:update

RIEDEL

#032

NOT AN AUDIO COMPANY?
THINK AGAIN!
**IBC 2024 PRODUCT :update - SAME // VSP // NSA**

■ Since our humble beginnings as a garage company in 1987, Riedel has transformed from a simple radio and intercom provider into a global powerhouse offering end-to-end solutions for the media and entertainment industry. Over the past 35 years, we have continuously reinvented ourselves and broadened our expertise and portfolio with video infrastructures, live video production, and more. But one thing we have been for as long as we can think of: an audio company. From pioneering advanced audio processing algorithms for our intercom solutions to developing our acclaimed audio network, RockNet, we have consistently led the way in audio innovation. And now, we're gearing up for our next big audio coup, which will take us into the heart of broadcast audio...

SAME™

Our all-new Smart Audio & Mixing Engine SAME™ is the first ultra-low-latency audio processing software that automates your daily tasks, ensuring seamless integration and unmatched audio quality. Developed by audio experts for audio experts, SAME provides a comprehensive suite of over 30 processing tools and mixers, with instant access to all active productions from a single, centralized platform.

SAME is built on the latest COTS server cluster standards, ensuring easy scaling to meet the demands of any production. The processing and I/O routing are not tied to a physical location, allowing for rapid switching of processing between different workspaces and production areas. This flexibility, combined with innovative automated workflows and a user-centric, intuitive design, ensures that you can handle the most demanding audio environments with ease. The brand-new management platform Riedel STAGE™ simplifies the mixing and matching of devices, roles, and personnel without the need for protocol or IP knowledge, streamlining operations and reducing setup and training times. This management backend features strong remote assistance capabilities for remote or at-home production scenarios and is compliant with the highest IT security standards.

SAME's unique Audio Pilot, a powerful feature that offers both local and centralized monitoring and management, gives you the big picture of your multi-location production. With SAME, you can effortlessly mix and match devices, roles, and personnel without in-depth protocol or IP knowledge. This intuitive interface dramatically simplifies the complexity of audio management, allowing you to focus on what truly matters – creating exceptional audio experiences.
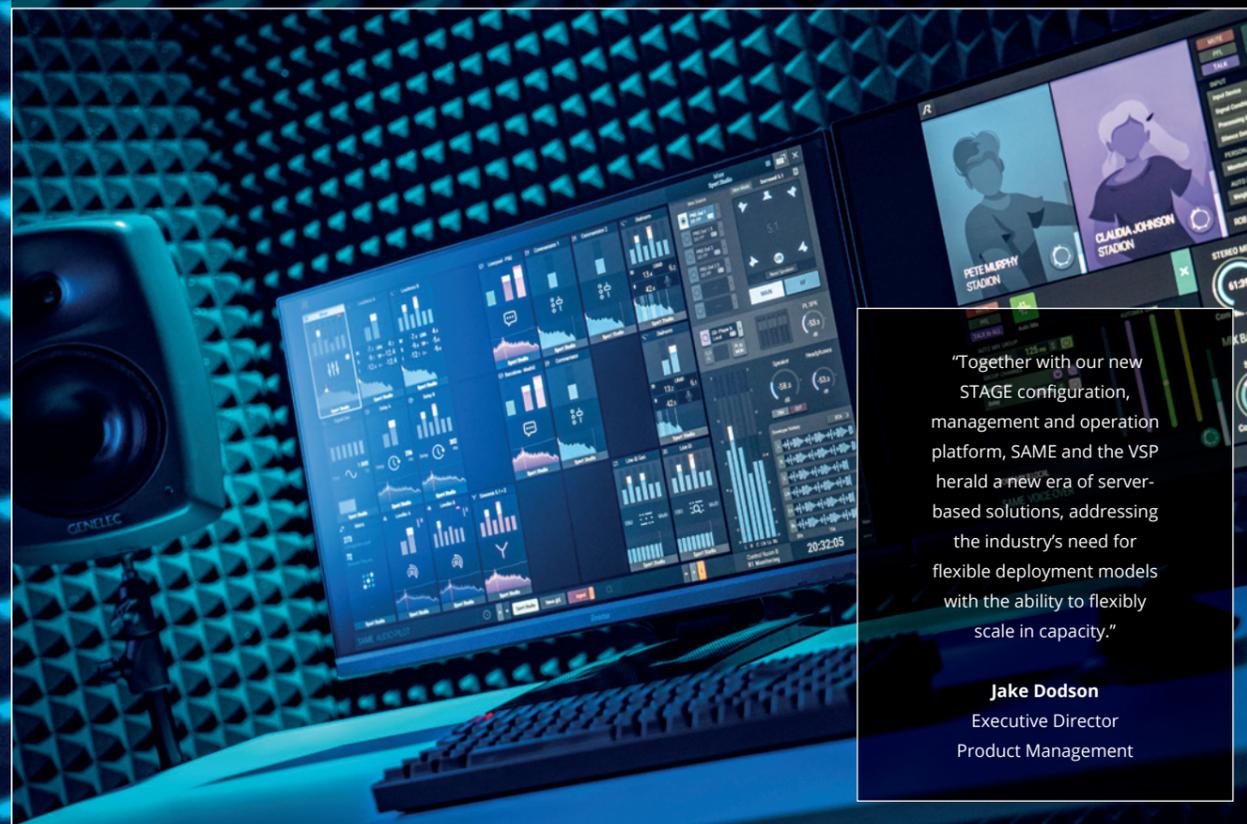
"Together with our new STAGE configuration, management and operation platform, SAME and the VSP herald a new era of server-based solutions, addressing the industry's need for flexible deployment models with the ability to flexibly scale in capacity."

