

UND BITES

SKY RADIO, based in Holland and serving Europe, has installed a Sonic Maximiser to enhance the quality of signal received by its listeners. Sky use BBE to improve clarity without having to boost the frequency response. Sky Radio and the London-based KISS FM station, both BBE users, both ran extensive tests on the unit prior to permanent installation due to the fact it must operate 24 hours a day without being switched off.

THE TWENTIETH Century Broadcast Equipment Show will be held on Thursday 9th November at theropole Hotel, NEC, UK. It will be in its one-day format and is expected to beat all previous attendance records. On Friday before the Radio Society of Great Britain will again be holding a technical conference for radio engineers. For more information, Fax: +44 0121 832575.

CHANNEL 4'S music show, The White Room, has been pushing up the UK's quota of on-screen advertising and roll every Saturday for several weeks. SSE has deployed its Electronic Monitoring technology to provide accurate monitoring of the bands.



RUSSIA - The Austrian Broadcasting Company (ORF) has become the first broadcast company allowed to film and record in Franz-Josef Land, part of the Russian Arctic, since the break-up of the Soviet Union. The crew from ORF worked for nearly six months in conditions of high altitude, high salt content in the air and extremely low temperatures. Sound engineer Florian Camerer specified a Soundfield ST250 and Bruel & Kjaer 4006, 4007 and 4011 microphones for the project. The ST250 was run by battery power and protected by a Rycote windshield. The B&Ks were mounted on Camerer's shoulders to prevent frostbite.

New era for radio reporting

UK - Hire company Richmond Film Services ordered the world's first two Nagra ARES-C portable solid state recorders at AT 95 last month. The machines - serial numbers 1001 and 1002 - offer digital recording onto PCMCIA cards with onboard editing and ISDN connection, and are aimed at radio reporting.

Richmond Film's Nigel Woodford says, "I was quick to get behind the Nagra-D when it first came out and now we have 12. ARES-C will obviously appeal to radio reporters and we feel confident that we will be able to promote the concept, particularly as full bandwidth audio and time code are coming." **PHIL WARD**

Yamaha - beaucoup plus

IRELAND - Further re-enforcing Yamaha's commitment to the Eurovision Song Contest, the company's Irish distributor Dan-fay supplied a truckload of technical and instrumental equipment to the event in Dublin recently.

It is the 14th time that Yamaha has co-operated with Eurovision for musical instruments and technology. The relationship started in 1981 at the Dublin RDS, and since then Yamaha has been seen and heard in this regard by approximately 300 million people each year.

The ProMix 01 digital console was used for the orchestra, while

several CDX880 CD players, OB distribution centre, to constantly output tones and levels while participating country conductors. RTE manufacturer's tone CD for this purpose were made in evidence were made in amps, NS10 speaker-powered speakers between production.

Concert Grand pianos were used. Senior sound supervisor O'Loughlin and O'Peoples both commented that the equipment used

MPEG-2 television contracts awarded

AUSTRALIA - Commercial transmission specialist NTL has won a contract from Galaxy, the Australian Pay TV service of Australis Media, to provide video compression equipment for its direct-to-home multi-channel digital television service, which is due to start this summer. It has also supplied the world's first MPEG-2 service, which went on air in Thailand during May.

Three Australian satellite Pay TV licences have already been awarded, to Continental Century, Australis Media and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Australia will become one of the first countries in the world to offer

digital MPEG-2 Pay TV. Ten channels will broadcast direct to home from the Optus satellite transmission links to ends are already under construction, with MPEG-2 transmission due to start during the latter part of this year. It is expected the network will reach Australia's six million subscribers.

NTL is supplying a complete set-up from its Synapse range of video compression products, including modulators and multiplexers. Domestic receiver-decoders like Pace DVR500s, which use MPEG-2 technology.

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