



In with the New...

Adlib Audio director, Dave Kay, and senior engineer, Ian Nelson, spoke to **Daniel Gumble** about the company's recent investment in Outline's Newton audio processor and why 'nothing else comes close to it' in today's pro audio market...

Last month, Liverpool-based rental firm, Adlib Audio, made its first investment in Outline, taking stock of its recently launched Newton multi-source audio processor.

Designed to offer major operational advantages to users, combining new 'WFIR' (patent pending) filter technology, multi-format audio signal routing, simultaneous multiple standard conversion and digital signal synchronisation in a single 1RU chassis, it has certainly caught the industry's attention, not least that of Adlib director Dave Kay and senior engineer Ian Nelson (pictured). Here, the pair talk us through why they see Newton as a game-changing product and just how much of an asset it is likely to be for Adlib's portfolio...

Why was now the time to make your first investment in Outline?

Dave Kay: We have searched high and low to find or develop a unit with a manufacturer that would become a comprehensive matrix and the only thing that came close was the [discontinued] Lake DLP.

What appealed to you about Newton? And how do you think it will benefit your offering?

DK: We were looking for something versatile and simple to use, but no other solution had enough I/O to offer that level of versatility. To gain enough I/O, this involved complex cabling to daisy chain smaller units over different digital formats and there wasn't a time-aligned matrix preset that had been developed by a manufacturer for their product to use them in this way. Secondly, no other alternative had a redundant PSU –



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without dual PSUs this would make the matrix mixer the weakest link in a festival audio system. The Newton has got this too. The Newton's 18x16 matrix and its huge amount of I/O possibilities are the major factors that attracted us to the unit, but the ASRC and SRC on each matrix input is also a big advantage. This, coupled with the multiple levels of input redundancy, is something we had been searching for for a long time. Nothing has come close to what the Newton unit can do. Plus it has a comprehensive routing system so it can also be used as a standalone format converter.

Ian Nelson: We have struggled to find anything that can handle a relatively big matrix but operate simultaneously on multiple time domains, with automatic input redundancy fail over. There are devices that will do these things but generally not in one box – historically we have had to add a third mixing desk at

FOH with a large I/O rack to be able to take input feeds from multiple consoles, but this ties up hire stock and takes up space at FOH, which is usually at a premium.

How much of an asset will Outline be to your product portfolio?

DK: In the past, the easiest, but not cost effective, solution for a festival matrix mixer has just been to use a mixing console or DSP core to take the role of the matrix mixer, but this takes up essential space at FOH and also ties up valuable inventory. We can now achieve this with a 1U rack unit.

What are your immediate plans for Newton?

IN: Its immediate role will be as our festival matrix device, but we see far-reaching potential for Newton devices to operate as system processors, format converters and beyond. We have been beta testing a demo unit for around two months and the first outing will be a big Scottish festival where we expect to see multiple guest consoles, in addition to our own A&B system house consoles.

DK: Over the summer we are proving the concept of using Newton as a matrix mixer and working closely with the Outline team to refine the feature set.

Will you be looking to increase your investment in Outline?

DK: Yes. After rigorous testing in the summer's harsh festival conditions, we will certainly look to add more units to our inventory. ■