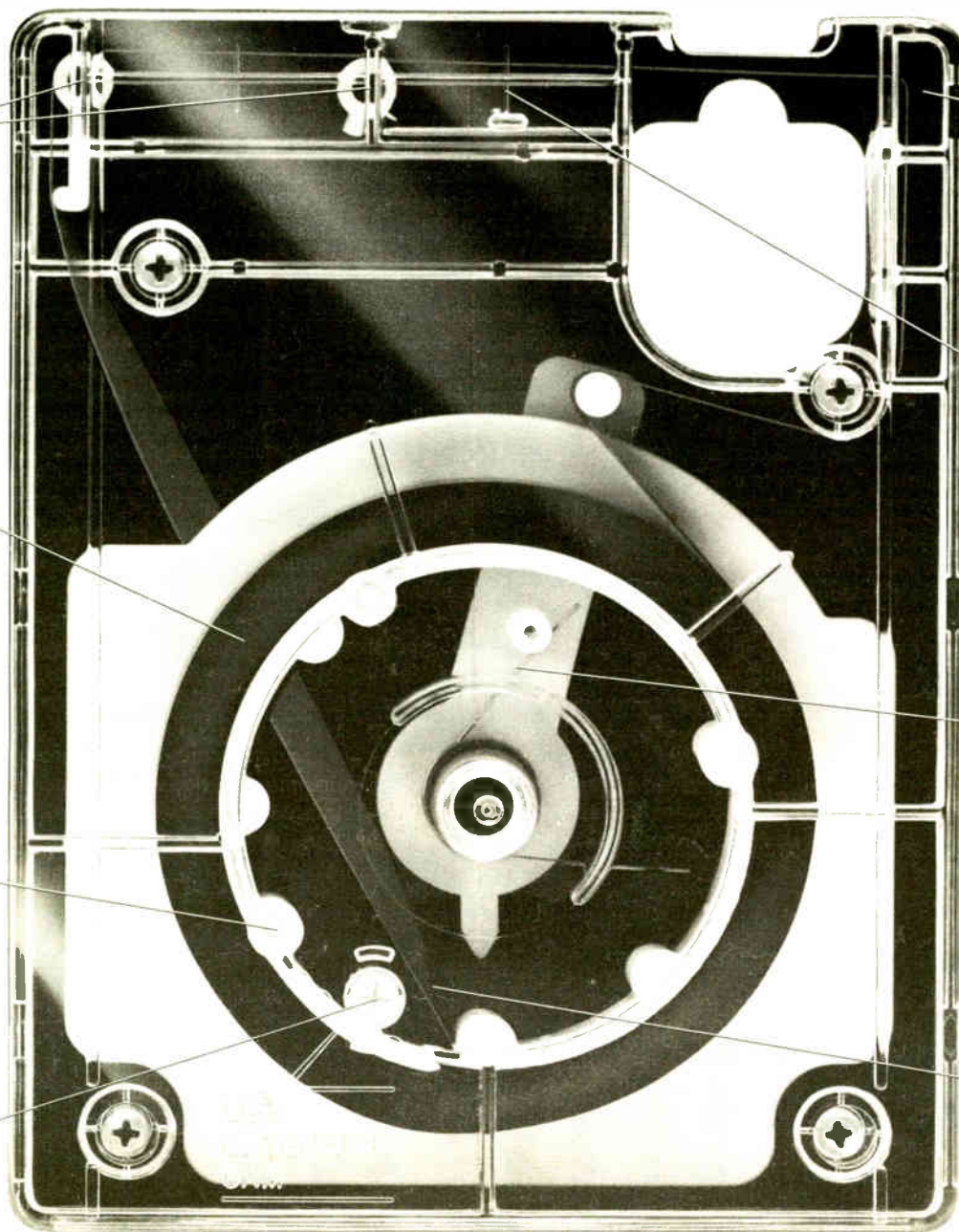
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The ScotchCart® II cartridge from 3M. The one you can depend on to keep things running smoothly.

Solid State RF Products Proliferate

by Dee McVicker

Las Vegas NV NAB '89 revealed advancements in solid state transmission. Following AM's lead, FM transmission reached new solid state power levels and benefited its predominantly analog designs with digital technology.

AM transmission, meanwhile, continued along the path of digital modulation.

AM transmission

Harris Corp. brought its solid state DX series up to a new power level with the showing of its DX-50. According to reports from Harris, the DX-50 sets a new precedent at the 50 kW level with 85% efficiency AC to RF.

Harris also repackaged the DX-25 member of the series, now called the DX-25U, for in-field upgrading to 50kW power. Now in production, the DX-25U and DX-

still give you an easy 125 % positive modulation." In production now, the AMPFET ND5 lists for \$39,950.

CCA Electronics, now manufacturing the CSI line of transmitters, introduced the AM-25000 FHF transmitter, a 25 kW model which uses a solid state frequency synthesizer with established technology. Said Ronald Baker, president of CCA, "Efficiency runs 80%." The new AM-25000 FHF transmitter is in production now, and lists for approximately \$118,000.

Energy-Onix announced plans to begin production of AM solid state transmitters of up to 1 kW power. President Bernard

power range from 100 W to 35 kW, the "B" series is a single tube design using a folded half-wave cavity technique to reduce maintenance costs. The new series is now in production.

Continental Electronics presented its new 10 kW single-tube transmitter, the

QEI Corp. displayed a member of the FMQ "B" line. The FMQ-20000B and FMQ-30000B, reduced in size and priced comparably with their predecessors, are single tubes and have a new plug-in 600 W IPA design with the RF circuitry and the power supply in separate cabinetry.

According to VP of Marketing Bill Hoetzel, "If you have a module or power supply failure, you can re-cable from the front panel." The QEI "B" line is available for \$47,500 and \$52,500 (20 kW and 30 kW, respectively), which includes a spare parts kit and on-site inspection.

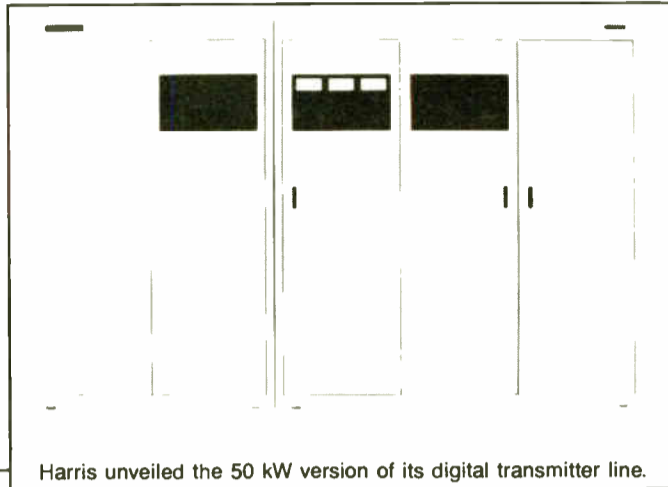
New arrivals, old friends

A new arrival, CTE (from Italy), introduced its solid state exciter and line of solid state transmitters to NAB visitors for the first time.

Available now in 250 W to 5 kW power levels, with unrivaled solid state 10 kW and 20 kW powers to be available next year, the new VL transmitter series rates at 52% efficiency AC to RF. The CTE S20 exciter and VL series are available through CTE's representative, Rob Meuser with IBSS.

Television Technology Corp. (TTC) displayed similar success with solid state technology. The new 4 kW FMS-4000 presents solid state transmission in 1 kW amplifier modules and is available in June for a list price of approximately \$20,000.

A new 8 kW version, the FMS-8000, is also expected to be delivered in June with a retail price of approximately (continued on page 40)



Harris unveiled the 50 kW version of its digital transmitter line.



Broadcast Electronics' new FX50 FM exciter

50 list for \$127,500 and \$192,500 respectively.

Continental Electronics announced a new 10 kW solid state transmitter, the XL-310, that uses a phase coherent digital RF pulse width modulation technique.

The company also plans to expand the series with a 5 kW version, also to be available at the end of the year.

Nautel showcased a new generation of its solid state 5 kW model, the AMPFET ND5. Packaged smaller than its predecessor, the AMPFET ND5 features on-air serviceability.

Said Sales Manager Jorgen Jensen, "The new ND5 has more headroom than its predecessor, and it can run 5.6 kW and

Wise expects the new line to be available soon after the show, along with a new high-level, plate-modulated 50 kW unit.

FM transmission

Broadcast Electronics featured a new 50 W exciter, the FX-50, that rates at less than 0.003% THD and IMD with typically 93 dB SNR. According to Domestic Sales Manager Bill Harland, the new exciter's performance specifications were made possible by using a computer-designed, linear-modulated oscillator. The FX-50 lists for \$6,100 and is available off the shelf.

Broadcast Electronics also displayed its new "B" series transmitters. Covering a

816A-1. To be available this fall at a list price of \$41,995, the new 816A-1 uses a dual stage solid state intermediate power amplifier.

NAB '89 marked the first showing of Harris's full HT transmitter families. Available in power levels from 3.5 kW to 35 kW, the HT transmitters feature a single tetrode tube with a fifth generation solid state FM exciter, the THE-1. HT transmitters range in price from \$28,600 to \$69,300.



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Familiar Faces Grace the Tape, Cartridge Arenas

by George Riggins

Las Vegas NV There was a strange mix of CD players, DAT, standard end-less loop cartridge machines and reel-to-reel recorders on hand at the NAB. Everything from a Tapecaster to a \$10,000 Nakamichi DAT system was on display.

Audicord was displaying the "DL" and "S" series machines that have been the mainstay of the line for several years. The listed features of Audicord emphasize ease of service and the ability to add the listed options in the field if the desire arises.

The "DL" series comes standard with two tones and the "S" series is standard with all three tones. No fast forward was listed for any model.

Broadcast Electronics introduced two additions to its cart machine line. The Trak series of machines was expanded to include the new Dura Trak 90 cart model.

The second introduction by BE was a splice finder/eraser called Splice Trak 90 (to maintain the Trak continuity). It uses erase heads for degaussing rather than a coil under the deck.

The premium Phase Trak 90 line by BE featured the noise reduction and phase correction circuits in play and the learning functions for the recorder section. By using the microprocessor learn section of the recorder, each cartridge can be opti-

mized for tape wear.

Alternatively, cartridges can be optimized by lot numbers and the parameters of bias and equalization can be placed in memory and recalled as needed.

Fidelipac's contributions

Fidelipac was showing the 10, 30 and 100 series cart recorders/players. The 30 series three deck machine made its NAB debut. The drive motor for the 30 series seems to have standardized with a hysteresis AC motor.

The main feature of the 100 series machines is still the "Cart Scan" system. By using this feature, several things can be done to individualize a cartridge. Elevated levels, matrixing and/or auxiliary functions can be controlled by affixing a label to the right side of the cartridge.

The Aux function can be used for any number of external functions through a collector-to-ground output at the remote plug. Also included in the 100 series recorders is a splice finder.

The 10 series and the 30 series (three deck) units are standard machines with

the normal features of three cue tones, fast forward (in the 10 series only) and flashing lamps to alert the operator to the fact that a cart has already been played.

Fidelipac also had the ESD 10 splice finder/eraser on display. The ESD 10 is built on the same chassis as the 10 series machines, and uses erase heads rather than an under-the-deck coil for degaussing the tape. Typical erasure levels are listed as being down 85 dB.

Had to go looking for ITC. Seems 3M put the cart machines and audio switcher in with the tape and video display.

ITC had the 99B with the ELSA splice

the tape is erased. The ESL V uses a degaussing coil mounted beneath the deck, rather than erase heads.

An overlooked product

The one cartridge machine we sometimes overlook is the Tomcat by Pacific Recorders & Engineering. The two main features that differentiate the Tomcat from the others are the head format and the pressure roller engagement system.

The Tomcat uses the Maxtrax™ head with the program tracks; it has an .080 track width and the cue track uses a narrow pole piece. The rationale behind the wider program width is to give better SNR and less susceptibility to tape drop-outs.

The heads are placed in a precision head/guide assembly to provide a repeatable cartridge insertion/tape path from cartridge to cartridge. The other major departure from the rest of the herd is the method by which the pressure roller is activated. PR&E uses a rotary solenoid and a specially designed cam to apply the engagement torque for fast lifting of the roller.

A slower final engagement also is employed so as not to damage or displace the tape at moment of contact between the roller and the capstan. In addition, the capstan motor and the pressure roller engagement system are manufactured as one integral unit.

As with most other premium machines, the main functions are controlled by a microprocessor rather than by relays or other discrete devices.

Otari perseveres

The newest entry to the field of cartridge machines has been Otari. Otari is selling the CTM-10 series cart machines. The series consists of the CTM-10SR stereo record/play deck, the CTM-10MR mono record/play deck, and the CTM-10 mono/stereo playback-only deck (field convertible to record/play).

The CTR-10R record module provides metering, level control and electronics for the record decks. The NAB head config-

(continued on next page)



Broadcast Electronics new Dura Trak 90 is a medium-priced version of its phase-correcting cart machine.

finder and head azimuth adjustment on display. This series machines has been a reliable workhorse over the past several years. Auxiliary function switches are hidden behind a swing-down front panel to help eliminate front panel clutter and yet make them available for easy access and adjustment.

As with other premium lines, the 99 series features a DC servo motor and three cue tones standard.

The "Omega" series also has the DC servo motor and the high speed cue. Secondary cue tone is standard with no provision for the tertiary tone. Something interesting has been added to the Omega series. The circuit boards are now listed as "swing-out" with no need for extender cards. I don't know how this is being accomplished, but its certainly a plus for servicing in the field.

The ESL V is a proven splice finder/eraser. The only real difference between the ESL V and the competition is the way

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(continued from previous page)
uration is standard; Maxtrax™ heads are an option.

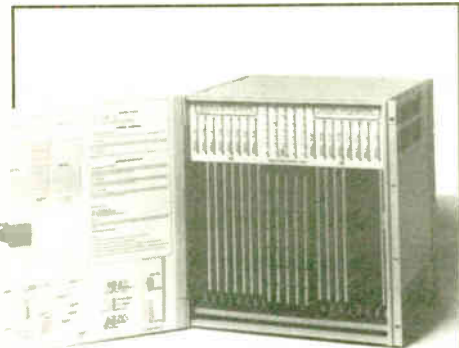
One departure from other machines is an operator accessible control on the front panel to allow a six percent plus/minus speed variation. The machines also have built in azimuth alignment controls available on the front panel.

The auxiliary controls are supposed to be hidden behind a front panel door held in place with an Allen head screw, but that will not stop most of the operators from getting into the controls. A way to get in will be found.

As for the play and record electronics, Otari is a well-known manufacturer. Over the years the company has proven that it knows how to make tape recorders and players. There should be no surprises in the electronics.

Tape cartridges

Three major entries in the cartridge tape business were represented. Audiopak was promoting the AA-4 cartridge loaded with #614 tape (formerly Capitol SGS-4).



