

proAV[®]



 integrated
systems
europe

&



infocomm

2022



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Introduction

Following disruptions and delays due to Coronavirus, ISE finally held their first in-person exhibition since 2020 just last month (delayed from its usual Feb timing) in Barcelona, Spain, having moved location from Amsterdam. This was just before the US based show Infocomm which took place in Las Vegas just last week.

The 2022 ISE show attracted 43,691 attendees from 151 countries, while Infocomm saw 19,681 attendees from 110 countries. This was of course considerably lower than peak pre-Covid totals (80,000+ for ISE and 44,129 for Infocomm), but both the shows were widely regarded as a success as members of the AV industry were able to meet face to face, for the first time in two years, with exhibitors and partners.

Even though the industry has started to emerge from the uncertainty of COVID, a return to normality has come with unexpected issues that currently affect many suppliers, especially manufacturers, with ongoing chip shortages that have added considerable delays on lead times for in-demand hardware solutions. A knock-on effect this has had on the AV industry is that hardware innovations have been fewer, though software-focused innovations – especially in MTR applications have increased.

The focus on hybrid working environments has remained constant post-pandemic with

video conferencing and collaboration to accommodate the office and remote worker. Advances in hardware and software are being aimed at negating meeting inequality and improving the quality of meetings and collaborations with innovative video and sound solutions designed to be inclusive of meeting participants. Solutions from brands including GoBright and Appspace have taken advantage of the new capabilities in AI cameras. This will drive the post-Covid work strategy for many businesses encouraging employees back to the office.

2022 has already brought with it a combination of high-profile partnerships, acquisitions and alliances. HP announced in March 2022 their intention to acquire Poly and to add its leading workplace collaboration solutions into its portfolio. In the realm of visual display solutions, Sharp and NEC debuted under one company umbrella – Sharp/NEC – at ISE, bringing with them their latest technologies including their 120-in 8K display that integrated Intel SDM (Smart Display Module) allowing support 5G network usage and could potentially make the product suitable for IoT applications in future.

Another key trend on display at the shows was the subject of exhibitors launching sustainable and affordable products. With discussions of climate change still prevalent, several manufacturers have been declaring their vows to limit their ecological footprint.



Absen – ISE saw the premier of Absen's latest LED series which included the Clear Cobalt Micro LED. Comprising of 1.2 and 0.9 pixel pitch models, the panels support resolutions from HD all the way to 8K. With black coating, black calibration and custom HDR image algorithm technologies, the Clear Cobalt series produces vivid, true to life colours. Absen also unveiled the KL II Series, a micro LED display solution with applications for control rooms, exhibitions, retail or conference rooms. Available in 1.2, 1.5, 1.8 and 2.5mm pitches, the 16:9 panels can create 2K, 4K, and 8K displays.

Absen
LED



Barco – Unveiled their new LED innovation, TruePix, that is aiming to perfect all aspects of the LED experience. Featuring an auto-balancing system, TruePix video walls will counter imperfections of walls and floors to ensure displays are level and frictionless. Using a new Infinipix® Gen2 image processing system, it delivers an unmatched viewing experience for all types of content eliminating visual distortions, offering low latency perfect sync, no tearing, and showcasing greater colour accuracy. Designed to limit the ecological footprint, TruePix's EcoPower ensures reduced energy consumption and with replacement tiles available for 10 years Barco is highlighting its sustainability goals.

BARCO

Display / Projection
Key brand developments





Display / Projection

Key brand developments



Samsung – The Wall is their micro-LED technology offering and this 2022 launch is their third generation with the slimmest pixel pitch of 0.63 or 0.94. With a 120Hz frame rate, HDR10/10+ and LED HDR capable to accommodate 4K / 8K content, its Micro AI processor analyses every second of content and optimises the picture quality and removes noise. Alternatively, all-in-one versions of The Wall are available in 146in 2K and 4K 16:9 varieties along with a 110in 2K.

SAMSUNG



Christie – Offering reliable and affordable LED video wall options, the Christie Core Series II is available in a range of pixel pitches between 0.9mm to 2.5mm making them ideal for small to large scale installations by featuring an ADA-compliant direct-mount system to eliminates the cost of mounting frames. In regard to their digital projection solutions, Christie presented the Griffyn 4K50-RGB, the world's smallest true RGB 50,000 lumen laser projector.

