

**Crown International**

reports that its entire line of DSI Series amplifiers dedicated for use in cinema sound systems is now fully 'THX Approved'. The DSI Series joins Crown's current CTs Series and Macro-Tech O2 Series in being recognised by THX. "The DSI Series marks a true turning point in the advancement of THX approved cinema audio systems as it is the first digitally integrated cinema amplifier that includes the DSP necessary for all loudspeaker processing requirements," says Crown's Stephen Morris.

W >> [www.crownaudio.com](http://www.crownaudio.com)

**The Washington-based**

Library of Congress has acquired several Merging Pyramix DAWs, each built around a Merging Mykerinos MB5 card with an AES-EBU digital output daughterboard. The DAWs – assembled by Independent Audio and supplied by Parsons Audio – are being installed in the Library's new facilities at the National Audio Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia, and will be used primarily to digitise the Library's audio collections. In other US install news, Washington's National Gallery of Art has installed a Pyramix for use by its AV staff.

W >> [www.merging.com](http://www.merging.com)

**The need for a flexible FOH**

system led Southampton Guildhall in the UK to acquire an L-Acoustics dV-DOSC system recently. The venue required a set-up that – according to chief in-house technician Simon Williams – "could offer excellent vocal clarity across every seat in the house" and allow enough headroom to manage bands and discos as well. The solution came in the form of an L-Acoustics specification comprising 12 dV-DOSC and 4 dV-SUBS, all powered by LA48a amplifiers. The system was supplied by Glen Smith from GSA.

W >> [www.l-acoustics.com](http://www.l-acoustics.com)

**Audio Venue director**

Saj Afzal sought advice from Shure Distribution UK when it came to installing sound equipment in the main commercial room at the Settle Down basement bar in London's Kensington. Shure recommended four QSC ModularDesign MD-F152/64r enclosures with a pair of MD-S218 woofers pumping out the sub-frequencies from some of the capital's top DJs. All the QSC equipment was installed by Stagecraft, under the overall project management of Audio Venue.

W >> [www.qscaudio.com](http://www.qscaudio.com)

**The Marlborough School**

in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, called on London-based sound and lighting installation company 10 Out Of 10 to recommend a sound reinforcement design for its high-ceilinged modern building with two glass walls.

"Because the portable stage would always be used against one of the long walls, we could install lighting and sound positions in sensible locations without having to worry about creating a multi-format system," explains Paul Need of 10 Out of 10. "This gave us the opportunity to fly Electro-Voice's ZX5 and ZX11 small-format high-output speakers from the truss, which provided a very natural sound in the hall."

W >> [www.shuttlesound.com](http://www.shuttlesound.com)



# Nexo scores hat-trick in France

## Three stadium contracts for Nexo's new GEO loudspeakers

**FRANCE:** Nexo has announced that three contracts for permanent sound reinforcement system installations in French football stadia are to make extensive use of the new GEO S1230 and S1210 enclosures, launched by Nexo at the ProLight+Sound expo in Frankfurt in March. In total, nearly 300 GEOS1230 cabinets will be deployed.

The GEO S1230 will be used as the central building block of all three installations, integrated into EtherSound-controlled networks using NX242 TDC controllers, Yamaha matrix and mixing consoles, and powered by CAMCO amplifiers.

The venues are: Stade de la Beaujoire, Nantes: home of FC

Nantes, capacity 50,000; Stade Félix Bollaert, Lens-Marseille: home of RC Lens, capacity 42,000; and Stade de la Mosson, Montpellier: home of SC Montpellier, capacity 34,000

The first and largest of the three projects to be undertaken is the installation at the Stade de la Beaujoire in Nantes, which is being handled by Melpomen. Prior to starting work in Nantes, Thierry Trenchant was planning to install nearly 100x S1230 arrayable two-way enclosures.

The system for Stade Félix Bollaert will be installed by Dominique Housiaux Electricité with Auvione, and in Montpellier, the work will be carried out by Audio-Equipement.