3M's Series H 128 x 32 routing switcher

The features of the Audiopak tape are listed as a premium oxide, superior high frequency saturation headroom and a low friction binder to reduce running tension. The tape travel is stabilized by using a side mounted foam pad to give holdback tension as the tape goes around the left front corner post.

Audiopak still manufactures the A-2 and the AA-3 cartridges. The AA-3 is loaded with 613 (formerly Capitol HOLN tape) and the A-2 is loaded with 605 (formerly Capitol Q-17).

The major change at Audiopak is the change of ownership that took place at about NAB time last year. The new plant is up and running in Winchester, VA and turning out product with many of the same people that were associated with the former Capitol endeavor.

Fidelipac was showing the Master Cart AA (red base) loaded with series 400X standard tape and the Dynamax base loaded with the Dynamax DYN 1000X COBALT tape. The DYN 1000X tape is a high output cobalt doped tape that is suggested for recording with elevated levels.

3M/ITC, the other major player in the NAB tape cartridge race, was demonstrat-

ing ScotchCart II with the adjustable cam to control the tape tension for maximum life and minimum wow and flutter.

Reel-to-reels, cassettes

As far as the AM or FM radio studio and 1/4" or 1/2" recorders are concerned, the three companies that produce the majority of the machines used today were present at Las Vegas.

Otari, Studer Revox and Tascam were all represented with both 1/4" and 1/2" machines. There were differences, but they will all do the work requested.

All three are capable of working with SMPTE time code and/or synching to other outside timing codes.

One item that still seems to be present in most of the reel-to-reel machines is a microphone pre-amp. Do we really need a mic pre-amp in machines intended for use in either production studios or broadcast studios where we are mixing several channels of audio before we put the re-

sult on tape?

Accurate Sound has been missing from NAB for a year or so. Ron Newdell is now manufacturing a tape conditioner to go along with the AS220-A high speed audio duplicator. The AS-6000 Tape Conditioner is intended for cleaning and properly packing the tape prior to use. The stated benefits include better tension control and fewer drop-out problems.

Accurate Sound is also manufacturing a logging recorder. The AS-4000 series data recording system is built around the Philips cassette deck. As manufactured, the system will record 25 hours of data using a C96 cassette.

And Tascam, whose single cassette deck has become a virtual standard in most stations' studios, unveiled a dual cassette deck this year.

The 202WR features sync dubbing capability and is aimed at the professional recording market.

The company also unveiled a new 1/2"

8-track recorder which has many of the features found on its MSR-16 introduced last summer.

Heads

Where would we be without heads for tape machines? Two companies were present with information on heads.

Sprague Magnetics showed a development in head manufacture that allows the replacement of either the part housing the pole pieces or the surface that contacts the tape.

Sprague reports that the cost of either part of the head is about half the cost of a new head. That is, half the cost of a new Sprague head. All I could think of was the way we replaced the pole piece in the PT-6 Magnacorder heads many years ago. Perhaps the old "Maggie" was really ahead of time in some ways.

Saki Magnetics has now developed ferrite heads for cart machines as well as for

(continued on page 48)

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Circle 85 On Reader Service Card

Advances Made in STL, RPU Gear

by Geary Morrill

Las Vegas NV Advances in technology, and in the instance of one manufacturer, a retreat in the price of that technology dominated the STL/RPU/remote control/telco news at NAB '89.

These advances appeared as a proliferation of multiple line frequency extenders, new STL techniques using telco T1 data lines and innovations in the remote control and RPU arena. The developments are sure to make life easier in the congested spectrum that broadcasters call "home."

One "leap" in technology came from QEI Corporation, which ventured forth from its usual area of FM transmitters to address STL needs. In doing so, the company is making the cost effective T1 telephone service accessible to broadcasters who, for whatever reason, opt not to use STL via standard microwave.

QEI debuted the CAT/LINK T1 compatible STL system capable of utilizing existing telco data links, or "direct linked" using up to a mile of twisted pair, two miles of fiber optic cable, or 23 GHz microwave channels with full duplex communications possible in any configuration.

You can, for example, send composite signal, SCAs control channels, voice communications and RS 232 to the transmitter, and backhaul transmitter readings and satellite and remote feeds simultaneously.

QEI claims performance in the -86 dB noise range and distortion figures of 0.01

percent nominal. System pricing is expected between \$6500-\$12,000 depending on application.

One real surprise, however, was the introduction of a new product from Cleveland-based Telos Systems that's sure to put a smile on the face of any engineer choosing between hybrid performance and cost.

The new Telos 1 digital telephone interface has broken the \$1000 barrier in this technology (\$985), without sacrificing a great deal of performance. It was featured in the Bradley Broadcast booth and is available from that distributor.

When compared with the Telos 100, distortion rises to 0.8 percent from 0.25, and S/N of -56, down from -67 in the 100.

The Telos 1 actually outperforms the original Telos 10 in many areas. The unit will also support the full family of peripherals, including a 1A2 interface and new Direct Interface (actually a small PABX designed and optimized for broadcast on-air use).

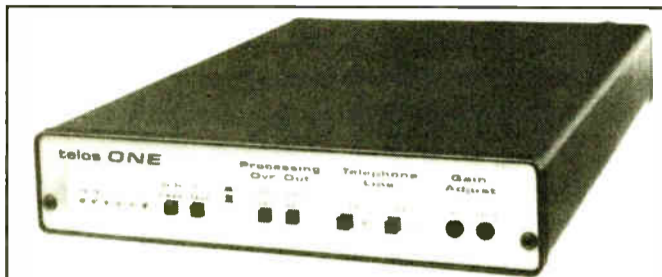
Frequency extenders, hybrids

Gentner Electronics and Comrex both showed three line frequency extenders at the show, with the Gentner passing 50 to 7.5 kHz, and the Comrex doing 50 to 10 kHz on three lines (utilizing a frequency compression scheme at the high

end to gain bandwidth specs).

Both systems utilize totally automatic setup of the extenders complete with autodialer and group delay and equalization adjustment to insure proper operation of the equipment by non-technical station personnel.

Once again, Comrex was also showing its line extender/cellular phone combo and a new combination hybrid/extender.



Bradley Broadcast showed the latest in digital hybrids: the Telos One.

Gentner, meanwhile, showed an enhanced version of its Digital Hybrid that utilizes a retro-fittable Advanced Nulling Algorithm, giving dynamic improvement of the differential null in a "transmit only" (no caller) mode of 49 dB by reducing the caller output level.

Gentner also had further enhancements to the DRC 2000 Remote control, including a software upgrade kit for retrofit into older DRC 2000s and a new software package to reduce the number of keystrokes needed to set up the 2000 (which will run on any IBM compatible PC).

Symetrix was showing its new Model 111 adaptive hybrid that operates in the DSP domain, as well as the T1 101 and SH 203 telephone interfaces. The Model 111 has a trans-hybrid loss of some 46 dB.

PC-friendly remote control

Burk Technology (formerly Advanced Microdynamics Inc) showed enhancements for the popular ARC 16 remote control, including an IBM-PC interface for logging and display, and a DSU telephone/speech unit to allow full function control from any touch tone phone, as well as callout alarms.

The ARC 16 also supports multisite operations with either a direct connect to each, or a "daisy chain" configuration. Alarms are reported no matter which site the control is monitoring.

Moseley Associates was also making its remote controls more PC friendly, with a system allowing monitoring of multiple sites equipped with an intermixture of MRC 1620s and MRC 2s.

The 1620 is the "son" of the 1600, with enhancements such as an RS 232 port, and a dial access system with software designed to take the place of a control terminal. The system has the added ability to log status and telemetry direct to disk for archive purposes.

There's also an option that utilizes a pocket size PC/modem for display of status or telemetry and issuing commands available for \$595. The RPL 4000 Remote Programming Link (with built-in companding) and CL 100 Communications Link hardware were also displayed.

Marti Electronics was showing a new audio companding option for its RPU line that can be ordered as a factory option or retrofitted into existing RPT-2, RPT-15 and RPT-30 transmitters and AR-10, CR-10 and DR-10 receivers.

The company also has a trade-in policy for factory-direct sales that may help you modernize your APU gear and radically improve its range too, by offering a 12 dB improvement in S/N figures on a 25 kHz channel with 1 mV at the receiver.

Other innovations

Elsewhere on the RPU front, TFT was showing its Model 8888 UHF system improvements. The Model 8888 unit, introduced last year, has frequency agile transmitter and receiver, complete with DTMF control at the transmitter end that allows the remote operator to switch frequencies and/or bandwidths without operator intervention at the receive site.

Full front panel diagnostics and three mic/line inputs are standard on the TFT system. The Model 8300 STL was also on display, as well as a new Model 886/887 second-generation EBS system that even keeps track of the number of days since last transmission and receipt

(continued on page 40)

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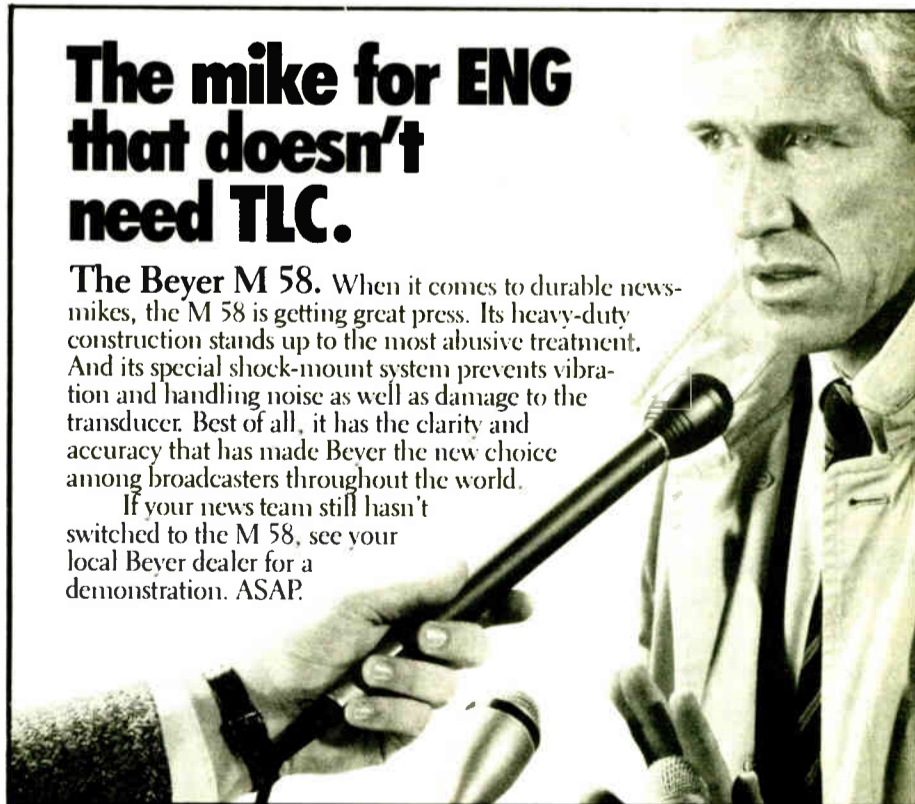
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Donahue on the Record

(continued from page 14)

If there is potential, we want it to be thoroughly tested. I'm not convinced that it has been. I'd like to support a better FM service.

RW: Looking at AM technology, is it too late for AM stereo?

Donahue: Unfortunately. I think the FCC was the problem there (when it did not select a standard but opted to let the marketplace choose). I don't think it's dead long term. For the immediate future, it's not viable. It's in most of our AMs and sounds good.

RW: What system do you use?

Donahue: C-QUAM.

RW: Do you advertise your stations as being stereo?

Donahue: Yes, but we probably don't do as good of a job as we should. I don't have a good excuse for that.

AM stereo is another example where consumers are incapable of making a technical decision, other than they would have liked better quality, but we weren't able to give it to them. Now, manufacturers have no momentum, broadcasters have no momentum.

RW: How is the sale of stations for the exorbitant amounts we're seeing today going to affect radio?

Donahue: Many of these investors have gotten in on the concept that they would own the stations for the short term and spin them off for a higher price. This is the core of their business plans.

You can only accomplish these turnarounds by reducing capital purchases, cutting staff, emphasizing programming and putting massive sales staffs on the street. The broadcasting station of the future, if this trend continues, is one of a minimally staffed operation.

RW: What does this mean engineering-wise?

Donahue: I don't know because it's still a technology intensive business. There's a shortage of good engineers, and we're in a business that is clearly going digital, which is more technological involved.

RW: Where are tomorrow's engineers being trained?

Donahue: They aren't. Schools aren't addressing the issue, because in their viewpoint, growth in broadcasting is not going to be as high as in other areas. It's becoming a niche market.

It is an issue that is ill-defined because personnel requirements are changing. The typical broadcast engineer who came out of ham radio or had an interest in computers isn't there anymore.

RW: Do you have trouble hiring engineers?

Donahue: Yes, and I would say this problem is echoed by virtually everyone I know. The good people's salaries are going higher and higher.

We are facing issues that have to be reviewed. I don't think the groups and broadcast owners are doing it.

RW: What does the debate over state licensing for broadcast engineers mean?

Donahue: This is an issue exclusively for consulting engineers. Anybody that

is hired by a company can be called an engineer. The fact that the professional engineers' licenses don't include information required for a broadcast engineer, to me, makes it obvious that there is no similarity.

If professional and state registering organizations want jurisdiction over broadcasting, I believe they should incorporate a method that allows for accurate testing of the field's requirements and license people based on that similar to effort conducted by the SBE.

RW: Looking ahead, what is the importance of digital to the radio industry?

Donahue: It is clearly the future in

every area throughout the broadcast system.

RW: Will radio have a tapeless studio?

Donahue: Without question. It is a matter of timing.

RW: Will transmission be digital?

Donahue: No question about it.

Digital is the future of radio for many, many reasons. If data compression algorithms work the way they're supposed to, digital audio will fit in your standard STL bandwidth now. For T1 carriers, it will work on your phone lines cheaper than on your analog phone lines.

When you see people editing in the digital domain, you realize that analog tape is history.

