InfoComm 2019 Highlights

Finepoint Broadcast
Pro-AV Sales Manager
Paul MacKenzie reports
from North America's
largest AV trade show

Organised by the US-based Audiovisual & Integrated Experience Association, InfoComm this year attracted 44,129 registered attendees and around 1,000 exhibiting companies. Held from June 12th through 14th at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, the show addressed a wide range of business areas including education, entertainment, finance, government, healthcare, hospitality, manufacturing, residential, retail, transportation, utilities and venue-management. In equipment terms, that translates to everything from cameras and lighting to large-scale digital signage.

First up in this alphabetical express-tour through some of the hottest new exhibits is **Avocor**, a manufacturer with long experience in collaborative displays. Avocor deployed eight application stations at InfoComm, including solutions using Microsoft Teams, Zoom Rooms, Lenovo computers, Huddly cameras, Logitech AV, Quicklaunch Pro and Crestron endpoints. Avocor showed how to create lobby spaces, huddle spaces, executive office spaces and conference spaces. A globally active company based in the UK, Avocor maintains a London showroom with full demo capabilities. Photo on left shows Avocor's touchscreen glass display.

BlackMagic Design demonstrated the latest additions to its wide range of video production equipment, all ideally priced for the AV market. New at InfoComm this year were the Ursa Mini Pro 4.6K G2 camera, seen on left, DeckLink Quad HDMI PCIe card recorder and Decklink Duo 2 Mini capture card. The camera has a Super 35mm 4.6K HDR image sensor

and dual CFast as well as SD UHS-II card recorders for capturing images at up to 300 frames per second.

Logitech showed its Room Solutions video conferencing system which is designed for use in huddle spaces and small-scale executive meeting rooms. Features include calendar integration, touch-to-join, instant content sharing, and always-on readiness. Preconfigured with room-optimised software from Google, Microsoft, or Zoom, Logitech Room Solutions comprises the Tap touch controller, illustrated, plus a small form-factor computer, cabling and Logitech's MeetUp or Rally conference camera.

Mersive's Solstice 4.0 and Gen 3 hardware platform are designed to serve as a meeting space platform. Solstice provides simultaneous wireless and wired content sharing. It can also display room calendars and HTML/digital signage URLs when not in use. The Gen 3 platform has a quad-core processor supporting a 4K UHD display plus simultaneous shared video feeds.

Netgear is very widely known and respected for its range of IP modems and routers. Centrepieces of its InfoComm 2019 exhibit were two additions to its M4300 series. The M4300-16X is a16-port 10GBASE-T copper switch. It is available as a half-width 1U module with a non-PoE power supply or with a power supply capable of sharing 480 watts of power over the Ethernet to the 16 ports. Also on demonstration was the SDVoE-ready M4300-24FX, a half-width 1U switch claimed to lower the cost of fibre-based project installations of up to 24 nodes. The M4300 series can be implemented across AV over IP installations.

Nureva demonstrated its recently introduced HDL300 audio conferencing system which was first announced just ahead of InfoComm at the June 10-12 NeoCon exhibition in Chicago. The HDL300 is an interesting new sound bar, seen at upper right in the accompanying photo, which takes the form of a microphone and speaker panel designed for wall-mounting. It is available as a single unit optimised for mid-size spaces of up to 7.6 x 7.6 metres, or as a dual version for spaces of up to 9.1 x 14.2 metres. The HDL300 is intended to resolve the issue of poor audio pickup, especially where participants move around the room. At its core is Nureva's 'Microphone Mist' technology. Users also have the option to limit the audio pickup to a specific zone within a space, such as the front of the room.

GN Audio exhibited the PanaCast teleconference product range following its recent acquisition of Altia Systems. PanaCast products deliver real-time 180 degree panoramic 4K, panoramic 5K and 4K 3D video streams from integrated multi-camera arrays. Designed for plug and play operation with no extra software, each camera works seamlessly with video collaboration apps such as Microsoft Teams and Skype for Business, Zoom, BlueJeans, and WebEx. Each camera mounts discreetly on the wall or display or you can be used as a portable device. Another feature of the PanaCast system is intelligent zoom auto-framing which can close in on a couple of people or pan out to show a room full of participants.

Teradek's new Vidiu Go HEVC, seen on left, is a cost-optimised camera-mountable encoder allowing live broadcast by streaming over the combined bandwidth from Ethernet, wireless local networks and up to two 3G/4G/LTE modems. Users can also deploy Apple iPhone and Google Android smartphones as hotspots for greater bandwidth redundancy. The VidiU Go Deluxe Kit includes two nodes and two Telna SIMs, allowing purchasers to start streaming immediately. Node modems fit to the sides of the VidiU Go chassis and offer a high level of 4G LTE connectivity.

WeWork promoted its newest acquisition: software and analytics provider Teem. Teem offers meeting tools such as conference room scheduling and desk reservations, workplace analytics and ways to welcome and manage visitors.

Yamaha exhibited its new Collaboration Kit which includes a Huddly IQ AI-powered conference camera providing 150-degree wide-angle 1080p video, plus an embedded microphone array and the Huddly InSights analytics API. A 'Genius Framing' feature allows the camera to detect and frame participants in its field of view automatically, eliminating the need to control the camera manually. Also included is Yamaha's ESB-1080 Enterprise sound bar. The Yamaha Collaboration Kit is intended for remote collaboration and presentation medium-size conference spaces, with simple connections to a laptop and monitor.

Zoom has announced enhancements to its Zoom Rooms conference room system. Running on off-the-shelf hardware, its capabilities include video and audio conferencing, wireless content sharing and integrated calendaring, as well as extension services for digital signage and display scheduling. Zoom describes Zoom Rooms as the perfect solution for conference, huddle, and training rooms, as well as executive offices, clinics, and classrooms. Photo on left shows a three-in-one integrated display and control tablet. Zoom gets the MacKenzie Award for the neatest InfoComm 2019 exhibition booth.

InfoComm 2020 location and dates

Next year's InfoComm will be held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, home each year to the January Consumer Electronics Show and April National Association of Broadcasters' Convention. Dates are June 13-19 (conference) and June 17-19 (exhibits).

For more information, please contact

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