Jake Dodson
Executive Director
Product Management

NSA

At IBC, we are also unveiling an extension of our Network Stream Adapter (NSA) product line with the NSA-006A and NSA-003A. These adapters are designed to advance IP-based audio workflows, offering unparalleled flexibility, reliability, and seamless integration for professionals in broadcast, live events, and studio environments.

The NSA-003A is a versatile 2-Wire Analog Intercom Adapter that combines a compact design with advanced functionality. The inclusion of a stereo USB audio interface ensures easy connection to digital systems, while three GPIOs enhance control and integration capabilities. Together with auto echo cancellation, this feature set makes the NSA-003A an essential tool for live production environments where flexibility and interoperability are paramount.

The NSA-006A is designed specifically for audio workplace environments, offering a robust set of features tailored to modern IP-centric workflows. With its universal inputs and outputs, it automatically detects and switches between analog and digital signals, while its full-range microphone preamp design eliminates the need to adjust the analog gain manually. The NSA-006A also includes a stereo USB-Audio interface, a headphone output with intuitive volume control, and three GPIOs for enhanced flexibility. Its rugged design and comprehensive feature set make it indispensable for studio, control room, and on-site production settings.

VSP

The Virtual SmartPanel® (VSP) is the next evolutionary step of the Artist Intercom journey, providing a gateway into Riedel's new COTS server-based infrastructure and links to Artist-1024 to provide smart remote endpoints.

A software version of the 1200 Series SmartPanel, the VSP offers secure remote intercom capabilities with the familiar SmartPanel interface, allowing seamless transition between physical and virtual panels. This new evolution supports iPhones, iPads, Android devices, and multiple browsers, and is characterized by a user-centric design that is as functional as it is intuitive. It features customizable key banks and extensive profile management capabilities, allowing users to tailor their communication setup to their specific requirements. The interface's layout and functionality are inspired by Riedel's 1200 Series SmartPanel for a familiar and efficient user experience, with the number of available keys scaling from 16 (phone) over 48 (tablet) to 64 (browser).

As one of the first products to leverage Riedel's new management platform STAGE™, the VSP offers a fresh and secure approach to user authentication with seamless integration with customers' existing identity providers, ensuring a smooth transition and quick deployment. STAGE also offers enhanced remote support features, such as Live View and Remote Control, empowering administrators to monitor key status and resolve issues in real-time. A user-centric licensing model offers users access across multiple devices with a single license, enabling seamless transitions between platforms. This flexibility extends to the intercom configuration, where each user can manage multiple profiles, effortlessly switching roles between productions without requiring additional setup from the engineering team.
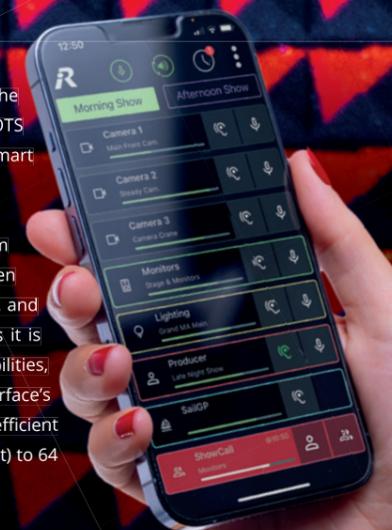
MAKING WAVES

ROGER HEINIGER ON CRAFTING THE FUTURE OF AUDIO

■ **The introduction of SAME™ made big waves at IBC. But our Smart Audio & Mixing Engine didn't just appear out of thin air – it was years in the making! We talked to Roger Heiniger, Product Manager Audio, and one of the masterminds of this revolutionary solution, to shed some light on their development and Riedel's audio legacy.**

Hey Roger! What's your passion, and how did it bring you to where you are today?