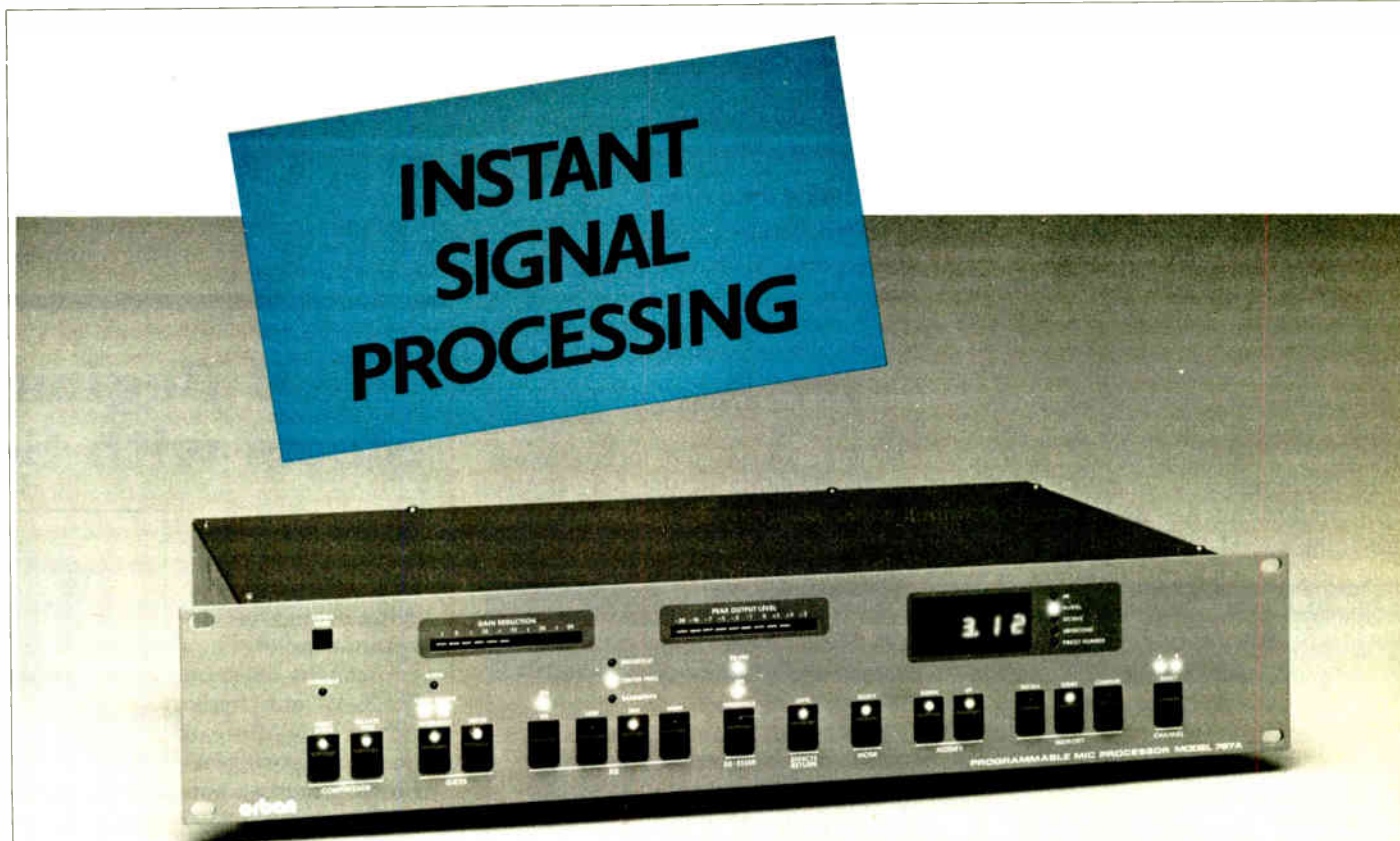
Is it there yet? No, it's too expensive.

RW: How will the average station be different by 2000?

Donahue: To get an idea, you need to look at where the computer industry is. Broadcasting lags the computer industry by 18 months to two years.

The best way to see what the radio station of the future is going to look like is to look at the office of the future because they mimic each other. Linked secretaries with laser printers are an example.

In radio, there is certainly going to be a massive digital storage system that stores commercials and music and is driven by computer initiated and stored logs. The DJ will probably have some futuristic version of a Media Touch screen where his entire system is laid out on a screen, with perhaps a light pen to move commercials and music.



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Circle 50 On Reader Service Card

SBE Takes Stand on Licensing Issue

by Charles Taylor

Las Vegas NV The Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) announced at the NAB show an official stand on the professional licensing of broadcast engineers by individual states, after laying low on the issue for months.

The society took a middle-of-the-road approach, avoiding a strong stand either in favor of professional licensing of broadcast engineers or direct opposition to it.

The policy was formulated and approved the day before an engineering session on the licensing controversy.

Double-edged stand

Essentially, the document took a double-edged stand. First, SBE declared that the dispute surrounding what engineers can legally be called is "semantic" and, thus, should not be of concern to states.

Ample room exists for the use of the title "broadcast engineer" because "engineering is a generic term with a rich history in the broadcast industry. It doesn't matter what you're called—it matters what you do," said Chris Imlay, SBE's attorney and one of the panelists.

SBE also said it will petition the FCC for a declaratory ruling that state licensing of "technical operators" is federally pre-empted by guidelines of the Communications Act of 1934 and thus not subject to state regulatory control.

That action excludes the more controversial "consulting engineer" title, which can refer to the growing number of contract engineers being used in the field, but Imlay said SBE is taking the matter one step at a time.

The SBE also said it studied actual instances where states had attempted to

enforce regulations on engineers. "I hope it will have a bit of a calming influence on people because we didn't find much," Imlay said.

"... engineering is a generic term with a rich history in the broadcast industry. It doesn't matter what you're called—it matters what you do ..."

enforce regulations on engineers. "I hope it will have a bit of a calming influence on people because we didn't find much," Imlay said.

Issue having an effect

But Ray Thrower, president of the National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE), which has been the most vocal opponent of state licensing, said the issue was indeed affecting engineers.

"This is not a 'Chicken Little' situation," he said.

NARTE's firmer stand, for one, recommends obtaining at the federal level "state preemption of all radio and telecommunications engineers and tech-

nicians as far as the states are concerned," Thrower said.

Response to the policy by other panelists was generally positive, though Randy Stover, a contract engineer in Fresno, CA, worried that it wasn't strong enough.

"This issue can hurt us in our ten-

derest spot—the pocketbook," he said.

The remainder of the session on state licensing primarily reviewed the history and potential ramifications of the issue, which have circulated through the industry since November, when NARTE alerted broadcasters to increasing efforts in certain states to enforce the controver-

sial regulations.

The primary foe to NARTE's outcry has been the National Society for Professional Engineers, which declared that testing not only will place broadcast engineers under the same scrutiny as counterparts in other engineering disciplines, but also will set a necessary and overdue standard for minimum competence within the broadcast industry.

Federal legislation has been drafted by the office of Rep. Matthew Rinaldo (R-NJ), focusing on the argument that broad state engineering statutes are not applicable to telecommunications engineers, though no bill has yet been introduced to Congress.

The issue has been presented in smaller state forums in Michigan and the state of Washington similar to the NAB panel.

Said Charles Morris, CE at KIRO Radio/TV in Seattle, where a panel was held in November, "This is a subject that's getting controversial in the sense that you can be on the register-everybody group or the let-the-market-decide group and be right in both cases and wrong in both cases. There's no right answer."

RAB Begins Ad Campaign, Meets with Some Resistance

by Charles Taylor

Las Vegas NV

What would life be without radio?

That's the question the NAB and Radio Advertising Bureau (RAB) are posing before listeners nationwide through a \$100

million advertising campaign: "Radio: What would life be without it?"

Not readily accepted

Scheduled to have begun 26 May, the promotion was announced at a gala NAB Radio luncheon, which included induction of Hispanic broadcasting pioneer Nathan Safir and sportscaster Red Barber into the NAB Radio Hall of Fame.

Launching the campaign was a two-minute spot narrated by James Earl Jones that included, "Imagine if all your days sounded like this," followed by 30 seconds of silence.

All radio stations nationwide had been urged to air the spot in unison at 7:42 AM 26 May.

But the spot was not being readily accepted by some radio stations and DJs that questioned "dead air." Even an industry newsletter encouraged stations to not participate, which brought a heated response from NAB in the form of a letter.

Calling the letter a private correspondence, an NAB spokesperson declined to comment. She maintained that the association had received a lot of support for the promotion.

"It's a totally voluntary effort," she said. But when questioned about stations that were concerned they would lose listeners during the dead air seg-

ment to those not participating, she commented, "This is a chance for radio stations to cooperate rather than compete."

On-air variations of the promotion, which is slated to be year-long, include celebrity testimonials by teenage singer Debbie Gibson and media star Willard Scott.

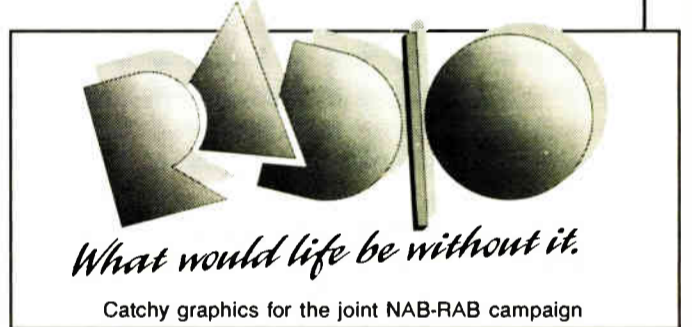
The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness and appreciation of radio's role among opinion leaders and the general public, raising professional commitment within the radio industry and increasing radio's share of overall advertising dollars, according to RAB.

Unprecedented action

It "marks an unprecedented collective action by commercial radio stations," noted Eddie Fritts, president and CEO of NAB. "Our plan is based on ... research which shows that radio is a vital part of people's daily lives that they take for granted."

He added that 228 million Americans listen to radio an average of three hours and seven minutes each day. "That substantial relationship is what we hope to merchandise on Capitol Hill, Madison Avenue and Main Street."

The promotion is the first industry-wide concerted effort to promote radio since 1922, RAB said.

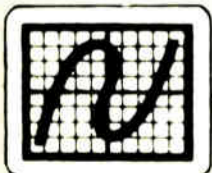


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Circle 62 On Reader Service Card

Fritts Advocates Reforms in Radio

by John Gatski

Las Vegas NV Radio-only and license renewal reform legislation should be a high priority within the radio industry, NAB President and CEO Eddie Fritts told the NAB during opening ceremonies.

Fritts addressed a variety of topics including radio reform, technical problems and public perception of radio.

"We are beginning to get through the message that radio's needs and economic realities are different from those of television . . . and the abuses in the radio renewal process must be reformed," Fritts said.

He praised a radio-only bill, introduced in Congress this spring, that

Perception is Reality in the Workplace

by Charles Taylor

Las Vegas NV The traditional stereotype of a broadcast engineer—in particular, the person with pen and calculator in pocket—could keep management from taking engineers seriously and even stall deserved advancement.

That was one message of an NAB session on "Professional Development," which alerted the engineering community that a grasp of a professional image and mature communication skills make a difference in the workplace, especially when working toward management.

"It is paramount that we prepare ourselves as carefully for management as we do for technology," said Sim Kolliner, an engineer at WHIO-TV and a speaker at the session. "We must constantly be aware of our image and how we're perceived."

To prepare for a management position, Kolliner recommended a polished appearance, a professional attitude and developed communication skills.

"You must develop communication skills and work past engineering jargon," he said. "You need to be able to talk about technical issues in layman's terms."

Kolliner also suggested that ambitious engineers take management courses that promote an understanding of how they present themselves along with ways to improve that image.

Perception is 90% "bull," but 100% important, he said.

Kolliner warned, however, that "taking accepted practice and applying it categorically without making it fit your own situation makes your managing a sterile, rigid and ineffective burden."

Judith Sheets, a speaker from Calumet Group, which focuses on organizational and human resources development, added that it often is particularly difficult for engineers to make the transition from the transmission room to a supervisor's office.

"The difficulty with it is that the tools you had that made you good and comfortable and secure in the job you were doing are not the same tools that you will need to even survive as a manager," Sheets said.

would enact a two-step licensing process and eliminate third party buyouts during radio renewals.

He said broadcasters and the industry need to get behind the bill to assure its passage.

"Talk to your own local members of Congress back home. Ask them to co-sponsor HR 1136 and to vote for it when it comes to the floor later on," Fritts said.

In addressing the state of the radio industry, Fritts said it is very competitive and despite its successes, there are problems.

He noted that technical and regulatory

goals must be achieved to reduce radio interference.

"AM radio, in particular, has suffered. But is FM next? We are now working to assure that new policies . . . do not spread the virus of interference on the FM band," Fritts said.

He said AM interference problems and overall sound quality are being addressed by the FCC including revised RF emission standards for electrical products and the move to require AM stations to adopt the NRSC-2 standard.

To preserve and enhance radio's overall position in the broadcasting world,

Fritts called upon the industry to help move the medium from "back-of-the-mind" status to daily recognition by the public.

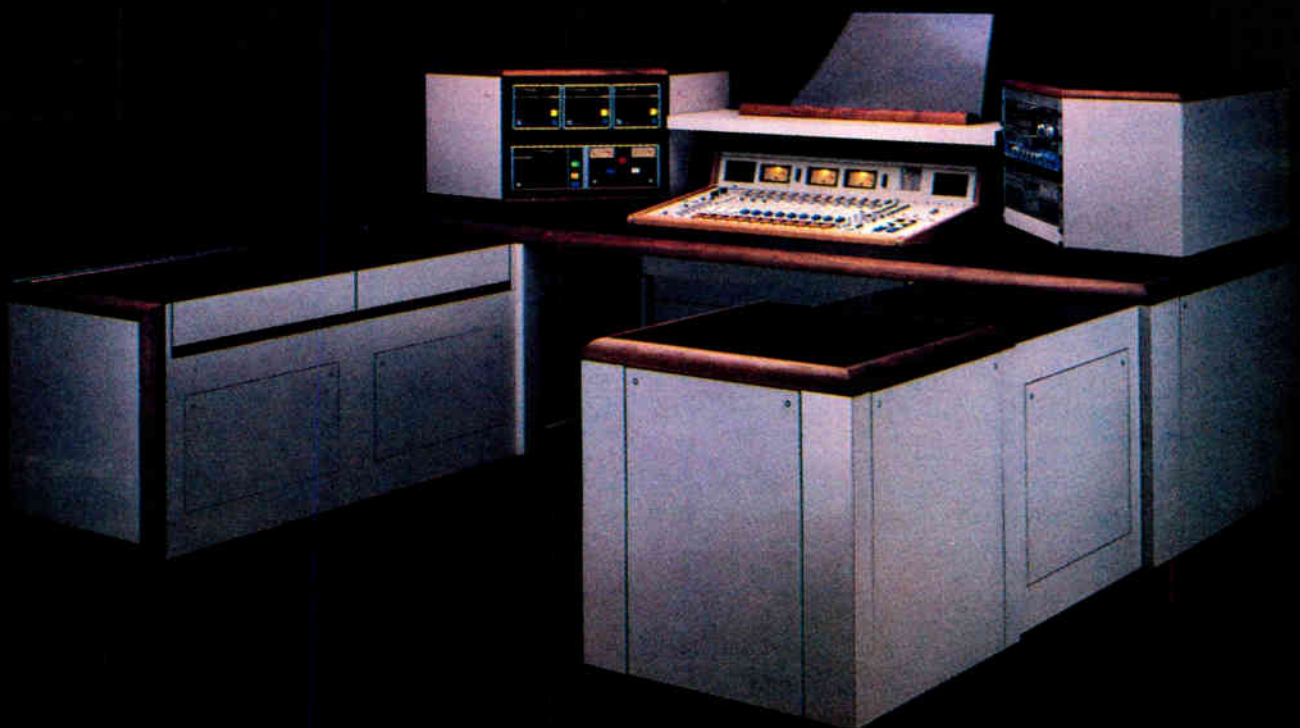
Fritts warned that complacency can be injurious to radio.

