

# A look at what's new in Asian audio

## ESPLANADE SHOOT-OUT

**SINGAPORE:** Three days after Singapore held its 43rd National Day Parade, seven loudspeaker systems were lined up to compete for a place in the Esplanade's Theatre. d&b audiotechnik was represented by its Southeast Asia office, Meyer Sound by Coda Audio Services, L-Acoustics by Sennheiser Asia, EV by Bosch, Adamson by Team 108, Nexo by Yamaha and JBL by E&E. All were on site to vie for the contract.

'The Esplanade was looking for a loudspeaker system for the Theatre, which caters for a wide range of performance genres, said Esplanade head of sound, Robin Shuttleworth. 'The system will have to accommodate performances ranging from classical music to rock-and-roll. All the systems will go through a strict evaluation procedure.'

The process involved three days of vocal mic and wireless headset tests, as well as playback of classic, choral, jazz and a variety of rock-and-roll recordings. 'Other considerations included pricing, which had to be suitable for our budget, and delivery time,' said Mr Shuttleworth. 'Suitable dispersion, rigging, interconnectivity and integration with the current equipment we have were also deciding factors. Points were awarded to each system on each of these.'

Although the auditorium was being prepared for a major corporate event, all of the systems were to be evaluated equally. For the first and second days of testing, all were set up as mono arrays, with three of the seven speaker brands eliminated on the first day followed by another two on the second, and the final two systems going head-to-head on the third day.

Each supplier was given results of the evaluation immediately after the shootout had ended, in order to maintain transparency of the evaluation process. After the first day, the four remaining brands were d&b audiotechnik, L-Acoustics, Adamson and JBL. 'The evaluating committee was made up of four of our own audio staff who filled out forms with the points given to the different systems. The ones with the highest total points were carried over to the next day,' Mr Shuttleworth explained.

By the end of the second day of evaluation, only Adamson's Y-Axis and JBL's VerTec remained for final testing the following day. The respective audio companies now

had to rig for stereo operation. 'These systems were the best suited for the venue,' said Mr Shuttleworth. 'We are not looking for reputations or branding; we want the system to suit us.'

It was very difficult to announce the results to the companies that have been rejected as they too had great systems but, after the committee had totalled up the points, the results spoke for themselves. The system with the highest points will be chosen, and we will be making the announcement very soon.'

[www.esplanade.com](http://www.esplanade.com)



Line array line-up at the Esplanade

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