I guess it all started with playing electric guitar as a teenager, leading me to record myself and expand my audio skills. I eventually realized my dream of being a rock star wasn't going to happen, but my passion for audio persisted – so I started doing recordings and live mixing for other bands. This hands-on experience was invaluable, but I felt the need for more theoretical knowledge, so I decided to attend an audio school. After graduation, I applied for a job at SRF (Swiss Radio and Television) and became a professional sound engineer, setting the course of my career in broadcast audio.

How did your role at the Swiss public broadcaster influence your understanding of the needs and challenges of our customers?

At SRF, I basically did everything except outside jobs. I was always in-house, working on live production, recording, editing, sound design, trailer production, and radio drama, which was my biggest passion. This extensive hands-on experience with all kinds of Pro Audio products gave me deep insights into user pain points and shortcomings of existing products. It made me think about how I would design better solutions.

I joined SRF during the transition from analog to digital, which was a significant change. Witnessing the transformation from tape machines to fully digital solutions has helped me understand what it takes to implement new technologies in a broadcast facility. It's not always straightforward, especially when you have to keep the existing operations running while making the transition.

You then went on to join Studer. What are some things you learned there that help you in your current role?

Well, that would probably be understanding digital mixing consoles inside and out. I gained a deep knowledge of how digital signal processing works and the intricacies of software programming. This understanding is crucial when specifying requirements and developing products. I also took programming courses privately, which helped me understand the practicalities of such technologies.

What product did you work on at Riedel prior to SAME?

None! I joined Riedel with the clear goal of designing a future-proof, low-latency audio processing software platform. We aimed to create a system that could operate without hardware controllers from the beginning, which was quite challenging because many in the broadcast and audio industry are used to physical faders and buttons. However, with new network technology, we saw an opportunity to do things differently and efficiently. SAME incorporates new methodologies while maintaining some familiar aspects, and integrating Riedel STAGE™ – our new management and configuration software – took it to a whole new level.

connecting digital or analog signals, the same port can handle both. This flexibility is enhanced by our full-range microphone preamp design, which eliminates the need to adjust the analog gain manually. This is particularly important for supporting self-operating production environments where producers and moderators can work alone. The automatic trim function with optional auto gain control in SAME manages the incoming signal and adapts it to the gain structure of the mixer channel. This means talents don't need extensive technical skills to avoid overloading channels, as the system automatically adjusts for optimal performance.

How and when did you meet Thomas for the first time?
The first time we met in person was in Zurich end of 2017 when me and four Studer colleagues talked to him about joining Riedel. I was struck by how easy going and approachable he was, and by how involved he was in the details. During our meeting, I presented some ideas of what SAME could be and we ended the meeting with a handshake, agreeing to work together. That moment really stuck with me.

What was your single most emotional moment of your career up until now?
That's very hard to pinpoint. There have been many professional moments that made me happy, but no single event stands out as the most amazing. Looking back, I'm particularly proud of defining SAME from the ground up—a whole audio system largely based on my vision, though of course with an excellent and highly skilled engineering team behind it. Releasing SAME after all those years will probably be the highlight of my career, a culmination of a long journey and lots of hard work.

What do you think broadcast audio workflows will look like in five or ten years?
Both timeframes are interesting. In five years, I believe we'll see more software-based products and workflows operating without dedicated hardware. Audio in TV is undergoing a transition similar to radio when self-operating DJs became common. In TV, we're seeing more automated news production and self-operated voiceover commentary, trends I think will become standard.