"Radio has served this nation extremely well for nearly 70 years. It is too valuable a resource not to preserve and promote. But the public, and even some in the radio industry, all too often take radio for granted," Fritts said.

He said the industry and NAB are working to keep radio in the forefront of the public eye with such efforts as the Radio Futures Campaign, a national campaign designed to promote radio nationwide.

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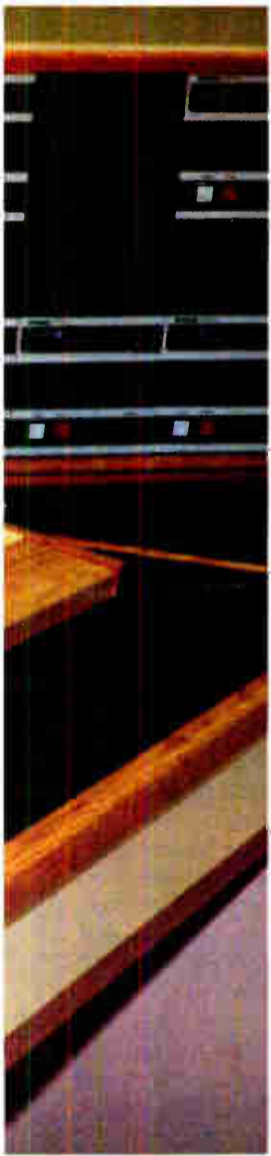
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SYSTEMS, INC.

NEW NEW NEW

Test Sets See Product Introductions

by Mike Starling

Las Vegas NV As radio source material becomes decidedly better, the task of documenting and maintaining this magnitude of audio improvement is increasingly more demanding on engineering time and test equipment.

The sun is setting fast on the days when the venerable HP-334/332 test set did the whole job.

As last month's NAB exhibit floor shows, test equipment manufacturers are responding rapidly to the challenge with a host of incremental product improvements and an increasing emphasis on automated testing.

Few engineers have the luxury of an extra control room to bump work into while we "PM" a room; more engineers are opting to get the complete performance picture in mere minutes with automated test gear.

Audio Precision unveiled a major advance with the debut of a digital signal processor (DSP) for its System One automated test line.

Currently dubbed Dual-Domain System One, this test set is the first to offer 16-bit resolution analysis via AES/EBU serial and parallel ports.

Thus the new breed of digital audio equipment can now be tested in the digital domain without the A/D and D/A

converters in line.

For existing System Ones, the addition of a factory installed DSP module is available.

Networks and major market stations have plans to include the Dual-Domain System One among their near-term purchases.

Amber displayed the Total Solution 5500 series programmable Audio Measurement Systems and Audio Check II menu driven software.

System performance specifies THD

below .0001% and noise at -120 dBm and up to +30 dBm balanced outputs.

The Audio Check II software is really impressive. The enhanced graphics, effortless user interfacing and ability to generate full color real time graphs are



Delta Electronics introduced the SNG-1 Stereo Noise Generator.

a real plus.

The system can be readily configured for anything from a simple pass/fail screen to a sophisticated multi-page hard copy report with most any form of monitor, dot matrix or pen plotter output.

The ever popular portable 3501 audio measurement system was also on display. If you haven't seen the 3501 and are in the market for a full-featured portable unit, the automatic servos for fast, accurate auto set and null, plus superior RFI immunity make this unit a must-see.

AM chiefs will be interested in Delta Electronics' latest addition to the array of test and transmissions related equipment: the SNG-1 Stereo Noise Generator.

Priced at \$495 retail, the unit meets the requirements of both NRSC standards 1 and 2 in mono and stereo modes.

The SNG-1 generates a pulsed noise source which closely simulates program dynamics. Six combinations of left and right channel noise handle a variety of crosstalk, separation and alignment tasks.

Dynamic alignment of audio processing, auditorium reverberation and frequency response tests are additional uses.

Sound Technology's 3200B programmable transmission/audio test system can be either FSK programmed or computer controlled via the RS-232 or GBIP port.

The advantage of FSK programmability is that the 3200B can be remotely controlled via the audio path of the system under test by Sound Technology's companion ST3100A audio generator.

Thus any telco or microwave link can be fully tested without the need for a modem or engineer at the other end. For hard copy printout only a dot matrix printer is required or the data can be stored in the 3200B's memory for later display or printout in either graphic or tabular format.

Potomac Instruments' QA-100 Quant Aural audio program analyzer was on display alongside its well established line of test sets and field strength meters.

This unit displays an array of simultaneous functions that CEs and PDs in highly competitive markets will value.

Maximum peaks, averages, density spectral balance, stereo image width and even "punch" (the aural intensity mode) are available. Many engineers will appreciate the assistance of visual display of subtle processing tradeoffs for themselves and their competition. The unit can be fed from any audio source and is priced at \$3650 retail.

Also display test equipment was Radio Design Labs, whose popular ACM-1 AM synchronous noise meter has become a must for many FM operators running a subcarrier.

(continued on page 48)

A clean, crisp, functional design. A design that places wires out of the way, where they belong, where everything is lined up and easy to reach. A design that suspends turntables from furniture, to avoid vibration. A design that's comfortable, so your personality won't get tired - even on long shifts. And if your station features programming with dual announcers, consider our Talk Show/Interview Option. This option allows eye-to-eye contact for a more natural sound. The furniture is built to the high standards of Grand Rapids' famed fine furniture industry. All outer surfaces are covered, using Formica® or laminated plastic. Inner surfaces are protected by a sealed coating. Leveling devices are installed at each corner...kick panels are placed in all the right places.

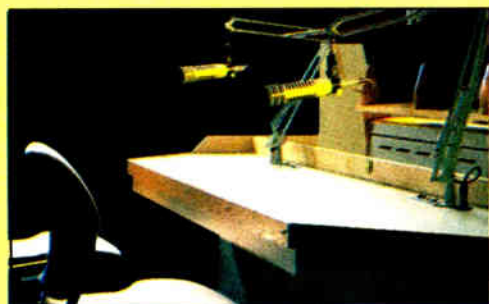


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Stereo Mics Make Debut

by Frank Beacham

Las Vegas NV A new generation of stereo microphones was introduced at NAB which will allow radio broadcasters to offer listeners highly realistic ambient stereo sound at a low cost.

Making its debut at NAB was Crown's new SASS™ (Stereo Ambient Sampling System) microphone. Utilizing boundary microphone technology in a newly-patented near-coincident array, SASS is designed to give highly localized stereo imaging for loudspeaker and headphone reproduction.

Its broadcast applications are sports ambience and crowd reaction, stereo electronic news gathering, music events and stereo sound effects.

Resembling a shoe box in size and weighing about two pounds, the SASS microphone will be available in August in a PZM capsule configuration for \$849 and in a version with Bruel and Kjaer 4006 microphones for about \$4000. SASS requires no external matrix and is mono compatible.

Sony also entered the broadcast stereo microphone arena with its new ECM-MS5 electret condenser M/S microphone. The company said the mic is ideally suited for the rigorous demands of electronic news gathering, sports broadcasting and sound effects production.

M/S microphones are based on a matrix combining a forward-facing capsule (the Mid or Mono signal) with a side fac-

ing figure-8 capsule (the Side or Stereo signal). By matrixing the two microphones, sound perspectives ranging from mono to wide angle stereo can be achieved.

Responding to increasing interest

"Today's broadcaster has exhibited an increasing interest in many aspects of audio production, most notably stereo sound," said Osamu Tamura, VP of Sony Professional Audio. "The ECM-MS5 microphone, with its adjustable stereo imaging, mono compatibility and phantom or battery operation, meets this market demand."

The new Sony mic weighs less than eight ounces and is about eight inches in length. It can operate on a single AA battery or can draw phantom power. A built-in stereo image selector allows the opening angle between the left and right directional axes to be varied electronically with no performance deterioration.

The selector has click-stop positions ranging from 0 to 127 degrees. The ECM-MS5 will be available in June for \$1250.

Also showing new stereo microphones for studio applications were AKG and AMS/Calrec.

Other debuts

Shure Brothers showed its new Beta 58 high performance dynamic microphone, a new design hailed by Shure as "a very significant advancement in dynamic transducer design and a real break-



Beyerdynamics' new M58 microphone

through in microphone performance." "The Beta 58's most significant advancement is a true supercardioid directional pattern that provides excellent isolation and rejection of background noise," said Shure's John Phelan. He called the Beta 58 an ideal microphone for radio applications.

Shure also featured its voice-activated automatic mic switching system. Michael Petterson, director of mixer products for Shure, explained the design behind the company's system, which has gained acceptance in radio stations for talk shows

and public affairs programming.

Sennheiser continued to expand its MKH series of ultra low noise microphones by introducing the "super cardioid" MKH 50 and demonstrating the recently introduced MKH 70 shotgun. Both new microphones, Sennheiser claims, have an inherent low noise level virtually imperceptible even by modern digital recording equipment.

Neumann's new KM100 microphone system got its NAB send-off from Gotham Audio. Utilizing the company's

(continued on page 34)

AKG Acoustics Buys Orban

by Charles Taylor

Las Vegas NV The assets of Orban Associates have been acquired by AKG Acoustics, it was announced at the NAB show.

In a related move, AKG issued a letter of intent to purchase the dbx Professional Products Division, according to Jacques Robinson, president of Carillon Technology, which owns dbx. dbx Professional Products manufactures signal processing equipment for broadcast and recording studio markets.

Carillon also announced the sale of dbx OEM Products to a company headed by former dbx officials, THAT Corp. THAT will continue OEM operations, including supplying components such as voltage control amplifiers, RMS detectors, circuit boards and modules.

The deals would complete Carillon's move to focus on consumer electronics.

Orban, which manufactures broadcast and pro audio products distributed worldwide, will become an operating division of AKG. The company will continue to operate from its base in San Francisco.

AKG, headquartered in Stamford, Conn., manufactures through its parent company in Vienna, Austria, microphones, headphones and acoustic products.

The acquisition, according to AKG Acoustics President Richard Ravich, will expand the company's presence in the US. In the past, AKG has been

known as an importing and distribution company.

"With our expansion into the design of digital audio products through our Boston-based digital products R&D division, domestic manufacturing capabilities are a must," he said. The association "will also serve to broaden AKG's product mix outside its traditional acoustic products."

Orban's general manager John Delantoni said, "we're very pleased to be joining AKG because we don't compete with each other and we have complementary product lines. We think we can benefit each other."

Delantoni will maintain his position with the Orban division at AKG, and Bob Orban will continue to head the company's engineering "for a considerable amount of time," Delantoni said.

Few operating changes are expected for Orban as a result of the transaction, he added. "Customers should see no change at all except sooner or later the AKG name will appear in our advertising."

The company will maintain its current representative distribution network, he noted.

Orban also expects to take advantage of AKG's overseas contacts: "In particular, they have a factory in India . . . With that connection, we think Orban products will be much more marketable there."

For information, contact AKG at 203-348-2121 or Carillon through a spokeswoman at 212-661-5300.



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A Look at Digital Audio

(continued from page 8)

big problems with the now discontinued A725 CD player was keeping the lens clean. Check this if you've had any problems with yours.

Tascam's new design

Tascam continued to break ground in the area of professional CD products. The company unveiled the CD-401, which features 18-bit, four times over sampling and the company's ZD (zero distortion) circuitry. The optional remote can be wired or wireless.

Also from Tascam, the CD-701/RC-701 features instant start-up, automatic cueing and an optional RAM buffer for immediate play performance. It's proprietary clamping system is designed to eliminate tracking errors, and the RC-701 control unit can control up to four CD player units.

It's kind of hard to say exactly where the Media Touch systems fit, category-wise.

The Touchscreen products act as automation systems, workstations, switches and interface to digital sources.

This year the company unveiled two additions to its line. The ARC-2000 Router Management System handles audio routing and machine control.

Some features include router control, project time shifting, automation and simultaneous air/record capabilities. It's designed to stand alone or enhance other systems.

Media Touch also introduced the Search 'N Sync workstations, a family of computer based systems aimed at post production.

DAT's a nice Fostex

While there are still some grumblings about DAT's impact on the bootleg market, the fact is the machines are out there. Many of them are capable of recording at 44.1 kHz.

Topping the list price is the Fostex D-20 at \$8000. The only DAT in the company's line, the D-20 locks to SMPTE, records and plays back both 44.1 and 48k Hz, offers off-tape monitoring while in

record, pre and post stripes SMPTE without destroying the audio or other data tracks, video composite sync port to run on a field or frame, 16 bit resolution with 20 bit internal operation, and claims gap-less punch in and out capability.

The D-20 will synchronize, chase and function as an analog machine. It features front panel switchable copy guard and pre-emphasis.

Search for a sampler

If you've been reading the *Producer's File* column for a while, you know I've been looking for the perfect digital sampler to consider as a replacement for a stereo cart machine.

My criteria have been that the device be easy to operate, capable of 20 kHz bandwidth in stereo or mono for a minimum sample time of 64 seconds, expandable and priced competitively.

The Akai S1000 digital sampler comes closer to filling the bill than anything I've seen so far. Although I have had very little hands-on experience with the S1000, the result of my information hunts have led me back to the unit more times than not.

Unlike its predecessors the Akai S900 and S950 which are mono and have 17 kHz-18 kHz audio bandwidths, the S1000 is stereo or mono and operates at a 44.1 kHz sample rate which offers a 20 kHz audio bandwidth. For less critical applications, the S1000 also samples at 22.05 kHz which almost doubles the sample length at a 10 kHz audio bandwidth.

A fully loaded S1000 at 44.1 kHz sample rate for a 20 kHz frequency response will give you 96 seconds in mono, 48 seconds of stereo, and lists for \$10,050.

A new AES/EBU standard digital I/O board for the S1000 is expected in July that will allow direct digital transfer from other AES/EBU devices.

Also on hand at the Akai booth, I saw

the A-DAM digital audio multitrack format recording system you may have heard about late last year. In a nutshell, the recorder uses tape cassettes in a DAT-like format for 12 channel digital recording. A CTL track and an AUX channel for SMPTE allows you to lock three transports together for up to 36 channel digital recording.

AUDISK

The DHK Group showed its Audisk digital recorder/player/sequencer. Visually one of the more "bare bones" systems, it uses an IBM computer to store 15 kHz or 7 kHz bandwidth audio in mono or stereo on magnetic or optical disks. The 12 bit audio processing, S/N ratio of better than 62 dB and dynamic range figures were chosen to allow for increased storage time.

