

➤ broadcast news



» APPOINTMENT

● Tine Helmle has been appointed to the board of directors of **Optocore**. As the company's director of sales and marketing, she has more than five years of experience in the pro-audio industry with a strong emphasis on fibre optical network technology and its commercialisation. Helmle joined Optocore in 2003. Prior to this she worked on the production of video and film clips for the marketing departments of various companies, including Siemens.
www.optocore.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Struggling SBES shifts emphasis to television

There was no doubt that this year's SBES exhibition was small, but product launches pointed to new trends in radio and a move towards audio for TV, writes **Kevin Hilton**

➤ Trade shows are usually merely a backdrop to the real business of seeing new technology and discussing goings on in the industry. At this year's SBES the exhibition itself was the main topic of discussion because the annual equipment showcase for the radio and location sound sectors was markedly smaller than previous years, with fewer exhibitors and visitors. However, that obscured the fact that many significant products got their first showing at the NEC in Birmingham.

One of these was the Glensound Electronics T3 broadcast desk, designed

originally for BBC regional stations but now aimed at the wider commercial local station market. Although analogue, the T3 does have 192kHz digital input and output options. It is also modular, so users can add as many ins, outs, equalisation and contrib feeds as they need, with a starting price of £5,000. Glensound is still embracing digital, however, introducing a digit-based commentary package, the GS-CU009/GS-CCU004 digital coaxial system, comprising a commentator's desk and controller.

A definite trend was for companies previously specialising in radio to move

into audio for TV. Sonifex's managing director, Marcus Brooke, says this is proving a useful parallel market, with new products including iU audio monitoring units designed for OB vans and engineering rooms, with four stereo inputs and USB connection. The company has also introduced two new tone generators, one based on the stereo GLITS (Graham's Line Identification Tone System) format, created in the 1980s by BBC TV sound supervisor Graham Haines, the other using BLITS (Black and Lane's Ident Tones for Surround), devised for 5.1 by Sky TV

sound supervisors Martin Black and Keith Lane. The Redbox digital silence detection unit was also on show.

BCD Audio has moved into video through its work on the webcasting project at the Houses of Parliament, producing Wordclock DA for locking pictures to sound and a video switcher that also provides embedded audio. Back with audio, BCD has developed communications and talkback systems for the new BBC Radio OB trucks being built by systems integrator IPE. Five of these will



PRECO celebrated its 25th anniversary