Looking ahead ten to fifteen years, I envision it being common for commentators and others to work from home. They might choose to go to the studio one day and work from home the next. I also foresee a decline in large-format production consoles. The new generation of engineers, accustomed to touch interfaces, might find extensive hardware setups cumbersome. The concept of audio consoles will need to evolve, and I believe SAME, with its audio cockpit, is already aligning with where this change is heading.
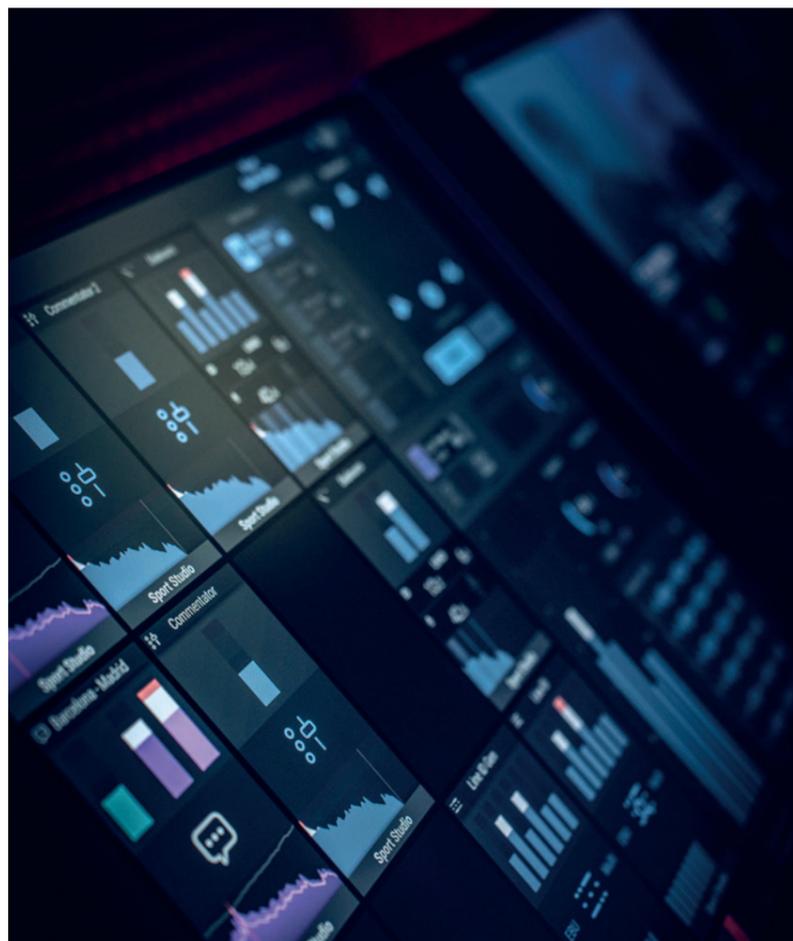
What was the greatest challenge in the development of SAME?
The greatest challenge was redefining the concept of a mixer. Traditionally, mixers were isolated systems, each functioning as its own small universe. With SAME, we transitioned to a distributed mixing system, which required rethinking many conventional approaches. For example, the monitoring process, which is typically an integral part of each mixer, had to be separated and managed independently. We moved the monitoring process out of the mixer and integrated it into the SAME Audio Pilot, while still keeping some monitoring logics within the mixer to ensure seamless intercommunication. This was just one of many challenges. We often had to reinvent the wheel because the traditional methods didn't make sense in this new distributed environment.

Which SAME feature are you most proud of?
I'm most proud of the Audio Pilot, particularly the monitoring system. The Audio Pilot allows users to access and organize everything within their audio universe, not just within a single mixer or production setup. Users can monitor and control audio from any location, whether they are in their office, studio control room, or anywhere else. With just one click, they can access and listen to different tools and outputs. This functionality is similar to what we expect from web applications in our personal lives, where we can easily connect and communicate without complex setup processes. This seamless integration and accessibility make SAME an exceptionally powerful and user-friendly platform.

You were also involved in the development of some of our new NSA audio interfaces. What's special about those, and how do they tie in with SAME?
The new NSA-A interfaces are packed with innovations, many of them conceived with our SAME platform in mind. For instance, they have physical connection detection for every audio port, allowing us to know if something is plugged in or not, and this can be monitored remotely. This remote visibility is crucial for providing support, especially for talents working from home. Another key feature is the universal inputs and outputs. Whether you're

WDR & RIEDEL
LOCAL LEADERS, GLOBAL VISION

FROM COLOGNE WITH LOVE:
WDR'S HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE IN EURO 2024 COVERAGE

▪ **The German regional public broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) has implemented a Riedel backbone for communications and signal distribution for the ARD broadcast of the UEFA European Football Championship 2024. In collaboration with Broadcast Solutions and Riedel's Managed Technology Division, the media and intercom infrastructure at WDR's Broadcast Center Cologne (BCC) was temporarily expanded to enable flexible and efficient remote production for linear TV, radio, online, and social media.**

WDR opted for a centralized remote production from its Cologne location, which helped to reduce travel and personnel costs. For this purpose, all UEFA feeds were centrally organized via the German public broadcaster control room in Mainz, decoded and sent directly to Cologne over fiber. In addition, signals from up to six unilateral cameras with embedded audio were transmitted from each stadium to Cologne. There, all signals converged in a dispatcher room used by production, editorial, and technical staff, and were distributed throughout the Cologne campus.

"ARD wanted to be on location in the stadium, with the fans, at the heart of the action — but didn't want to do without a centralized way of working," said Felix Demandt, Project Manager, Riedel Communications. "In previous large-scale productions, an OB van with a large team had to be at the stadium. Today, production can be controlled centrally from Cologne with a small team on site. This is not only more efficient, but also gave the team the chance to react more agilely to the dynamic production requirements of Euro 2024."