■ ■ ■

Ty Ford, audio production consultant and voice talent can be reached at 301-889-6201 or by MCI mail #347-6635.

New Microphone Models Introduced

(continued from page 33)

FET 100 circuitry for the first time in a miniature microphone, the KM100 series offers performance similar to Neumann's TLM 170 studio condenser microphone in a thumb-sized microphone capsule.

Neumann offers a wide range of mounting options which allows the microphone to be easily hidden.

Audio-Technica showed two new microphones. The Model RD303 "TriPoint" microphone is actually three miniature condenser microphones in a single, inconspicuous case. Separate feeds—such as broadcast, house PA and back-up—are easily accomplished with a single microphone.

The ATM25 is touted by the company as being "perfect" for broadcast dialogue. A wide-range, moving coil dynamic with hyper-cardioid pickup pattern, the microphone features exceptional low frequency handling for speech pickup and musical instruments which generate high sound pressure levels.

Beyerdynamic demonstrated two of its new broadcast microphones. The MCE

86 is one of the lightest, most compact condenser shotgun microphones on the market and the M58 omnidirectional dynamic is designed for rugged remote and news gathering applications.

Bruel and Kjaer, a veteran manufacturer of very high performance microphones for recording applications, aimed its Type 4006 omnidirectional and Type 4011 cardioid microphones directly at broadcasters this NAB. The company announced that BBC Radio had taken delivery of over 40 of the microphones in 1988 for radio broadcast applications.

Other audio products

New professional broadcast headphones were introduced by Audio-Technica and Sennheiser. Audio-Technica bowed its new 900 Series studio headphones for critical monitoring applications.

Sennheiser showed the HD 25 studio monitoring headphone which utilizes dynamic drivers in a closed supraural design.

New broadcast studio monitors were

unveiled at NAB by JBL Professional. The Control 10, a 12-inch three-way speaker, and Control 12, a 12-inch two-way speaker, have applications for remote broadcasts, production rooms or portable applications where quality and size are important.

ATI premiered two new amplifier products. The M100 Ultimike is a quiet, servo-controlled microphone amplifier with excellent hum and RF rejection. It features switchable gain and low cut filter, 48 volt phantom power, a phase reverse switch, DC remote gain trimmer and switchable output limiter. Price is \$299.

ATI's multiple amplifier arrays offer four or eight channels of high gain microphone inputs or lower gain line level inputs amplified to 600 ohm line level active or transformer balanced outputs. Channels can be combined to form sum and difference networks, a simple mixer, or press box.

■ ■ ■

Frank Beacham is RW's west coast news editor.



Beaven Els, Chief Engineer, WFAA-TV Dallas

"Our ratings are powerful...and so are the demands of our equipment."

A television signal going to millions of homes can be a very complicated process. In Dallas, WFAA-TV has been THE dominant force for decades. This success is due, in large part, to the technical expertise BEHIND the camera.

As Beaven Els will attest, WFAA-TV is committed to investing in the finest equipment. From the most sensitive recording instruments to the electric clock in the lobby, WFAA-TV must have a reliable source of power. That's why Chief Engineer Els chose to have *everything* protected by the POWER SIFTOR® from Current Technology.

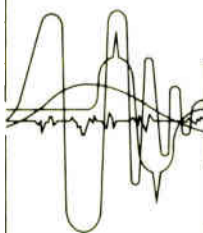
The effects of unfiltered power can wreak havoc in a television station. Digital equipment and computers can be destroyed by "dirty power", and the POWER SIFTOR typically eliminates these effects. And, Underwriter's Laboratories has made the picture even more clear by giving the POWER SIFTOR outstanding marks in the 1449 testing program.

Beaven Els is right. WFAA-TV's investment in programming and equipment are two reasons for the station's success. But without power protection, the station's "sign off" might occur earlier than scheduled.

Don't wait. Failure to act can result in permanent damage to your equipment! Our analysis of your power protection needs is free...and so is the call. 800 238 5000 ask for Peter Diamond, ext. 480



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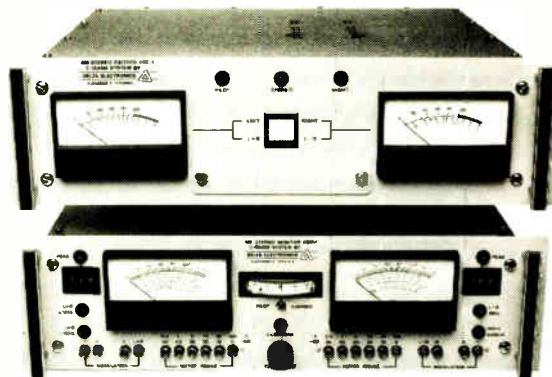
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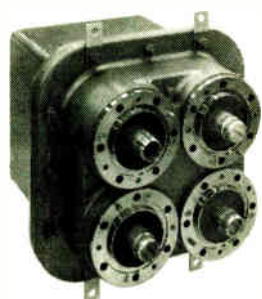
AM Splatter Monitor—Spectrum analyzer performance at a significantly reduced price! An inexpensive means of verifying FCC and NRSC spectral compliance. This frequency agile instrument tunes from 1700 kHz down to 450 kHz, with 9 or 10 kHz channel spacing. The monitor also measures incidental phase modulation (IPM). Designed to be rack-mounted or operated from a vehicle's 12 volt supply using an optional antenna.



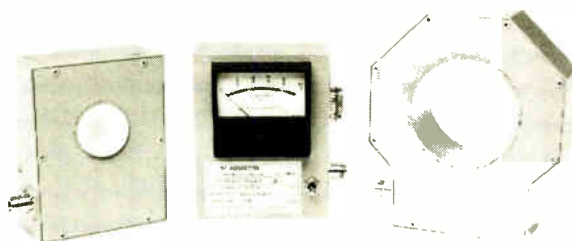
C-QUAM® AM Stereo—The Above Standard Industry Standard is easy to install and maintain with its modular design and construction. Offers standard features other manufacturers charge as options. A sound value, built to last.



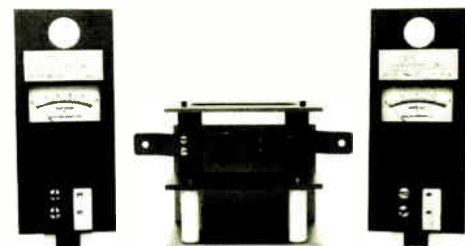
High Power Pulse Reflectometer—Strong interfering fields that would destroy time domain reflectometers are virtually ignored by the PRH-1. This instrument can handle up to 1,000 watts of induced power on an intermittent basis as it locates faults on transmission lines. Provides a visual representation of the transmission or sample line, STL coax, or antenna, using your oscilloscope.



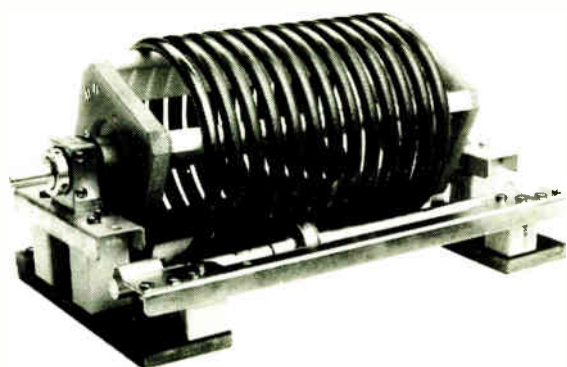
Coaxial Transfer Switches—These 1 7/8" and 3 1/8" motorized four port switches are designed to switch between antennas, transmitters, or dummy loads both quickly and efficiently. The switches can also be operated manually and are fully interlocked.



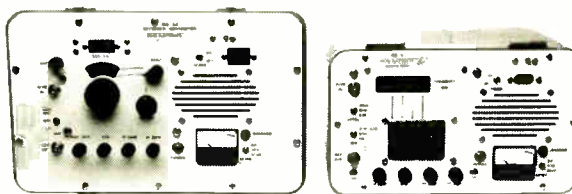
RF Ammeters and Sampling Toroids—Precision toroidal current transformers (TCTs) provide stable antenna monitor sampling while eliminating the problems associated with loops. TCTs also work well in supplying additional modulation monitor or test sample RF outputs. The transformer coupled ammeter (TCA) offers stable base or common point current readings, independent of modulation. The dual and single scale meters also provide remote DC outputs.



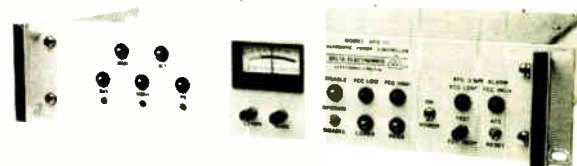
Low Power RF Ammeters—When every milliamp of current counts, depend on the accuracy of the TCA-Jr. This portable RF ammeter is designed to plug into either a Delta MJ-50 Meter Jack (pictured above), or a standard J-plug jack. Two current ranges are available: 0.2 to 1.0 Ampere, or 0.4 to 2.0 Amperes.



Rotary Variable Inductor—Where long life and high reliability are required, specify the RVI. Designed to provide long life, even under continuous rotation, the RVI is available in either 12 μ H or 10 μ H versions (maximum inductance). Other values by special order.



RF Receiver/Generator—A rugged, high output (2 watts) generator and correlation detector receiver virtually eliminate false nulls caused by interfering signals. The RG-3A operates from 0.5 to 1.65 MHz, and the expanded range of the RG-4 generates signals from 100 kHz to 30 MHz.



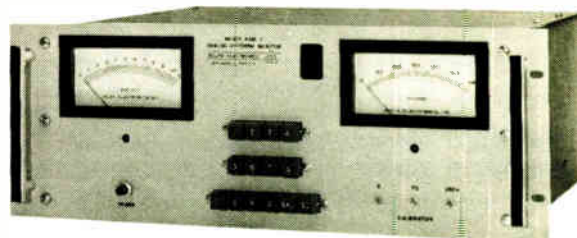
Transmitter Power Controller—Your insurance against over- and under-power citations. Continuously monitors transmitter power levels, compensating for AC power line sag by adjusting the transmitter to 100% power.



Digital Controlled Processor—This inexpensive, stereo tri-band processor boasts user-friendly controls and an aggressive sound. Mono stations can take a step toward AM Stereo, at a price that won't break the budget.



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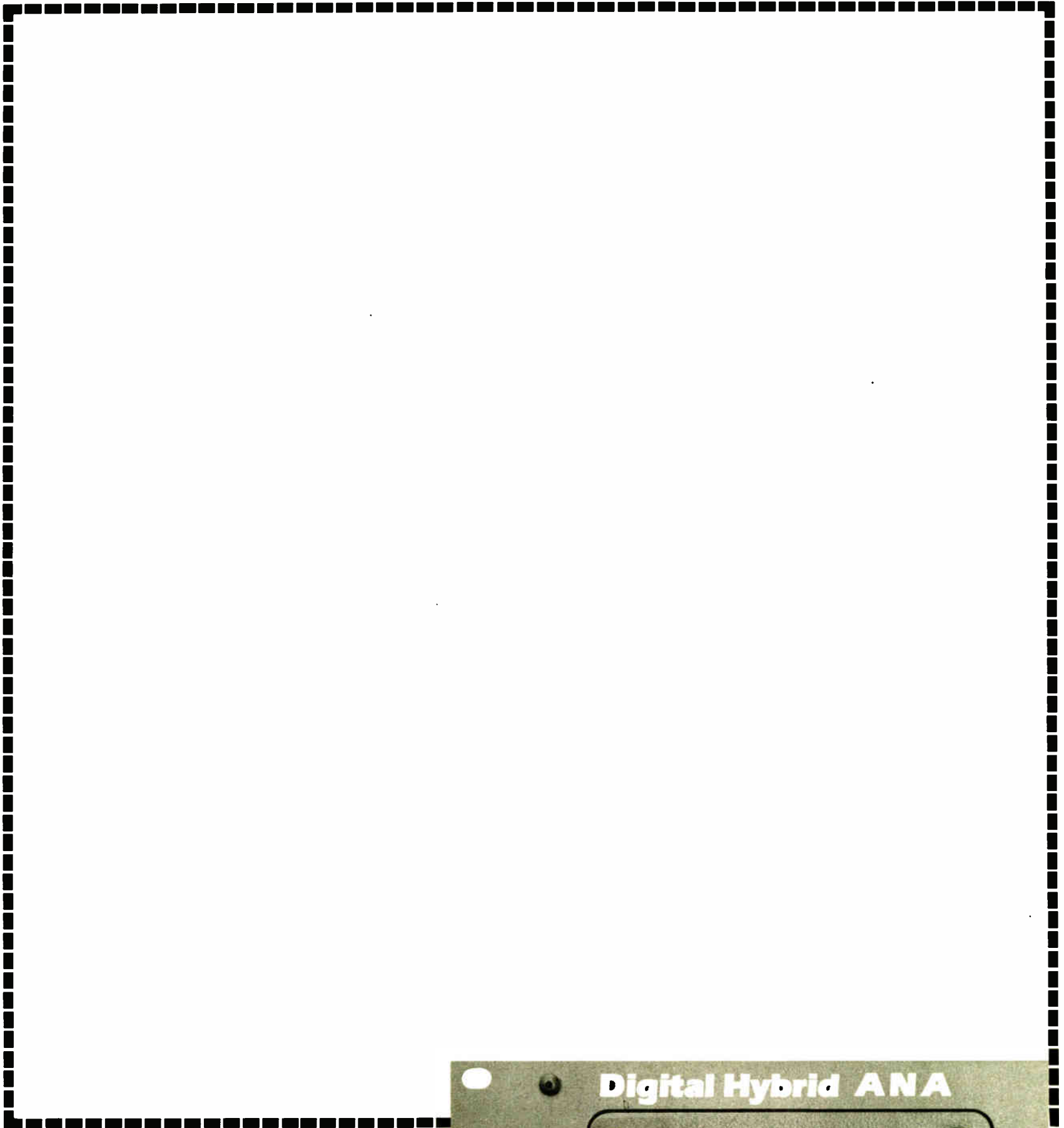
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Cornucopia of Consoles

(continued from page 7)

sizes, up to 26 input channels and a "mother-boardless" design.

Other features include two stereo program busses and two mono utility busses.

After completing a recent financial reorganization, Harrison Systems of Nashville (now GLW Enterprises) showcased its new AP100 console. Styled like its feature-laden model 790 big brother, the AP100 borrows many of the exclusive design concepts Harrison has engineered into its more expensive program origination and broadcast consoles.

Harrison's exclusive DCA technology (digital control) solves the non-linear problems associated with VCA-based designs. The AP100 is configured for up to 16 channels in four modules of four channels each. The most innovative feature in this console is the new logic control and setup system based in non-volatile RAM.

Broadcast Audio of Sacramento brought a completely redesigned family of consoles to the NAB. Known as the series VI, modular based mainframes of eight, 12, 16, 20, and 24 channels are available. Double-sided ground plane motherboards are used to assure minimum noise, cross-talk, and best RFI immunity.

