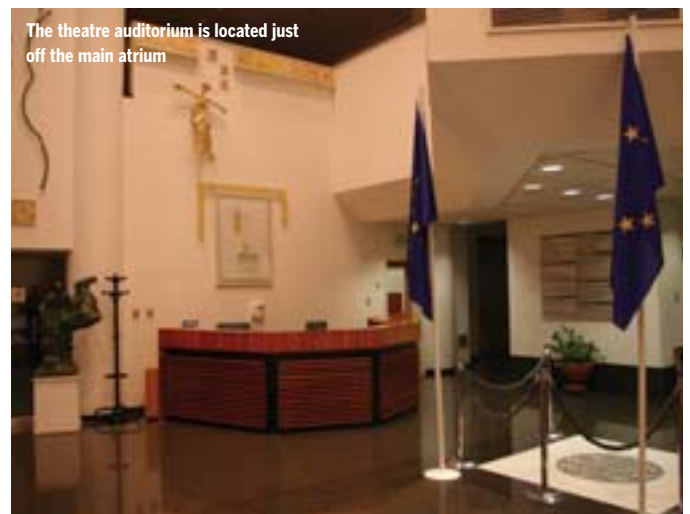




The auditorium can seat 550 people theatre style, or can be divided into smaller units



Partitions can be introduced, and projectors and loudspeaker clusters rotated, at the touch of a button



The theatre auditorium is located just off the main atrium

A financial asset

All of the sound, lighting and video control in this flexible auditorium – which can be used as one large space or divided into two or three smaller ones – is being run off Soundweb architecture. **Tom Bradbury** reports

The five-storey administrative headquarters of the Bank of Cyprus in Nicosia has undergone a complete overhaul to its ground floor, creating a theatre auditorium off the main atrium for use by its 450 staff, shareholders and customers. While the new fully equipped space in the 15-year-old building can accommodate 550 seats theatre style – ideal for corporate shareholder meetings and AGMs – the bank was eager to be able also to host smaller conventions, with the ability to partition the space down into reduced-size units with minimal effort.

Local Harman Pro distributor A.L.A. Equipment Company was one of several companies invited to tender for the supply and integration of the audiovisual system, and the company's managing director Andrea Piemonti was able to demonstrate not only the ease with which the bank could place the switching of all its sound, lighting and video under the command of a simple GUI, but how at the press of a button it could introduce partitions and rotate both the loudspeaker

clusters and projectors, which are mounted on base swivel plates, to change the room orientation.

"The challenge was to provide the bank with additional options of two 180-seat rooms or three separate rooms, each with a maximum capacity of 100," says Piemonti. This has been accomplished entirely within the Soundweb universe – without the need for any third-party master automation.

Custom touchscreen

The advanced functionality of Soundweb, from BSS Audio (part of Harman International) played a significant part in the way the installation was configured, and hence the project's success. Moreover, as a certified advanced Soundweb Designer programmer, Piemonti was convinced he could create a custom touchscreen within the original Soundweb Original environment, without having to upgrade to the more sophisticated Soundweb London. Bank of Cyprus awarded the contract to A.L.A. Equipment Company on the basis of these credentials.

The company has based its control architecture entirely around the Soundweb Original 'green boxes', with four SW9088iis

configured for 32 AKG gooseneck mic inputs, and a further two for the eight-line inputs, with two SW9008 devices provided for system expansion. Integrated with this is a pair of BSS Audio's SW9016 video-matrix devices, which provide composite

'We wrote the serial strings to avoid using any third-party control'

Andrea Piemonti,
A.L.A. Equipment
Company

and RGBHV signal switching. For local access to all the switching and control parameters, an SW9010 'Jellyfish' Remote Controller is strategically placed by one of the auditorium partitions.

"We wrote the serial strings to avoid using any third-party control," explains Piemonti.

"Besides the cost savings, the bank feels more secure working with one contractor."

Soundweb Designer and Soundweb Original is one of the most advanced systems for full system control, he believes, "provided you have knowledge of how to use the Logic ports."

"We were able to use this system since there was no audio transport via CobraNet required," Piemonti explains.