Due to the high number of additional signals to be processed in the BCC, the WDR infrastructure was temporarily expanded by 17 MediorNet MicroN UHD nodes. Ten of these nodes were equipped with the Standard App to sync the unsynchronized UEFA feeds to the house clock and enable flexible distribution of video and audio signals. The remaining seven nodes used the MultiViewer App for scalable multiviewing capacities. The orchestration layer, hi human interface from Broadcast Solutions, was chosen to control and configure the infrastructure.

"Through their Ü3 OB van, our partners at WDR were already familiar with the powerful combination of MediorNet and hi human interface. They knew that the interaction between MediorNet and hi human interface is highly user-friendly, scalable, and reliable," says Humphrey Hoch, Product Manager, Broadcast Solutions. "With a total of 29 hardware panels and software licenses, WDR was able to have flexible access to the hi system — from the BBC in Cologne to the German Quarter in Herzogenaurach."

In addition to the existing intercom system, WDR rented an extra Riedel Artist Node with MADI cards to connect the commentator stations in the stadiums, as well as additional intercom panels to accommodate the increased number of workstations.

The integration of Euro 2024 into WDR's ongoing operations required careful planning to ensure that its regular processes remained undisturbed. For example, the Euro 2024 control room was decoupled from the main WDR control room to ensure dedicated processing of the European Championship content. Close cooperation from system planning to technical implementation ensured that the system met WDR's requirements and functioned flawlessly.

"WDR achieved absolutely first-class coverage of Euro 2024 with advanced and resource-saving remote production," continued Demandt. "We are delighted that we were able to contribute to this success story with our services and technologies."

WDR FILMHAUS IMPLEMENTS
AWARD-WINNING MEDIORNET HORIZON

▪ **In the heart of Cologne, a media revolution is quietly unfolding. The Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) Filmhaus, a cornerstone of German broadcasting, is undergoing a significant transformation that will reshape its technological landscape and propel it into the future of media production.**

The Filmhaus, nestled in Cologne's city center, has long been the journalistic and technical epicenter of WDR, one of Germany's largest public broadcasters. This venerable institution, which has been bringing news, entertainment, and cultural programming to the North Rhine-Westphalia region since 1965, is now embracing cutting-edge technology to meet the evolving demands of modern media production.

At the heart of this technological overhaul is a comprehensive media and intercom network based on solutions from Riedel. The Riedel system, implemented by system integrator Studio Hamburg Media Consult International (MCI) GmbH, was chosen for its efficiency, flexibility, and future-proof design. The renovation of the Filmhaus is no small undertaking. The project encompasses not only office and conference areas but also editorial, studio, and recording rooms designed for cross-media production. This holistic approach reflects WDR's commitment to adapting to the current and future requirements of media production.

Central to the new infrastructure is Riedel's MediorNet system, featuring the award-winning MediorNet HorizoN hybrid processing platform. This software-defined infrastructure allows WDR to distribute audio and video signals, both baseband and IP, throughout the Filmhaus with unprecedented flexibility. Moreover, it provides powerful multiviewing and processing functions, essential for modern broadcast operations.

The MediorNet HorizoN platform is particularly noteworthy for its role in WDR's transition to IP-based infrastructure. With 128 IP gateways per rack unit, it serves as a bridge between traditional SDI systems and open ST 2110 environments. This capability allows WDR to gradually and cost-effectively integrate innovative IP production complexes in the coming years, ensuring the Filmhaus remains at the cutting edge of broadcast technology.

Communication within the Filmhaus and across WDR's Cologne premises will be facilitated by an expanded intercom system. This includes Riedel's Artist-1024 and 1200 Series SmartPanels, which will be seamlessly integrated into WDR's existing intercom network. This comprehensive Artist ecosystem will enable efficient communication across all WDR production areas in Cologne's city center.

As this project unfolds, the WDR Filmhaus will set an example of how traditional broadcasters can embrace new technologies without losing sight of their core mission. This renewed infrastructure will enable WDR to continue its legacy of providing high-quality, diverse programming to millions of viewers across North Rhine-Westphalia and beyond.

CZECH RADIO
15 YEARS OF ARTIST EVOLUTION

ARTIST INTERCOM UPGRADE KEEPS PUBLIC BROADCASTER UP TO DATE

■ Czech Radio, the esteemed public broadcaster of the Czech Republic, has long been a cornerstone of the nation's media landscape. With a rich history and a commitment to delivering quality content, Czech Radio operates 10 nationwide stations and 14 regional ones, serving a diverse audience across the country.