Audio levels on the Broadcast Audio board are controlled by P&G faders but low-noise IC op-amps are used for attenuation instead of VCAs. A digital timer, peak indicator, equalized headphone monitor, and Hall effect switches are all standard. Multiple stereo busses and a mono mix-minus buss make telephone interfacing easy.

Prices range from \$6000 for the system 8-VI to \$16,000 for the system 24-VI, typically equipped.

Improvements and options

Other major console manufacturers did offer some notable improvements and new options for existing equipment.

Wheatstone Corp. of Syracuse decided to expand its popular A-20 ten channel air console into the A-32, 16 channel version.

The company also offers a telephone module for the A-500 console which can handle four hybrids plus an intercom module designed for up to seven stations.

The other big news from Wheatstone can be summed up in one word: furniture. Like many companies which have ventured forth into the studio cabinetry line, Wheatstone is offering not only the products but surrounding support structures and studio furniture.

The Wheatstone line was represented in a colorful display featuring a sleek,

... console manufacturers did offer some notable improvements and new options.

clean design in modular console furniture.

Broadcast Electronics introduced the Mixtrak 90 broadcast console in 16 and 18 channels last year. The company now offers two EQ modules for production applications, including parametric and three-band. A remote control module for the programmable Orban mic processor is also now available.

Auditronics of Memphis featured its broadcast consoles and also showed the 1900 series mix-minus system—a modular, eight output multiple feed unit designed for talk shows, sports events, elections, and other field events needing mix-minus feeds.

Auditronics also showed the new 1200 series stereo distribution amplifiers for multiple stereo/mono outputs in a high density configuration.

Low profile premiere

LPB Incorporated premiered its brand new ten-channel Citation II low profile

audio console. Combining the proven performance of its popular Citation I, this second generation offers an extensive list of standard features compiled over ten years of user feedback.

Included as standard in the Citation are three inputs per channel, two stereo output busses, mix-minus capability, two four-position aux selectors, programmable monitor and cue muting, remote starts for all inputs via relays, and a digital clock and timer.

The Citation II also features plug-in preamps for each channel for either line or mic with gain select switches. All inputs and outputs are transformer balanced, accessible via barrier strip terminals. The price for Citation II lists for about \$13,000 complete.

Amek/Tac of Nottingham England unveiled a nice little ten channel remote mixer named the Bullet. Available through its US operations in North Hollywood, the Bullet is free standing or rack mountable with four stereo returns and two stereo outputs. All ten modular mic/line inputs are balanced and include four band EQ with HP filter.

A subgroup aux/return module, and the monitor and master output modules are all standard on the Bullet. The 7x15 segment LED metering looks very nice—in fact, the whole unit looks and feels considerably more expensive than its modest \$4250 pricetag.

Bucking the trend

Howe Technologies of Boulder, Colorado (formerly Howe Audio) bucked the trend toward budget-line consoles

and introduced instead an intensively engineered top-of-the-line model known as series 10K.

Four mainframe sizes from 14 to 32 channels with four stereo outputs use totally interchangeable modules, allowing a specific configuration to be optimized for any broadcast or production application. Billed as a "wireless" audio console, the series 10K uses a universal multilayer backplane motherboard which eliminates all wires between modules.

The "virtual coax" design provides balanced shielded paths for all audio signals. Each path is actually surrounded by backplane in three dimensions, greatly reducing noise, crosstalk, and RFI susceptibility. Audio control is handled by a symmetrical Class A distortion cancelling VCA topology.

Mic preamps are of ultra low noise active instrumentation amp design, which deliver typical THD below .002%. High slew rate active output amplifiers can drive 65 volts p-p at less than .003% THD.

Each Howe series 10K console is supplied with a remote I/O chassis for easy interfacing to the outside world. The US Army helped develop the sterling specifications for the series 10K and ordered the first 32 units. Such performance does command a premium, though. A loaded 20 channel series 10K will cost around \$25,000.

...

Tom McGinley is director of engineering for Cook Inlet Radio Partners and CE of WPGC, Morningside, MD. He is also RW's technical advisor and he can be reached at 301-982-0981.

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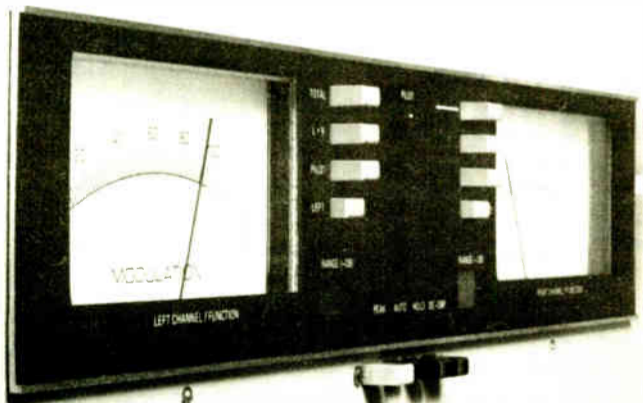
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RF Designs Turn to Solid State

(continued from page 23)

\$49,000. TTC also announced its 1 kW FMS version, to be available in July for approximately \$21,000.

Energy-Onix introduced its expansion into FM solid state with its new 1 kW and 2 kW transmitters, and solid state exciter. The company also announced the new MK-50 50 kW transmitter, in production now.

Comad Communication disclosed that it will begin North American distribution of the TEM 7A transmitter series late this year. The 7A series is solid state and will be available in power levels from 20 W to 2 kW.

The Italian company Itelco, manufacturer of a 2 kW solid state transmitter and an FM exciter, displayed its 30 kW single-tube T254 transmitter.

Low power transmission and more

TFT Inc. introduced its synchronous FM exciter Model 8900, expected to be available late this year for approximately \$9000.

The 8900, with a 19 kHz reference signal for stereo pilot and frequency synchronization as well as frequency translators to avoid group delay, consists of a composite STL receiver, phase-locked loops, and a 15 W amplifier.

TFT also premiered AM receiver 886 and FM receiver 887 EBS systems, now in production and priced at \$1950; and its RPU transmitter and receiver system,

models 8888 and 8889 respectively. Designed for unprecedented audio response, the new RPU system lists for approximately \$4000 (receiver and transmitter) and is in production now.

Inovonics demonstrated its new model 706 FMX stereo generator, which retails for \$3670 with the FMX card and will be available early next year.

Motorola/AM Stereo displayed its C-QUAM AM stereo exciter Model 1400 and C-QUAM modulation monitor, Model 1410.

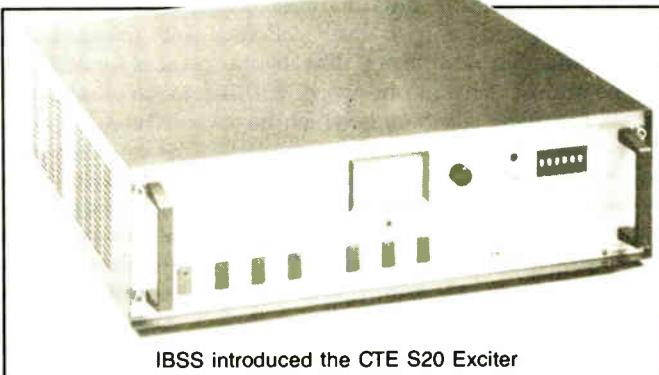
J.R. Hill Co., known for consulting engineering, announced its plans to begin manufacturing a modular interface system, which includes dual 12 V power supply, 4PDT relay assembly, and optoisolator assembly.

MCI exhibited its line of rectangular and circular waveguide transmission line systems, as well as combiners and diplexers.

LPB Inc. demonstrated its low power AM transmitters and carrier current transmitting equipment.

Econco showed its low wattage reflex klystron with new performance and extended life specifications, available now.

Vector Technology featured its new 1 3/4" rack mount exciter, the FMT-03, now in production and retailing for under \$4000.



IBSS introduced the CTE S20 Exciter

McMartin demonstrated a live, local radio station feed for its SCA generator, card adaptable for frequency and format.

EEV Inc. showed its RF broadcast tetrode tubes, including the 4CX35000C, which incorporates built-in thermal fuse type MA85F, and the air-cooled 4CX15000A.

Richardson Electronics, Ltd., displayed its new acquisition of Philips transmitting tubes.

Altronics introduced new additions to its Omegaline dummy loads for 50 ohm coaxial transmission lines, including power ratings of 100 kW, 125 kW and 200 kW not available elsewhere; as well as air-cooled terminators with power ratings of 5 kW, 10 kW, 15 kW, and 50 kW.

Cablewave Systems announced its new 5", 6 1/8" and 8" semi-flex high

powered cables in continuous lengths.

Canare Cable Inc. showed its AVPI video and audio remote cable and microphone cable, including the established L-4E and the L-4E3 and L-4E4 Star Quad 4 conductor with braided shield and individual channel jackets.

Andrew Corp. showed its 3 1/8" and 6 1/8" sizes of its MACXLine, as well as a new 2 1/4" diameter HELIAX coaxial cable with two new 3 1/8" EIA flange connectors.

Neutrik presented the new PROFI phono connector, available in gold and nickel with strain relief.

And Dielectric Communications showed its compacted 18" cavity FM multiplexer.

♦ ♦ ♦

Dee McVicker is a free-lance writer and regular contributor to RW. To inquire about her writing service, call 602-899-8916.

STLs, RPU & Telco Gear

(continued from page 26)
of EBS tests.

In the ever-increasing congestion of auxiliary spectrum, the innovations and enhancements at NAB '89 will help broadcasters caught between the proverbial "rock and hard place" deliver the quality audio and control from remote sites that a sophisticated listening public has come to expect.

♦ ♦ ♦

Geary Morrill is the director of engineering for Mid-West Family Stations. He can be reached at 608-271-1743.

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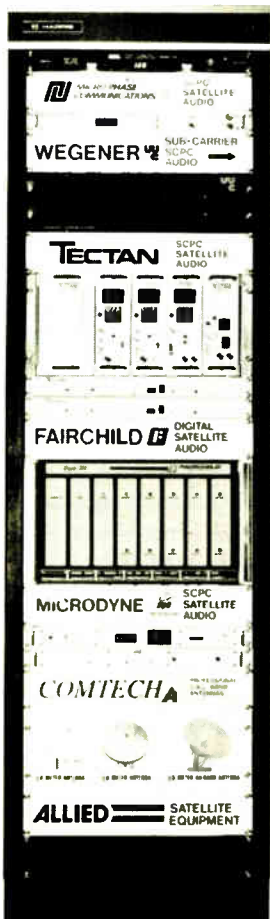
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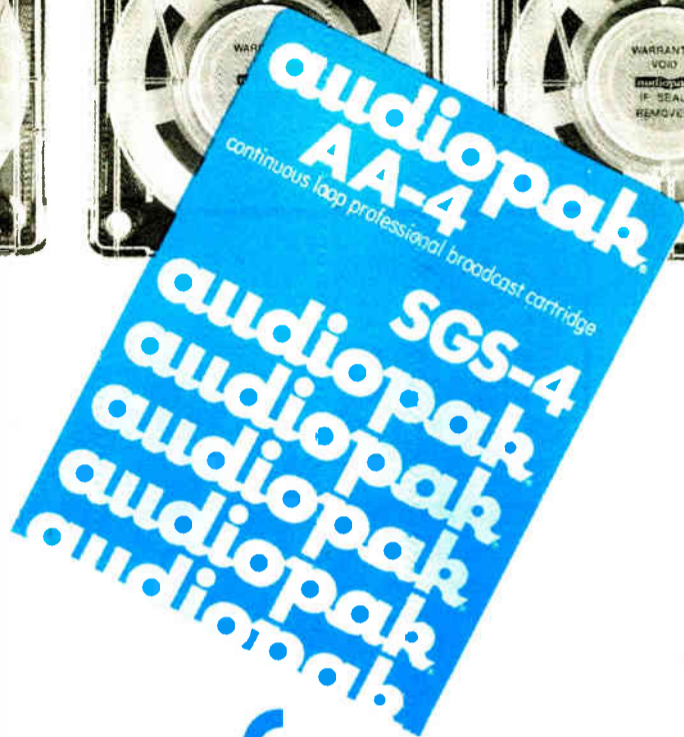
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Analyzing Transistor Design

This is the fifth in a 12-part series titled Introduction to Active Devices. Readers who have registered with Northern Virginia Community College can receive continuing education credits from the college upon successful completion of an examination administered at the end of this series. To register, contact the Director of Continuing Education, Annadale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annadale, VA 22003, or call 703-323-3159. The fee for the course is \$20.

by Ed Montgomery

Part V of XII

Annadale VA Up to this point, we have been examining the fundamental properties of semiconductors and PN junctions. With this installment, we turn our investigation to the transistor.

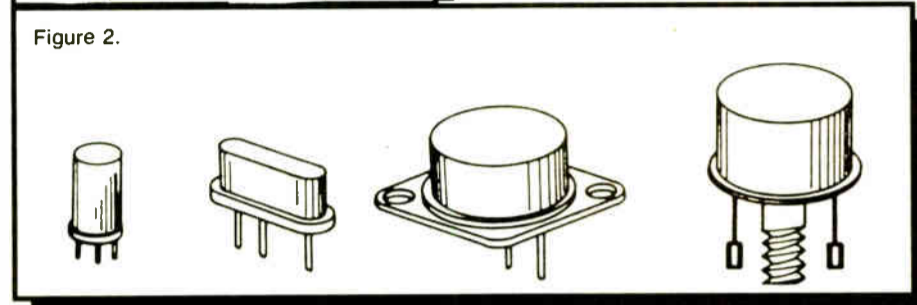
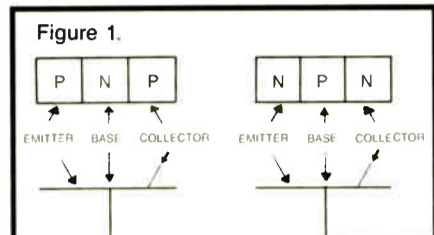
The transistor is an outgrowth of the development of the PN junction. It was developed at Bell Laboratories in 1947 in response to the need for a device that could act as a remote switch operating at low power.

The word transistor was derived from the term "transferring current across a resistor." The component is "grown" in one crystal but is "doped" to have three separate sections.

Partitioned crystals

Figure 1 illustrates how the crystal is partitioned and the schematic symbols

for a transistor. The device can be made two ways, as illustrated in the figure: either PNP or NPN. Note the differences in markings on the schematic diagrams.



The transistor's sections are identified as the emitter, base, and collector, regardless of whether it is a PNP or an NPN. The emitter is always the lead with the arrow, the base is in the middle and the third lead is the collector.