CHRISTIE®



Avocor – As part of their partnership with Google, ISE saw Avocor present the Google Meet Series One with two products. The Google Meet Series One Desk 27" and Series One Board 65" all-in-one touchscreen featuring video conferencing, whiteboarding, and incorporating Google Meet hardware to create immersive collaborative experiences. Featuring a multi-channel noise cancellation technology known as TrueVoice, it eliminates distracting sounds while enhancing human voices.

avocor™



Biamp – Also active in this product segment at ISE 2022, with the launch of Vidi 150, a conferencing camera for huddle rooms and small to medium sized conference rooms. The Vidi 150 includes a 4K camera with a 120-degree field of view, 8MP sensor, and a built-in mic array. It also has manual electronic pan/tilt/zoom (ePTZ) controls with user-definable presets, automatic participant framing and ePTZ, all controllable by a remote.

biamp.



Crestron – Presented their next generation of AirMedia wireless presentation systems, purpose-built to support more intuitive and efficient meetings with one-touch presentation and meeting control from any collaboration device. Prior to the show, Crestron announced in March 2022 its proposed acquisition of 1 Beyond intelligent video technology; bringing new video conferencing solutions into the Crestron ecosystem featuring group framing and presenter tracking to help keep meetings inclusive.

CRESTRON





DTEN – Announcing the first collaboration and digital whiteboard display purpose-built for the new Zoom Advance White, DTEN's ONBoard was a highlight of the show. Winning a Red Dot Award for Product Design and taking Best Innovation for Meeting Rooms at Enterprise Connect, the 55" device allows for equal access to its digital display for both in-office and remote users, promoting greater participation and optimising inclusion. The product is due to be available from late August, early September.



Huddly – Displayed their L1 IP camera with Genius framing, 6K sensor, network connection and insights analytics, which has just in the last few weeks received its Microsoft Teams Rooms certification.



Jabra – highlighted its PanaCast 20 and PanaCast 50 video bars, where the latter features eight mics and an array of four speakers. A clever new addition to the PanaCast 20 is an update announced at the show that will permit users to optionally blur or replace their video background with a solid colour. Unlike the use of client-based virtual backgrounds, where the original user video passes over networks and through the cloud to the client, these background effects are processed and applied directly on the device using PanaCast 20's integrated Edge AI processing. The client receives only the resulting processed image, ensuring that a user's surroundings and sensitive data that may appear in the background of their original video image remain fully secure and completely private, and never leave the device.





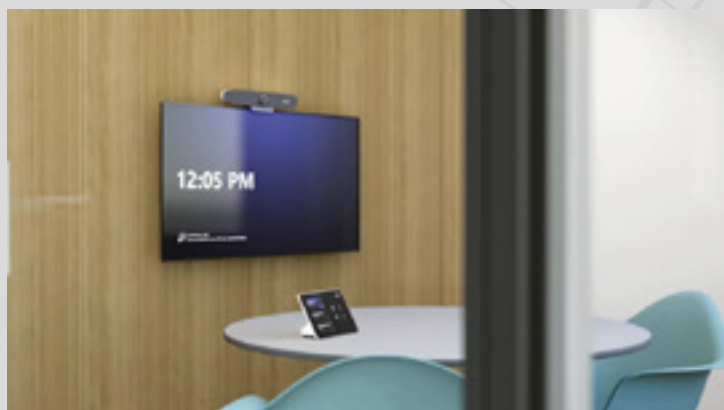
Lenovo – Announced the ThinkSmart One at Infocomm, the World's first Windows-based all-in-one Collaboration bar for small rooms or home office spaces. Supporting teams Rooms or Zoom Rooms it will feature 8 microphone arrays with echo and noise cancellation stereo speakers and integrated camera.

lenovo



Neat – Showcased their small product range with a key focus on developing their solutions for Microsoft Teams Rooms, specifically the certified Neat Bar, Neat Pad (room controller or scheduler) and Microsoft Board, with Microsoft Whiteboard in-built. In addition they demonstrated Neat Symmetry, a patented feature that uses AI to identify all video participants in a room, auto frame in the platform, giving everyone equal screen space.

neat.



Poly – Presented their new MTR range of products, specifically the X70 and E70 solutions for large meeting spaces. The X70 video bar has a unique camera design with a wide angle 120 degree field of view camera and a narrower 70 degree camera to reach further into the room and these work intelligently together with Poly's Director AI technology. The E70 Camera has the same dual camera experience as the X70 but it is just the camera ready to fit with other audio solutions.

poly





UC Workplace Solutions
Key brand developments



Synergy SKY – The CONNECT allows all SIP-based endpoints to connect to any Microsoft Teams meetings, no apps or plugins. Making video meetings easier in a multi-vendor and -technology environment. It is a cloud platform designed to integrate seamlessly into your current meeting workflow with a self-hosted management suite for video end points and meeting rooms.