As technology evolved, Czech Radio encountered increasing challenges in maintaining effective communication across its extensive network. The fast-paced world of broadcasting left the broadcaster with a pressing need to upgrade its communication infrastructure. This situation prompted Czech Radio to seek innovative solutions that not only replaced old equipment but also integrated seamlessly with existing systems, offered scalability, and provided the reliability essential for a public broadcaster that cannot afford downtime or errors.

Known for their longevity and seamless integration across generations, Riedel's products presented a future-proof investment. Czech Radio's journey with Riedel began in 2009 when they first deployed the Artist wired intercom system. This initial investment proved to be a game-changer, offering a versatile and reliable solution that simplified communication across various workstations. Over the years, the broadcaster incrementally expanded its Riedel intercom system, adapting to changes in technology and operations without the need for a complete overhaul.

The latest chapter in this ongoing partnership saw Czech Radio upgrading its infrastructure with Riedel's cutting-edge technology. In cooperation with system integrator Smart Informatics, the broadcaster's current setup includes a new Artist-1024 frame, three Artist-64 matrices, and nearly 120 intercom panels, featuring the advanced RSP-1232 and RSP-1216 SmartPanels. Additionally, Czech Radio integrated the Bolero wireless intercom system, which is particularly beneficial for communication at outdoor events.

One of the standout features of Riedel's solution is the SmartPanel's Syntonous Mode. This innovative feature allows for flexible and efficient connections to remote locations, supporting AES67 connections to the Artist matrix with minimal delay and without the need for PTP synchronization. This capability provides high-quality audio with low latency, offering a robust alternative to traditional VoIP connections.

Czech Radio's experience with Riedel exemplifies how modern broadcasters can navigate the transition to IP infrastructure and other new technologies. By upgrading incrementally, Czech Radio has managed to enhance its facilities without the disruption of a complete system replacement. This approach not only ensures continuity but also allows for the integration of the latest innovations in broadcasting technology.
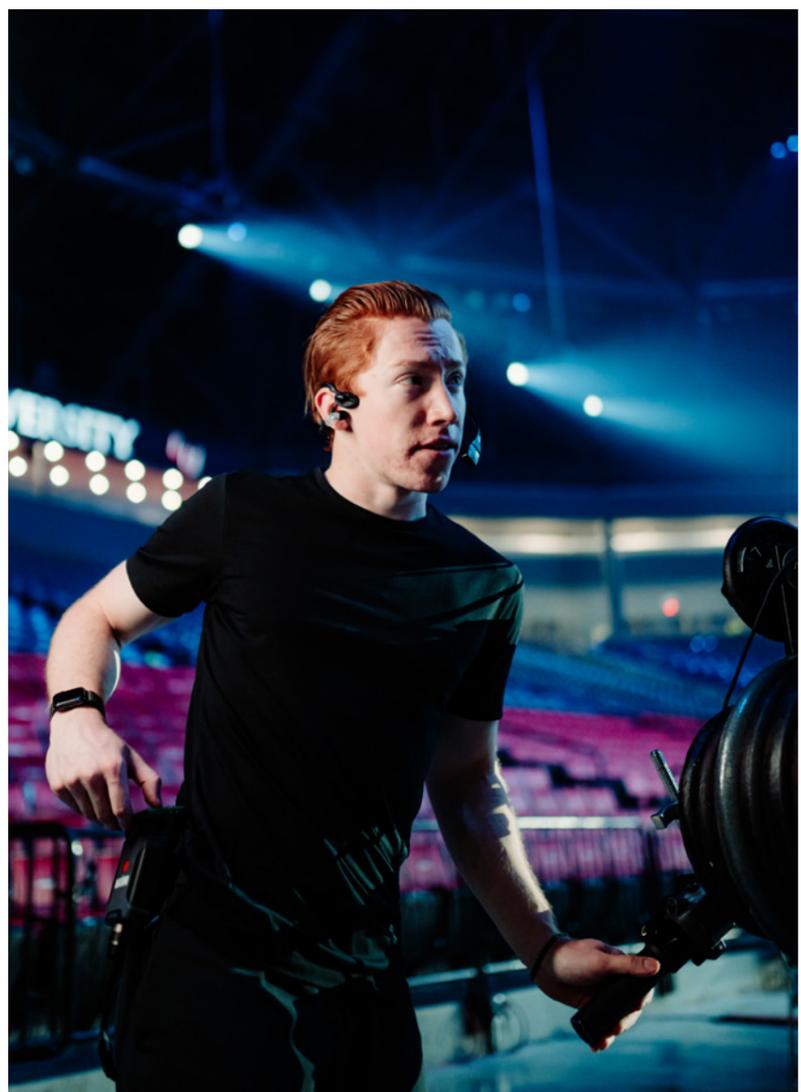
CLEAR AS A BELL