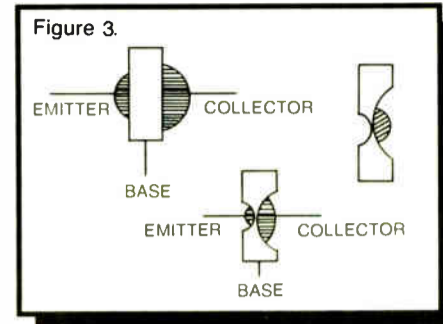
Transistors come in numerous shapes and sizes (see Figure 2). There is somewhat of a standard in determining which lead is the emitter, base or collector but before installing the component in a circuit it is best to determine this by check-

ing the manufacturer's diagram or a cross-referenced guide.

Although the transistor appears to have the characteristics of a diode with one section of the crystal doped one way and the two other sections doped another, the device will not operate if the emitter and collector are reversed in a circuit.

Junction transistors

Figure 3 is an illustration of the physical construction of a junction transistor.



emitter-base current flow controlling a much larger emitter-collector current.

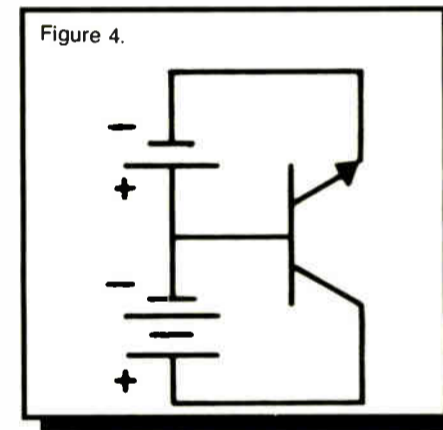
Figure four illustrates the proper biasing of an NPN transistor.

The collector base voltage can be 10 times that of the emitter-base voltage. One should check the specifications of the individual device to determine actual operating parameters.

For more information about transistor operation, read Chapter 5 of *Electronics, Principles and Applications*, Shuler, McGraw-Hill, 1989; or "Solid State Basics" in the ARRL Handbook.

■ ■ ■

Ed Montgomery currently is an electronics teacher at Thomas A. Edison High School in Fairfax County, VA. He has taught broadcast engineering at Northern Virginia Community College and worked as a broadcast engineer for several radio stations.



Note the different sizes of the emitter, base and collector.

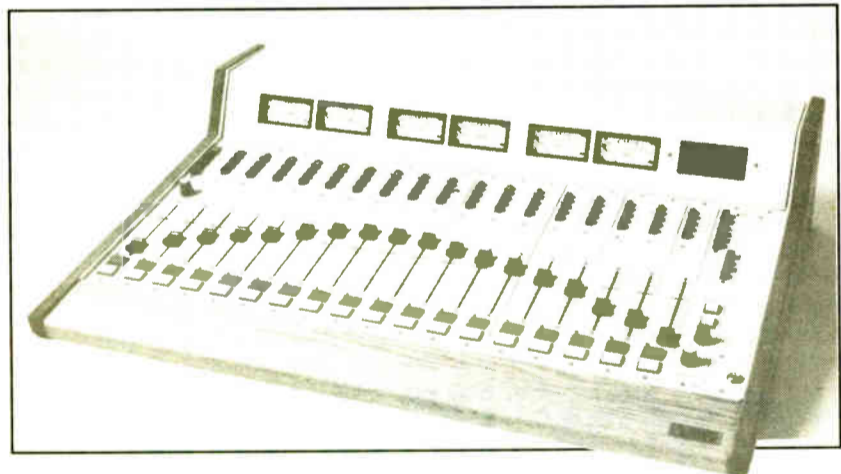
In order to make the transistor operate, the three components of the crystal must be biased. The emitter-base junction is forward-biased and the base-collector junction is reverse-biased. The reverse-biased collector-base junction is a much higher voltage than the forward-bias voltage on the emitter-base junction.

When the current begins to flow in the emitter-base junction, the current carriers, either electrons or holes, will be attracted to the much higher opposite voltage on the collector.

About 99% of all the current carriers that enter the emitter are passed on to the collector. This is known as transistor action.

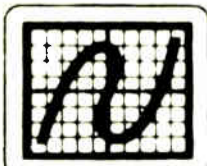
If the emitter-base junction is reverse biased, or the emitter-base voltage is shut off, all current to the emitter ceases to flow. Thus the transistor is a device that can act as a switch, with a very small

Arrakis Authority



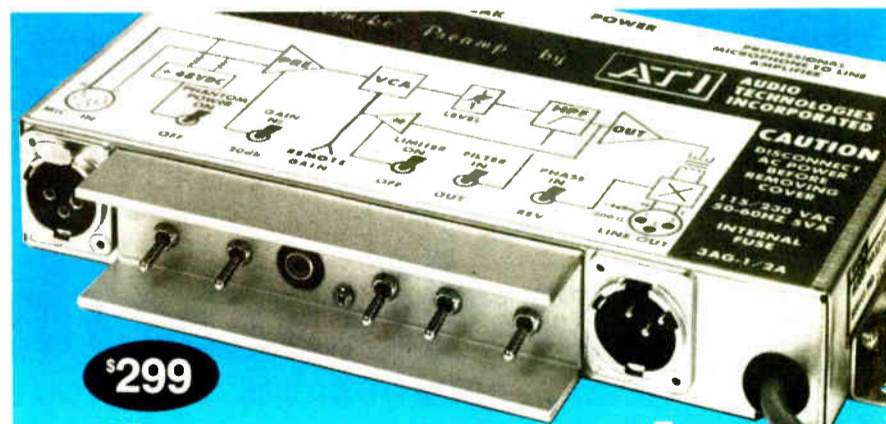
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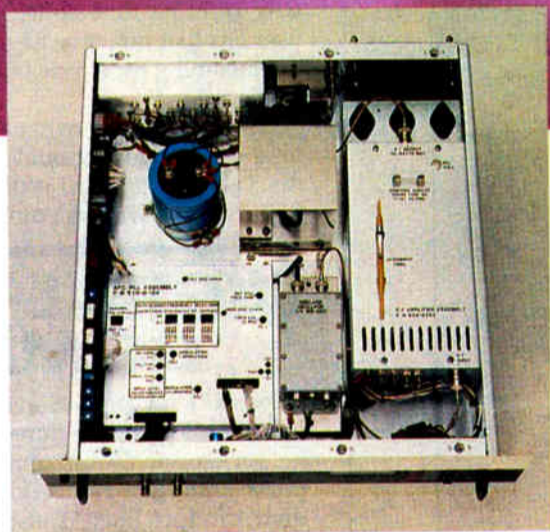
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Defending DAT's Durability

by Mel Lambert

Studio City CA Of the various digital recording and processing technologies that have caught the interest of radio broadcasters during the past several months, digital audio tape (DAT) looks set to overturn a goodly number of apple carts.

Launched originally as a consumer format—Japan, Inc. decides years in advance what new technical delights will be offered from its R&D tables in Tokyo—DAT soon began to attract a wider audience.

Always on the lookout for a high-

quality (and hopefully, cost-effective) alternative to the ubiquitous 1/4" reel-to-reel and cassette portables favored by reporters and radio producers, early travelers to Oriental shores returned with battery-powered DAT machines. Soon speculation began about the possibility of using the mains-powered decks in production or air studios.

Rapid growth

As I have reported in previous columns, DAT is now gaining ground very rapidly. At least two companies, Fostex and Panasonic, have demonstrated time code-capable machines,

with others to follow.

Panasonic also showed a two-machine, DAT time code-based editing system at the recent NAB convention. Insert and assembly edits were made between a pair of "Technology Prototype" transports that formed part of the display area.

By the way, neither the eight-pound battery portable or studio DAT machines being demonstrated to information-hungry crowds during the NAB gathering necessarily will be made available in those package designs.

Sources close to Panasonic tell me that the firm is at least nine months away

from a marketable product, although pre-production versions may be made available for evaluation by the major networks within a shorter time period.

Meanwhile, Fostex is shipping its time code-capable D-20 Digital Master Recorder, which uses the firm's proprietary technique for converting conventional SMPTE/EBU time code into a digitized format that can be recorded into the subcode area of the DAT helical-scan tracks.

The Panasonic portables and studio machines displayed at the NAB show are based, not surprisingly, on the proposed NHK/Matsushita/Sony DAT time code format.

This, you may recall, involves a very elegant process of translating the hours, minutes, seconds and video frames of an input time code stream into a "universal" DAT timing reference—referred to these days as "running time code."

The running time code is expressed in terms of DAT frames of 20.8 μ seconds duration. If that weren't enough to blow your socks off, the proposed format involves recording additional data bits within the subcode area that identify the source of time code used to produce the DAT running time code, and also any user bits that might be flagged as part of the incoming time code bitstream. Neat stuff, indeed!

My sources tell me that a ratified DAT time code format should emerge from the various standard-setting organizations some time this summer.

DIGITAL DOMAIN

Fostex, Panasonic, Sony and various other firms currently pursuing the technology reportedly are committed to supporting the agreed-upon format through their product lines. I also understand that existing machines can be easily retrofitted with replacement EPROMs, to handle any new standard that emerges.

Reliability of the DAT format

All this new technology aside—and these new models certainly incorporate some extremely interesting operational features—there still seems to remain a negative factor in many users' minds about DAT.

On more than one occasion recently, I have heard rumors of Digital Audio Tape being an unreliable medium, with stories of cassettes that shed oxide, jammed and became generally unplayable after just a couple of dozen passes through a DAT machine.

It would seem that similar stories have been reaching the ears of Panasonic's marketing department, because Panasonic asked me to develop a technique demonstrating the robustness of the DAT format. The demonstration was to take place during the NAB convention.

As fate would have it, I had already written an Apple HyperCard program for the Macintosh that was being used in Panasonic's demo suite to demonstrate full-function remote control of its SV-3500 studio DAT machine.

If you know anything about HyperCard, suffice it to say that various on-

(continued on page 49)



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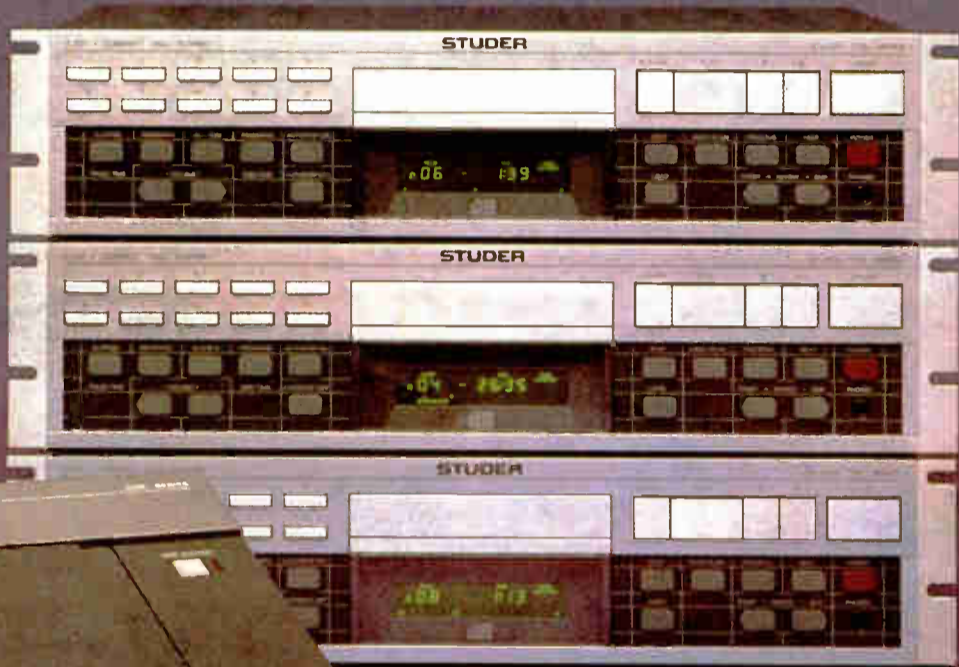
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Circle 41 On Readers Service Card

NAB Show: From the '20s to Today

by Dee McVicker

Tempe AZ It's hard to say if our forefathers knew what they were getting us into when they sat down to the first NAB convention on 11 October 1923.

These grandfathers of electronic media were still referring to radio as the "wireless telephone" and no doubt had their hands full explaining that precarious term to the public.

OFFBEAT RADIO

Of course, no one remembers those early NAB conventions. At least no one will admit to it. But there are those that will confess to an NAB attendance record several pages long.

Equipment representative Wally Warren admits to attending all but seven NABs since 1946. "I'm not sure if I should complain or brag," quipped Warren, who assured that even the mid-century NAB show had its share of imposing characters, new equipment boasts and technical disagreements.

The roaring '40s

The first show Warren attended, in 1946, was what he described as being "stuffed" into a crowded hotel.

"They took great pains to put equipment into every nook and cranny they could find," recalled Warren, who at the time had just returned from a hiatus with the US Navy and was about

to build one of the first FM stations on the 88 to 108 MHz band.

"Western Electric was there, General Electric was there with its equipment, RCA was there—I had to take a look at one of its transmitters . . ."

Warren described his first NAB much like a conventioner returning from the April '89 show. Except for a few company names that have long been erased from broadcast history, Warren's '46 NAB could have easily been a narration from a show held only one month ago!

When did the NAB convention open the first exhibit floor? By most historical accounts, Warren and the other visitors to that 1946 show could have very well seen the debut of NAB equipment exhibits. Which would explain why the hotel appeared to be ill-prepared for the equipment painstakingly stuffed into every nook and cranny.

Of course, there could be another reason why the hotel and the NAB were so ill-prepared. History buffs will recall that World War II ended in 1945, and that after limited travel during the war years by order of the US government, the 1946 show was the first full-fledged NAB convention since the onset of war. And attendance showed it.

Post-war times brought in new companies, new faces and, as Warren put it, more things that broadcasters could agree

to disagree on. "FM was just beginning to be of interest to people, and there was a lot of innovation, and new companies were trying to make a reputation," he recalled.

All of this was being fueled by the plethora of AM and FM licenses being granted, and an occasional spat over whether or not newspaper companies could join in the electronic mania.

The first largest ever

In 1947, NAB convention attendance was tallied at 2000, with exhibits of equipment in full swing.

The NAB member newsletter sums up the '47 September show in Atlantic City as the largest exhibition of broadcasting equipment ever assembled under one roof. That record of standing has stayed with the NAB convention year after year in the approximately 40 years since.

The 1947 show held other landmarks in broadcasting history. The engineering conference came into its own during that year, under the auspices of the National

Association of Broadcasters.

Also, a report in the NAB membership newsletter stated that radio program executives branched off into a grassroots

NAB history indicates that the Television Broadcasters Association, an organization on behalf of the up and coming medium, merged with the National Association of Broadcasting during the '50s to form the short-lived NARTB (National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasting).



National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters TV Board Vice Chairman Clair McCollough welcomed Desi Arnaz and Lucy to NARTB 31st convention in Los Angeles April-May 1953.



NARTB joint board chairman Justin Miller and TV board chairman Robert Swezey (seated) and TV department VP Thad Brown Jr. and NARTB president Harold Fellows at the NARTB convention in Chicago April-May 1952.

discussion of programming policies and ideas. The 1947 NAB show, it seems, heralded engineering and programming as two separate and distinct faculties of radio.