Yealink – Launched its MeetingBoard 65 at ISE 2022, a native Microsoft Teams Collaboration Display (85" will be available). It's a 4K display with a matt screen, a multifunctional display with a multitude of collaboration features. Built-in camera with AI technology and speakers which can pick up voice range up to 8m but there is also space to slot in additional cameras and speakers etc. The Microsoft whiteboard software is inbuilt, and the android PC is swappable if the chipset becomes end of life.



Maxhub – Had their debut at ISE 2022 presenting their full range of products and services for collaboration in the workplace. This included their UC S10 Pro, a communication hub for collaboration. It features one-click wireless screen sharing of up to four screens, HDMI 2.0 4K camera output, intelligent face recognition, 120° field of view, and auto-framing in spaces of all sizes to ensure an immersive collaboration experience.





Shure – The MXA920 Microflex Advance Networked Array Microphone became the new flagship ceiling microphone, replacing the MXA910. The new model provides pre-configured audio capture, minimising the time and cost of deployments while also accommodating demanding camera and audio technologies used by demanding applications. Using a Next Generation Array Architecture, it enhances direction pick-up while keeping accurate coverage of specific area with the mic's IntelliMix DSP providing noise and echo-free performance.



Sennheiser – Teaming up with Xilica, new plug-and-play room kits for medium and large collaboration spaces were launched. Xilica x Sennheiser Room Kits stand apart from traditional audio-conferencing solutions in several ways, including its centricity around CatX cable and existing installed network infrastructure. It is also one of the most easily installed options, with no mains power requirement, full in-ceiling installation, and distributed ceiling speakers that address the requirements of collaboration room audio across a larger space without termination or proprietary wiring. The pre-validated solution reduces the costs of building an audio-conferencing solution from individual components, while also providing installers with a practical system that is quick to deploy.





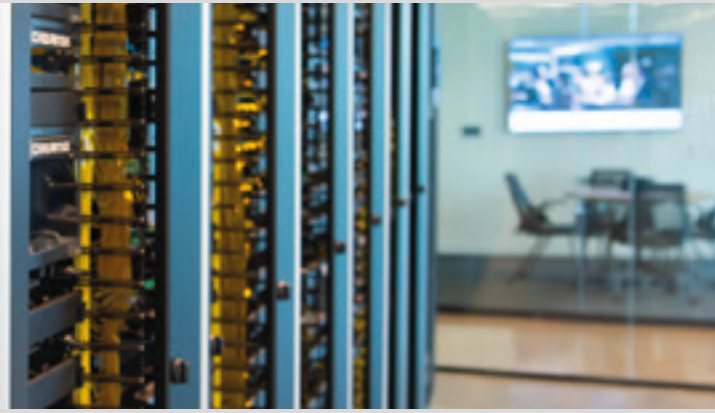
Biamp – As part of their audio solutions, Biamp launched new bundles featuring a TesiraFORTE X or Devio SCX processor, Parle Beam tracking ceiling microphones, Desono C-IC6 ceiling loudspeakers, Biamp's PoE-powered amplifiers, and all of the necessary mounting accessories and cabling to complete the installation. Partnered with Biamp Launch's automated system deployment and configuration identifying and configuring every device in the system for optimal audiovisual conferencing. Bundles have minimal cable requirements with zero termination, zero network setup and automated EQs. They have a plug-and-play style installation mentality.



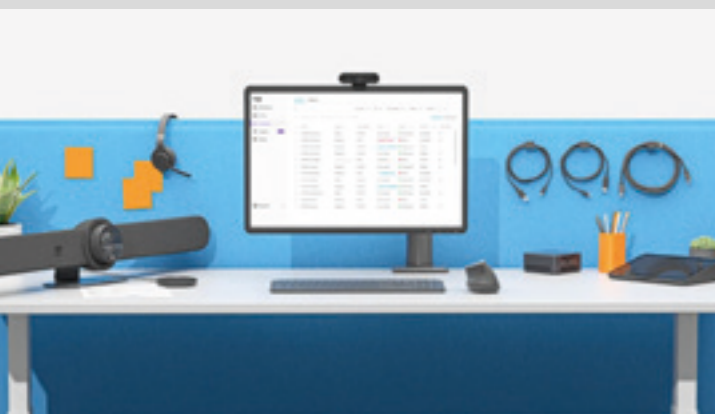
QSC – Launched network-focused microphones and loudspeakers. The Q-SYS NM Series Network Microphone is a new tabletop PoE microphone featuring advanced beamforming technology with four configurable zones to deliver optimal 360-degree coverage. The Q-SYS NL Series Network Loudspeakers help to deliver the optimal speech and music reproduction natively to the Q-SYS system. The speakers are available as soundbars, pendant-mount and ceiling-mount speakers.