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY RINGS IN A NEW ERA OF EVENT COMMUNICATIONS

■ **Liberty University, a sprawling campus nestled in Lynchburg, Virginia, is home to over 135,000 students and boasts an impressive 7,000-plus acre footprint with more than 7.5 million square feet of building space. As one of the largest Christian universities in the world, Liberty has been making waves not just in education but also in its approach to campus-wide communication.**

In a move to enhance its technological capabilities, Liberty recently embarked on an ambitious project to overhaul its communication systems. The university is a hub of activity, hosting an impressive array of events throughout the year. From approximately 180 sports broadcasts and 180 entertainment productions to a staggering 1,700 campus events annually, Liberty's calendar is always bustling.

With such a diverse and packed schedule, clear and reliable communication is crucial. That's where Riedel Communications comes into play.

Liberty's tech team has been impressed with the build quality and durability of the Riedel equipment. The Bolero units, in particular, have proven robust enough to withstand widespread use by users with varying levels of experience.

Now, with the Riedel Artist ecosystem in place, Liberty is well-equipped to handle the communication demands of its bustling campus life — ensuring that whether it's a football game, a concert, a convocation, or a campus-wide event, every voice is heard clearly and every message is delivered seamlessly.

Liberty implemented Riedel's cutting-edge Artist ecosystem across its expansive campus. The new system, installed in collaboration with systems integrator Digital Video Group (DVG), includes the Artist digital intercom matrix, Bolero wireless intercom, and SmartPanels equipped with multiple applications, including the Audio Monitoring App (AMA). This comprehensive IP-based deployment has revolutionized the way Liberty handles its event communications.

One of the standout features of the new system is its flexibility and scalability. The IP-based infrastructure allows Liberty's tech team to support both scheduled and impromptu events across the vast campus with ease. They can now essentially plug and play beltpacks and SmartPanels anywhere on the campus network, significantly reducing setup time and increasing responsiveness to ad hoc events. The Bolero wireless intercom system

has been particularly transformative for Liberty's operations. It's now used for all venue communications, enhancing the clarity of interactions among various staff members, including timeout coordinators, audio technicians, stage managers, wireless camera operators, and engineers. In fact, the university's senior remote support engineer described the system's audio quality as crystal clear, akin to standing side-by-side with the people on the other end of the channel.

READY - STEADY - GO
APEX STABILIZATIONS JOINS THE RIEDEL GROUP

■ **The Riedel Group just got bigger! By investing in APEX Stabilizations, an Austrian manufacturer of high-quality camera stabilization solutions (gimbals), the Riedel family is broadening its range of services and gaining access to highly specialized expertise. As part of the partnership, APEX will become part of the Riedel Group, but will remain an independent company. This strategic union aims to meld the distinct strengths of both entities to keep them at the forefront of technology and innovation.**

Established in Vienna in 2019, APEX's systems are primarily used for shots from helicopters, cars, boats or cranes for the production of live TV, commercials and films. As a global player on the international market, Riedel provides APEX with the opportunity to utilize its global sales and service network, in turn gaining an experienced team and excellent know-how as well as access to new, promising markets. The partnership will also create synergies at the development hubs in Vienna, benefiting partners and customers alike.

Both companies can draw on many years of experience in the media and entertainment industry. By sharing ideas and technologies, Riedel and APEX aim to continuously improve their products and jointly develop innovative solutions that are uniquely suited to the specific requirements of this industry.

"I firmly believe in the innovative technologies of the Viennese pioneers at APEX. Investments in such specialized technology are investments in our future and open up new niches in our core markets," said Thomas Riedel, founder and CEO of the Riedel Group. "Cameras with APEX stabilization are already being used in many large-scale productions we are already involved in - and with APEX as part of the Riedel Group, we will be able to create even more comprehensive offerings for our customers."

"Whether for live events, film productions or TV broadcasts – the solutions of our two companies have become an integral part of the modern media landscape and have often excelled together, most recently at the games in Paris," said Thomas Schindler, Managing Director, APEX Stabilizations. "By joining forces, we will develop innovative products that set new standards in terms of both image quality and smooth communication."

BROADCAST BRUSHSTROKES
**ART'ISTIC PRODUCTIONS EVELEVATES THEIR ARTISTRY
WITH RIEDEL'S SIMPLYLIVE PRODUCTION SUITE**

■ **Art'istic Production, a renowned French video production and live broadcasting services company, has adopted Riedel Communications' Simplylive Production Suite to streamline and enhance their live production workflows.**

The software-driven live production solution has already proven its worth in various live events, including a recent French women's volleyball league match. It offers a comprehensive range of features designed to simplify and optimize live production workflows. Its ability to manage multiple cameras, insert graphics, mix audio, and edit highlights in real-time from a single touchscreen interface has been particularly beneficial.