The TV/radio NAB wars

Warren missed the '47 show, and several shows after. But in 1952, Warren was back at the NAB convention; this time he was employed by Gates Radio Company, now the Harris Corp.

He noticed several changes. Some of the big names that he saw at the '46 show had dropped out of sight, like General Electric and Western Electric, and in their place was the hint of a shift in broadcast politics.

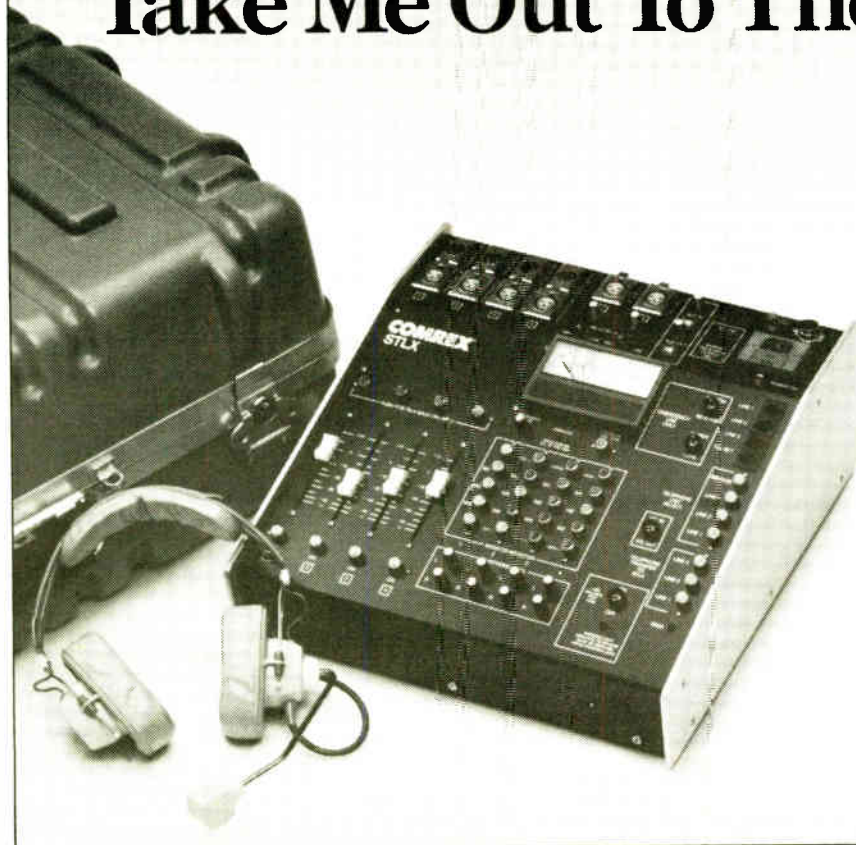
The NARTB name had less than a ten year stint. In the late '50s, the acronym NAB showed up again and one can only assume that television had become—much to the displeasure of radio people—an accepted broadcasting medium.

Still, the '50s proved to be a long, hard decade for broadcasters of the television persuasion. Warren recalled that there wasn't much of a television showing at his second NAB in 1952, although it is very possible he was standing around in an NARTB booth, not an NAB booth!

Not surprising. Television might have appeared to be up and coming in '52 from our dim view in the '80s, but television had in fact been held back by a

(continued on page 48)

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A History of the NAB Show

(continued from page 47)

grant freeze in the early to mid '50s. When television finally did arrive at the NAB conventions in full force, its presence was unmistakable. According to Warren, that's when the real show business began, along with a few other side-kicks to this glitz and glitter.

"One big fiasco," remembered Warren, "was the year the television people let the show business people in. It was a mess morally and spiritually."

The big business of show business wasn't invited back, according to Warren's recollection, until a year or two later.

But the television influence didn't stop there. By the late '50s and early '60s, radio had declared an all-out programming war against television, and automation

was coming into play as more and more radio station owners looked at bottom line profits.

Mirroring Reality

The NAB convention, an annual looking glass into the industry's problems and triumphs, reflected these changes.

Large automation systems dominated the convention floor during these years. Companies sprang up under this new programming guise and died by it as well. And FM, as history dictates, would continue to thrive in part because of automation.

Edwin H. Armstrong, although one of the most imposing figures in this century, did not frequent the NAB shows, according to Warren's recollection. Even

so, Armstrong's FM standards were the subject of more than one NAB debate.

The bantering back and forth over new technical standards—and prior to the '70s there were plenty to choose from—was more likely to take place between large network groups. Networks as well as large turnkey companies, it seems, were weighty opponents up until the more recent NAB gatherings.

Booth exhibits were also likely to be visited by network engineering groups

instead of individual engineers. Mike Dorrough, president of Dorrough Electronics, remembers well the Cap Cities, Taft, ABC and NBC crowds that traveled the show in groups.

Of course, large engineering groups still roam the convention halls at today's NAB. And large turnkey companies still set the pace, and someone is always setting the industry ablaze with a new standard. This is what our forefathers have gotten us into—along with a comfortable pair of shoes each year!

■■■

Dee McVicker is a free-lance writer and regular contributor to RW. To inquire about her writing service, call 602-899-8916.

Tape, Carts Still Strong

(continued from page 25)

all the more popular reel-to-reel recorders. We can replace those old worn heads with the Saki Ferrite heads. We have the choice of replacing the cart machine heads with the OEM head, or trying one of the new longer life heads from either Saki or Sprague.

Patch panels/audio switchers

ADC seems to be looking for additional studio business with its line of pre-wired patch bays. The company had a couple of display racks with pre-wired patch bays in a number of configurations. Of course, the manual patch bay now must compete with audio switchers.

The 3M/ITC audio switcher takes the place of patch bays and distribution amps. The switcher can be remotely controlled and is expandable.

3M/ITC's audio switcher can be set to switch feeds automatically and switch configuration at preset times. This helps reduce the possibility of an inexperienced person plugging in the wrong feed from either an interior studio or from a remote location.

The 3M/ITC audio switcher summing module is one rack unit high. The basic audio switcher summing module allows the selection of up to 16 audio inputs. This will then allow simultaneous summing of up to four outputs per module.

The audio switcher and summing module can be configured for almost any size requirement or complexity.

■■■

George Riggins has experience in radio and electronics dating back to the 1930s. He is also a licensed ham operator and has had his own broadcast sales and service company, Riggins Electronic Sales, for over 20 years. He can be reached at 213-598-7007.

Test Gear

(continued from page 32)

The ACM-1 is now ground isolated and considered by many a modest investment in transmission system integrity.

Since AM noise rises dramatically as natural shifts in transmitter tuning, tube aging and interstage coupling occur, constant monitoring is a real plus for maximizing baseband performance.

Dorrough Electronics' new model 1200 stereo signal test set boasts a better than 110 dB (-90 to +20) dynamic range with a measurement range of 96 dB (-76 to +20).

The set contains a precision 30 dB step attenuator with 1 dB resolution, two B scale meters and two buffered monitor outputs for oscilloscope, headphones or monitor amp. Separation can be measured with the flip of a front-panel sum/difference switch.

■■■

Mike Starling is senior engineer at National Public Radio and can be reached at 202-822-2484.



RCA's NAB Booth at the 1965 convention in Washington, DC.

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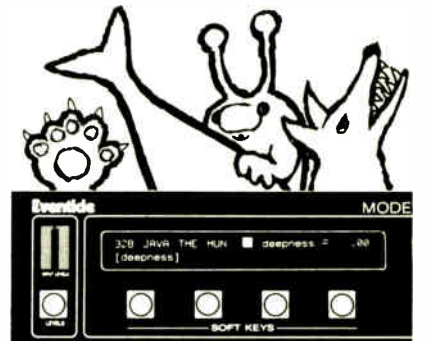
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Circle 13 On Reader Service Card

Testing DAT's Ruggedness in Use

(continued from page 44)

screen buttons were issuing single-character ASCII commands to the SV-3500 via a custom-developed serial interface box that connected between the Mac and the DAT machine.

On a companion page, I had laid out a simple sequencing mode, which enabled a series of cuts to be selected from a menu of the titles recorded onto a sample DAT tape.

This information then was uploaded into the SV-3500 as a Master Play Sequence. Think of the typical applications for semi-automated stations that want to replay music, promos, IDs and commercials from pre-recorded DAT tapes.

A new program

Within about an hour, I had developed a new HyperCard program that enabled a 30-second section of tape to be looped continuously for the duration of the four-day convention. The source material was dubbed digitally from a Technics CD player, and comprised some delicate harpsichord music that would allow subjective assessments to be made during

Japan, Inc. decides years in advance what new technical delights will be offered from its R&D tables . . .

the evaluation process.

A little-known feature of the SV-3500 (mainly because it isn't mentioned in the operator's manual) is the unit's ability to display error correction rates on the front panel LCD window.

For the uninitiated, the the rate may be displayed by setting the front panel time switch to "Play" and then, while holding down the "Recall" button, pressing the power on/off switch. The error rate will now be displayed as a four-digit number by pressing the "Recall" button.

Values of between 50 and 100 interpolated errors are considered normal. Consistent values above 400-500 indicate a clogged tape head, worn tape, mechanical or electrical misadjustment.

At the beginning of the tests, we experienced regular levels of 25-65 errors—perfectly acceptable values for a new tape, and indicative of a well-aligned transport. By the beginning of the second day—after some 1900 repeat playings of the same 30-second sequence—the error rate was up in the 300-500 range, where it pretty much remained during the second day and into the third.

After some 4200 passes, we reworded the tape to the head using the cue/rewind mode—which keeps the tape in contact with the spinning drum head—and listened to the taped sequence from the start through the looped section and on into "untortured" tape. Nobody involved in the evaluation process could detect any noticeable sonic differences between the three sections.

The error rates were observed to have fallen to between 100 and 200, where they pretty much stayed throughout the remainder of the trial. This was a total

of 6800 looped passes over the same 30-second section of tape, at an average looping rate of just over 100 play/rewind cycles per hour.

How many replay cycles of your NAB cartridges would you specify as representing a reasonable lifetime before they need rebuilding, I wonder? Between 750 and 1000, maybe? And yes, the position of the Start ID used to tag the beginning of the test section stayed exactly where it had been at the start of our experiments.

Nothing up our sleeves

No special tape was selected for the trial, simply a 120-minute DAT cassette

one, was extremely impressed with the results, and would suggest that we now might more usefully consider DAT to be a proven medium, and one that withstands the various types of physical, in-machine abuse that can be expected in any major-market radio station.

Just to show that we had nothing to hide, that self-same tape used in the destruction tests was further subjected to careful scrutiny by being replayed in a variety of other DAT machines, to demonstrate the full compatibility of digital audio tape.

Having replayed the DAT cassette in several Sony, JVC, Pioneer and Akai decks, we could detect no audible differ-

tape recorded on the Panasonic SV-3500.

When additional time allows—and this report is being written just one week after the close of the 1989 NAB convention—the test DAT cassette will be replayed in other machines, and might even be subjected to further replay cycles, if only to provide our industry with verifiable and objective data about the robustness of DAT technology. I'll get back to you with the final analysis in a subsequent installment of this column.

■ ■ ■

Mel Lambert has been intimately involved with the production and broadcast industries on both sides of the Atlantic for the past decade, and for seven years served as editor of Recording Engineer/Producer magazine. Currently, he is president of Media & Marketing, a consulting service for the profes-



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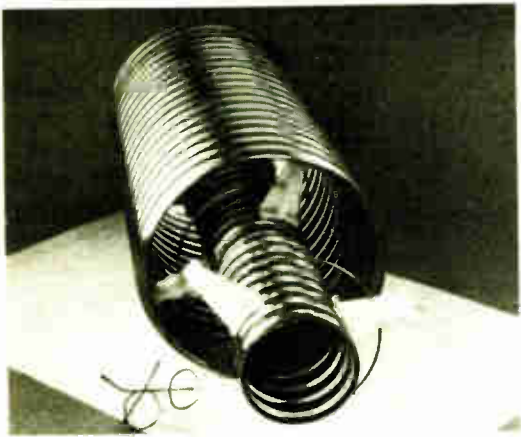


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Gentner Electronics has introduced a new digitally-processed telephone hybrid, the Digital Hybrid ANA. It uses an advanced nulling algorithm to provide hybrid null regardless of telephone line conditions.

Applications for the Digital Hybrid ANA include broadcast talk shows, interviews, teleconferencing and IFB.

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For information, contact Gary Crowder at Gentner Electronics: 801-975-7200, or circle Reader Service 77.



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Symetrix has introduced the new SX205 Precision Digital Meter, a microprocessor controlled two-channel level display that measures both voltage and power. Included is a 1000Hz sine wave calibration oscillator.

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For information, contact Doug Schauer at Symetrix: 206-282-2555, or circle Reader Service 79.



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For information, contact Bob Allen at Barco-EMT: 617-969-4900, or circle Reader Service 71.



Test disc

The new Prosonus Studio Reference Compact Disc contains white noise, pink noise and sine wave bursts in third octaves. It also has sine-waves in 17 bands from 15.525 Hz to 16.0 kHz, impulse clicks and musical pitch references.

For information, contact your regional Allied representative.

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The newest addition to Studer Revox's A807 line of professional recorders intended for use in recording studio and broadcast applications is a 1/2", 4-channel 30 ips machine.

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For information, contact Charles Conte at Studer Revox: 615-254-5651, or circle Reader Service 76.



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Naturally, with all of Wheatstone's experience at building and interfacing consoles, it was inevitable that we would take on the design and manufacture of suitable furniture for our audio installations. First we listened to engineers and their requests, then we went to work. The result is a significant improvement over previous designs.

Consider the advantages of double-sided equipment cabinets with fully interchangeable door panels, with each side able to accommodate 19 inches of rackmount equipment. Consider the convenience of hinged twin drop-down punchblock panels for easy installation and maintenance. Consider the advantage of hard chrome plated steel mounting rails that eliminate the stripping problems associated with lesser aluminum designs. Simply consider the strength we've achieved with full inch and a half thick side panels and hybrid inch and a half thick countertops.

We have re-invented cabinet technology. We've wedded the latest precision NC metal componentry to hybrid plywood/high density, high resin pressure-laminated substrates. Our construction and bonding techniques have been optimized to eliminate stress related laminate problems. We've handled wire management: there are generous pathways between each enclosure, as well as an integral channel punchblock housing under the console counter to keep everything neat, concealed and away from unauthorized hands. And, since cabinet faces can accept either equipment or door panels, systems can easily be configured to fit virtually any room. Doors can even be placed on cabinets intended for future electronics installation.

This cabinetry is very clever, unbelievably strong, and (of course) square--*precisely*. It has that Wheatstone major market look. So contact Wheatstone for furniture, consoles, or prewires.



 Wheatstone Corporation

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