

IB3 upgrades its radio production centers

Balearic radio station puts AoIP to work

IB3 Radio is the radio station of the Public Entity of Radio and Television of the Balearic Islands, owned by the Balearic regional government in Spain.

The station took an important step towards digitalization in 2021 with a project involving four production centers, each on a different island.

According to IB3 Radio Technical Director Pedro Sureda Morro, the work involved installing new AoIP mixing consoles with Dante connectivity and ancillary equipment, as well as acoustical conditioning of production studios and recording cabins at Network Headquarters on Mallorca and at local facilities at Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera.

Sureda led the project in coordination with Bernardo Saiz, sales manager of AEQ, who has a long relationship with IB3. AEQ was awarded the contract to supply and install the AoIP infrastructure, including Atrium and Forum IP Split consoles. Its work also included the systems engineering, installation and studio cabinetry.

There are a total of five Atrium and five Forum IP Split consoles among the locations at Palma de Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza and Formentera islands.

New Systel IP 16 talk-show systems handle broadcast communications at the Menorca and Ibiza studios.

"AEQ also provided the bespoke technical furniture for the new mixing consoles, including a very aesthetically pleasing and functional studio desk for the main studio in Palma de Mallorca," said Sureda. "This has been designed and prepared to encompass visual radio broadcasts."

The infrastructure provides networked audio connectivity

over IP, with analog/digital backup in all of the production centers, for which some additional components were added. These include managed network switches to run local audio and control networks in the studios; a Dante IP audio connection card to connect 64 audio channels to the consoles in Palma de Mallorca from an existing AEQ BC 2000D matrix switcher; monitor speakers; amplifiers and headphone distribution; audio line, microphone and headphone connector panels; and patch panels for backup audio connecting the matrix to the consoles in parallel with the IP audio.

He highlighted the AEQ Atrium consoles for providing flexibility that will encourage dynamic and interactive radio.


"In our case, the Atrium Mixing Console at the Main Studios in Palma have been rendered a customized functional adaptation that allows two operators to operate in parallel: a second Control and Monitoring Module," he said.

"This second control and monitoring module has been programmed to be used by the producer to support the console technician for certain programs where the technician is required to fully focus on the audio mixing and cleanfeeds. The producer is actively supporting the technician by preparing content by contributions, organizing telephone calls, coordinating the mobile units and other resources, such as intervening on-air in sports programmes, providing information and data on the events taking place in real time."

He described this as task sharing where the control technician can handle the inputs and outputs of the console, the studio and its guests, while the producer is in control of all the communications including talkback and intercommunications for control and studio and the other network locations, remote/OB units and remote communications.

Some support gear was carried over from its earlier facilities including Genelec 8050A monitors, Sennheiser MD 441 mics and AKG K141 headphones.

Macustica won the public tender to provide acoustical conditioning. Technical Architect Antonio Martinez designed and coordinated the acoustic conditioning.

"An absorbent coating for walls was chosen, formed by the combination of different grooved wooden panels from IdeaTec with high acoustic absorption, Eurocoustic Tongar A22 ceiling tiles and Gerflor vinyl flooring with high level damping of impact noise," said Sureda. 

Below

Pedro Sureda Morro is technical director of IB3 Radio.



Spectacular Radio Studios



Above
A studio at Network Headquarters in Mallorca sits ready for guests.

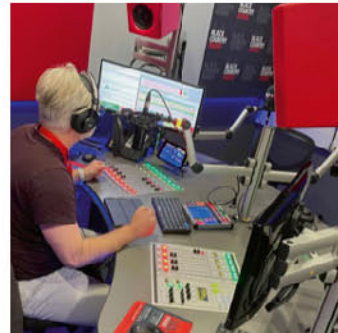


Left
The AEQ Atrium and RTC Control software are shown in the Main Studios in Mallorca.



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