Denis Baudier, Nexo's managing director, says that "these contracts show a great vote of confidence in Nexo's tangent-array technology. Nexo speakers are of course installed in France's premiere sporting venue, the Stade de France in



In total, nearly 300 GEOS1230 cabinets will be deployed in three stadia

Paris, so the quality of our acoustic design and reputation for quality manufacturing is already well-known in these circles. Winning these contracts at such an early stage in the S1230's life-cycle will provide

outstanding showcases for this new product which will be noted all over the world." ■

**SHARON LOCK**

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## Fashion temple comes to London

**UK:** Legendary American fashion designer Tom Ford says he is "sad" that Abercrombie & Fitch has opened a flagship store in London's Savile Row, because it risks making it "like any other street". But you try telling that to the thousands of happy fashionistas who stormed the 18th-century former townhouse on the store's first day of trading on March 22nd, and who kept the tills ringing long into the night – despite the fact that the shop charges exactly twice that of its US counterparts for many of its clothes.

Not that you could actually hear any of those tills. Like A&F's other flagship stores in Los Angeles and New York, the London shop has been fitted out with one of the most powerful sound systems installed in a retail store anywhere. Using a grand total of 57 Meyer Sound UPM-1P UltraCompact Wide Coverage Loudspeakers, 38 UMS-1P UltraCompact Subwoofers and 31 MM4 Miniature Wide-Range Loudspeakers (the last from the company's application-tailored Industrial Series), the shop pumps out a wall-to-wall diet of feelgood European house and techno music, at levels which would put some modestly sized nightclubs to shame.

The audio system design is the work of David Schwartz, a New York-based specialist who specified Meyer Sound for Abercrombie's

NYC flagship as an independent consultant, and whose design there so impressed the retailer's management that they hired him as a full-time employee. The London project was more demanding because, as Schwartz explains: "The building is Grade I listed, and all our petitions for acoustical treatment were turned down by English Heritage."

Happily, through a combination of clever, discreet speaker positioning and the remarkable consistency of the Meyer boxes, Schwartz has succeeded in creating a soundscape which perfectly reflects Abercrombie's brand values – without upsetting the architectural powers-that-be. And for Roger Harpum, UK sales manager for Meyer Sound, the project has enormous promotional value, as the company diversifies from its core markets of touring and large-venue installations.

"Abercrombie & Fitch is really important for us as a reference site for the retail market in the UK," says Harpum. "It demonstrates to both installers and end users that the right sound system can transform a store's atmospherics and profitability."

And if, like Tom Ford, you remain sceptical about the store's appeal, then as the old saying goes: you really need to hear this for yourself. ■

**DAN GOLDSTEIN**

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## Lab.gruppen to launch fully-warranted amplifier service

**SWEDEN:** Lab.gruppen has announced details of a new scheme designed to put fully guaranteed amplifiers manufactured by the company within the reach of any sound company, band or installation.

The Lab.gruppen Certified Pre-Owned (LCPO) scheme is due to launch in late spring and will offer customers the ability to choose fully-warranted amplifiers from a worldwide inventory. An area on the relevant Lab.gruppen website will list Certified Pre-Owned amplifiers by their current owners, with buyers able to register to view.

"All amplifiers will be conditioned and age-identified so the buyer can assess their value," noted Lab.gruppen's head of marketing, Tim Chapman. "And if a desired amp package is not immediately available, we will automatically keep registered buyers up to date on new inventory additions."

Any amplifier sold through the website will be covered by a three-year warranty from the date of purchase, covering all parts and labour required should a fault occur. ■

**DAVID DAVIES**

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## RTI unveils C2C plan

**US:** Remote Technologies Incorporated (RTI), the provider of home system control solutions, has unveiled a new initiative called C2C or "Committed 2 Custom", which, the company says, reinforces its commitment to the custom install market.

"C2C is a cutting-edge concept which will reinforce our commitment not only to custom installation but also to excellence," says Pete Baker, vice president of sales and marketing for RTI. "By developing award winning control solutions and working with

trained professional integrators, we are able to ensure easy access to entertainment for the discerning consumer."

The C2C message will shape the way the company will evolve in the residential, commercial and transportation markets and highlights RTI's commitment to offering its products exclusively through custom dealers and trained professional integrators, adds the company. ■

**SHARON LOCK**

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