

Press Release - for immediate publication

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New World Center equips with Merging and RAVENNA/AES67 solution

The fabulous Frank Gehry-designed New World Center in Miami Beach, FL is both a world class performance space and home to one of the world's most prestigious orchestral academies, the New World Symphony. Every year over 1500 music school and conservatory graduates compete for around 35 available fellowships each year in preparation for leading roles in professional orchestras and ensembles worldwide. In order to maintain the New World Center's status as a world-leading facility and offer NWS Fellows the chance to work with the very latest technology for live recording and performance, the New World Center has recently invested in a Merging Pyramix/Horus/Hapi networked audio solution with a RAVENNA/AES67 backbone.

The 756-seat Performance Hall and the smaller Sun Trust Pavilion designed by NWS co-founder and artistic director, Michael Tilson Thomas, who is also the long-standing music director of the San Francisco Symphony, are already fully equipped for live performance and recording and share two multi-track surround-capable control rooms. HD video recording and projection is also available for those hiring the spaces.

However, whilst originally set up to record 64 tracks at 24bit/48kHz, it became apparent that the majority of the major opera and concert venues had installed Pyramix and Horus/Hapi Networked Audio facilities to be able to achieve high track counts at much higher sampling rates. The importance of getting current and future audio fellows on both sides of the glass used to the industry norm was not lost on Director of Audio Services, Roberto Toledo, particularly as a large proportion of major orchestral organizations primarily use Pyramix. If audio fellows are to be considered for any of the companies or contractors hired to record, Pyramix experience will be extremely valuable.

Toledo's first encounter with Merging's DSD recording system was through recordings he had heard and a demonstration at NWS by Independent Audio's Dennis Gaines and Parsons Audio. Roberto Toledo summarized his decision making process: "With regards to the hardware, sonic quality was an important part in the decision. Having heard the hardware, it was clear that choosing the Horus and Hapi for our new system would be the right direction. In addition, the ability to do higher resolution recordings, DXD and DSD to be specific, was of great importance to us. The bulk of our work is classical music, and I prefer little to no coloration when I hear a mic (other than what the mic is doing). I feel that Horus and Hapi will produce the transparency and clarity I am looking for."

Moving to Merging hardware also means that Audio over IP is now part of the package. “RAVENNA and AES67 played a huge part in our decision to go with the Merging hardware,” confirmed Toledo. “The ability to connect a large system, like the one we purchased, with only a few network cables is truly amazing. Future expansion is very easy, and it is something we hope to do soon.”

The Merging system comprising 3 x Horus, 2 x Hapi and Pyramix MassCore 256 Master Packs with 3 x Quintessence Turnkey PC chassis Eucon connected to Avid S6 and S3 consoles, has been delivered but not finally installed although it is hoped that recording can start before the end of 2015 with a temporary cabling solution. The full RAVENNA/AES67 installation is currently planned for summer 2016 with an official start date of next September.

About RAVENNA:

RAVENNA is a technology for real-time distribution of audio and other media content in IP-based network environments. Utilizing standardized network protocols and technologies, RAVENNA can operate on existing network infrastructures. RAVENNA is designed to meet the strict requirements of the pro audio market featuring low latency, full signal transparency and high reliability.

While primarily targeting the professional broadcast market, RAVENNA is also suitable for deployment in other pro audio market segments like live sound, install market and recording. Possible fields of application include (but are not limited to) in-house signal distribution in broadcasting houses, theaters, concert halls and other fixed installations, flexible setups at venues and live events, OB van support, inter-facility links across WAN connections and in production & recording applications.

Unlike most other existing networking solutions, RAVENNA is an open technology standard without a proprietary licensing policy. RAVENNA is fully compatible with the AES67-2013 standard on *High-performance Streaming Audio-over-IP Interoperability*.

About ALC NetworkX GmbH:

ALC NetworkX is an R&D company in Munich, Germany. A team of experts with excellent reputation from the pro audio industry and in-depth knowledge in networking technologies has developed the RAVENNA technology platform. While ALC NetworkX will continue to keep the lead role in the RAVENNA technology development, product implementations will be executed by individual partner companies. For a full list of our current partners, please visit <http://www.ravenna-network.com/partners/>

Interested manufacturers are always welcome to join us.

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