Audio
Key brand developments



Crestron – The latest update to Virtual Control, referred to as VC-4, allows organisations to deploy and manage presentation rooms, conference rooms, or classrooms at scale, and run up to 500 rooms on a single server. With a dedicated Program Library, store standard and customised room configurations which can be deployed with the push of a button to one, or dozens of rooms, remotely.



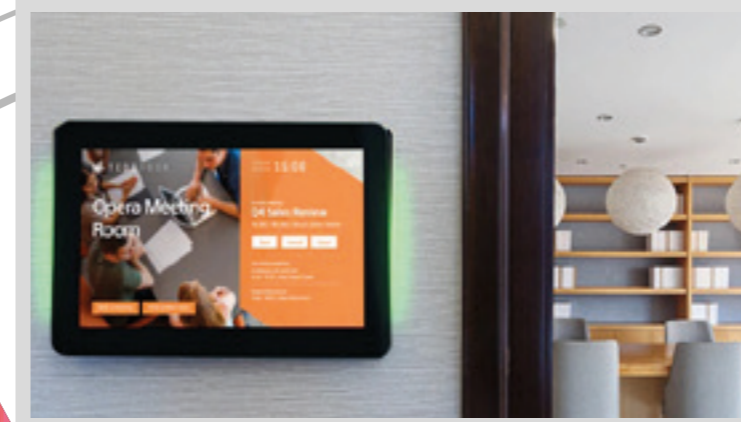
Utology – Demonstrated their single platform software solutions to help deliver non-proprietary AV control, management, analytics support and document storage. Utology has multiple 3rd party integrations including Zoom Rooms, Logitech Sync and Cisco Telepresence Touch. With the ability to run on any network and any server, virtual or otherwise, the Utology platform is a cost-effective way to eliminate large up-front hardware costs and offers flexibility for companies AV's estate.





Control & Monitoring

Key brand developments



Sony – As part of their exhibit, Sony demonstrated TEOS, a complete suite of workplace management solutions. TEOS offers simple, centralised control of all connected devices with one easy-to-use interface. The management software can let users create office signage, send content to designated screens, monitor and manage IP display device usages. All hosted locally or using the cloud. The TEOS solution can be integrated with Bravia Professional Displays and high-specification Android tablets.

SONY



PPDS – 2022 sees Philips launch their New Wave Cloud Platform, which means integrators can install, control and manage Philips displays from any location. Wave allows for third party systems to be integrated and is included in all their Q-Line, D-Line, T-Line and C-Line displays. Wave allows for status view and can access or assign precise information, details and controls to each display.

PPDS



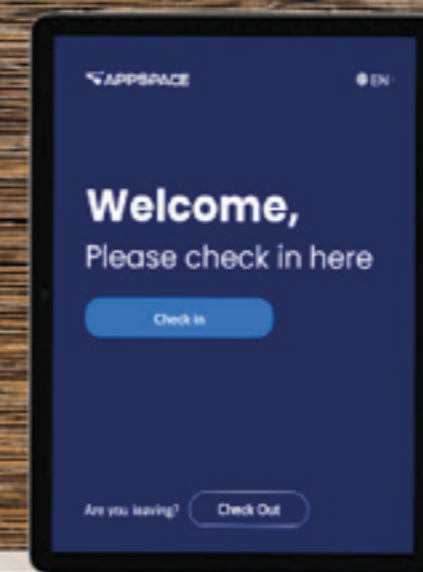
GoBright – With a range of products designed to provide smart office solutions GoBright are focused on supporting employees through wayfinding and mapping solutions. Smart sensors help measure real-time occupancy of rooms and desks with analytics insights into use of the space, occupancy and movement within the building. The range includes modules to cover Desk Booking, Room booking, Visitor Registration and Digital Signage.



Appspace – Presenting the in-office experience, Appspace showcased their visitor management, digital signage, and space reservation tools. In addition, they showed home office and on-the-go work models which highlight employee communication which means if you're working in a hybrid model, your in-office communications can reach your remote and on-the-move team members.



Sony Teos – Sony introduced TEOS Meet into its portfolio at ISE 2022. A combination of the Connect and Employee app solutions, TEOS Meet is all about workspace management and content sharing. It is also Android/iOS compatible and has Microsoft Teams integration.





Conclusion

At both shows AI technology featured in multiple verticals as it provides advantages and intelligence that can personalise and enhance interactivity, content creation and management.

But the key trend seemed to be a clear focus from AV manufacturers on Microsoft Teams Rooms certification now that we are seeing a return-to-work post-Covid. Through a drive to understand the true meaning of hybrid working MTR is seen as a huge opportunity which means ensuring products can pass the Microsoft certification process as quickly as possible.



For further information contact
your Account Manager at

sales@proAV.com

proAV[®]

www.proav.com