Digital functionality

Everything is under the control of the custom GUI: from the power to the amplification, automation of the projection screens on three walls, lighting states and presets, audio mixing, introduction of the blinds, air conditioning and rotation of the projector and one of the JBL loudspeaker clusters.

The Soundweb design includes gating, compression and 32 inputs of real-time metering. "We've designed the interface to resemble an analogue mixer – but with digital functionality," he says.

While the six SW9088iis devices accommodate the 48 inputs, the output feed for the amplification is deployed to one of the SW9008ii expanders, while the other is detailed to broadcast use –

including video, camera, satellite transmission and video conferencing.

"For mixing purposes all the inputs are on the digital Soundweb network," explains Piemonti. "And through the SW9088 expander we buffer a live video feed for the TV stations; the reporters and cameramen on location here can also connect to our network."

The first-floor control room offers a clear view to the theatre below, and the bank's operating technician Eugenios Eugenios has quickly become a big fan of the new installation. He has become competent in navigation and parameter control after just four hours' training from A.L.A.

As Soundweb provides full audio and video integration, he can control third-party computers, and – via RS232 connection to the DMX lighting desk – drive the scenic lighting, DTS spot and wash-moving heads and environmental/house lighting.

Sound reinforcement consists of nine white JBL VRX932LA line array enclosures, which are divided into three clusters of three and a pair of SRX 718S ground-stacked single 18in subs, with a further four JBL Control 29 loudspeakers on delays, servicing the 'breakout'

Andrea Piedmonti created the flexible automation in the auditorium entirely within the Soundweb universe



Crown XTi power amplifiers dominate the lower part of the right-hand rack



room at the rear. This is powered by a combination of seven Crown XTi 4000 power amplifiers and an XTi 2000. In addition to the gooseneck mics, speakers also have access to AKG's WMS 4000 wireless system.

Motorised screens

As for video, while the composite/RGBHV signals in each partitioned area are switched through the Soundweb SW9016, a Comtech 8x8 RGBHV Video Matrix automates data transfer into the Logic port of the Soundweb, with an Extron IP link converting from 0-5V logic to serial.

Firing on to a choice of two large motorised screens is an NEC NP4000 (5,200 ANSI lumens) DLP projector, while the preview screen at the rear of the hall is

serviced by an NEC NP3000 (3,000 ANSI lumens) projector.

This has been one of A.L.A. Equipment Company's most prestigious contracts, and certainly the most advanced integration it has undertaken for a corporate customer. Working 24 hours a day, its contractors completed the infrastructure, laying anti-fire cabling, hooking up the devices, dry-running the system and carrying out operator training, all within 25 days.

The Bank of Cyprus will now dedicate a secure ASDL VPN to A.L.A., allowing the audiovisual specialist to monitor amplifier status and log faults accordingly.

"The bank was happy to work with us because we showed we can provide excellent support, and we were able to prove that Soundweb is a stable and secure platform," says Piedmonti in conclusion.

And if this is where the future of Cyprus's economy is decided, then the bank can at least rest assured that the communication element is in safe hands. **IE**

- www.alacyprus.net
- www.adeoscreen.com
- www.akg.com
- www.bssaudio.com
- www.crownaudio.com
- www.dts-lighting.it
- www.extron.com
- www.harmanpro.com
- www.jblpro.com
- www.nec.com
- www.sgm.it

Installed

AUDIO

- AKG GN 50 gooseneck microphones
- AKG WMS 4000 wireless systems
- A.L.A. touchscreen industrial PC
- BSS SW9010 Jellyfish Remote Controller
- BSS Soundweb Original SW9088iis networked signal processor
- BSS Soundweb Original SW9008ii expanders
- Crown XTi 4000 power amplifiers
- Crown XTi 2000 power amplifier
- JBL SRX 718S subs
- JBL Control 29 loudspeakers
- JBL VRX932LA line array enclosures

VIDEO

- Adeo motorised projection screens
- BSS SW9016 video matrix
- Comtech 8x8 RGBHV video matrix
- Extron IPLT FF24 IP to serial converter
- NEC NP3000 DLP projector
- NEC NP4000 DLP projector

LIGHTING

- DTS XR 8 wash moving heads
- DTS XR 9 spot moving heads
- SGM lighting desk