"This partnership with Art'istic Production highlights the potential for our technology to revolutionize live event broadcasting," said François Sarbinowski, Sales Specialist Live Production at Riedel. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with their team and to seeing how they use the Simplylive Production Suite in their future projects".

One of the standout features of the Simplylive Production Suite is its modular design, allowing Art'istic Production to scale the system up or down depending on the size and complexity of the event. This flexibility is complemented by the suite's all-in-one capabilities, which enable the deployment of a lightweight yet powerful flyaway control room setup across various locations in France.

The intuitive user interface of the Simplylive Production Suite has significantly reduced the training period for Art'istic Production's staff, enabling a faster transition to live production. The installation process is remarkably swift, with the entire system operational within an hour and dismantling taking only half that time. This efficiency not only accelerates workflows but also translates into substantial cost savings, as fewer personnel are needed on-site for setup and operation.

The suite's ability to integrate an external audio mixer with presets further enhances the director's capability to produce the appropriate audio mix for live events, interviews, and clips. This feature, along with the high-quality slow motion and graphics capabilities, positions the Simplylive Production Suite as an invaluable tool in delivering seamless and high-quality broadcasts.

"Partnering with Riedel and integrating their Simplylive Production Suite into our workflow has been transformative for Art'istic Production", said Arthur Brousmiche, CEO of Art'istic Production. "The ease of use and flexibility of this system have been game-changing for our team. We're now able to deliver superior-quality content more efficiently with a leaner team, resulting in significant time and cost savings".

As Riedel Communications and Art'istic Production continue to innovate and push the boundaries of live event broadcasting, the Simplylive Production Suite stands out as a pivotal technology. It exemplifies the potential of software-driven solutions to revolutionize the industry by providing broadcasters with the tools they need to deliver high-quality content efficiently and cost-effectively.

A WINNING TEAM
FOR LIVE PRODUCTION
ERT AND THE SIMPLYLIVE PRODUCTION SUITE

■ **In a significant upgrade to its live broadcasting capabilities, the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT S.A.), Greece's state-owned public broadcaster, has expanded its investment in Riedel's Simplylive Production Suite. This move underscores ERT's commitment to delivering high-quality live event coverage across various sectors, including sports, government functions, and entertainment.**

The integration of the software-based solution into ERT's OB vans marks a significant enhancement in the broadcaster's operational efficiency and production quality. Implemented by Riedel's partner Bon Studio S.A., the production suite provides ERT with the capability to manage more replay servers and utilize more slow-motion cameras. This upgrade is crucial for meeting the growing expectations of detailed and dynamic coverage that modern audiences demand.

"Riedel's Simplylive Production Suite not only meets our current production needs but also provides a scalable and future-proof platform for working with emerging broadcast standards," said Mike Nugent, Dep. General Director of Technology at ERT. "Our positive experience with Riedel's customer support, in collaboration with local partner Bon Studio, positioned them as a compelling solution. Riedel's responsive and knowledgeable support teams also were instrumental in ensuring the smooth integration and operation within our OB trucks."

ERT's decision to adopt Riedel's technology came after a thorough public tender process, evaluating various criteria including technological functionality, expandability, and cost. Bon Studio's proposal, featuring Riedel's innovative solutions, emerged as the top choice. Nick Bofiliakis, CEO of Bon Studio, commented: "The success of this important project is a testament to the close collaboration we have with Riedel. By working together from the very beginning, we were able to fully understand ERT's specific needs and propose a solution that perfectly meets their requirements".

The new V12 units incorporated into ERT's OB vans enhance the broadcaster's ability to cover a wide range of events with greater precision and flexibility. Supporting super slow motion and providing a seamless production network for connecting additional replay servers, these units ensure multiuser operation and compatibility with advanced technologies like Dante and 4K support. This functionality is essential for handling complex productions efficiently with fewer personnel and less equipment.

The Simplylive Production Suite's ease of setup and intuitive preset recall functions significantly boost ERT's operational efficiency. These features allow the OB vans to quickly adapt to the demands of different events, ensuring high-quality coverage with minimal downtime.

"ERT is a leader in setting industry standards, particularly with its OB vans", said Harry Kapros, Business Director Live Production EMEA at Riedel. "The company's continued commitment to our live video production solutions reflects a high degree of confidence in the capabilities and reliability of our forward-looking technology".

STEEL CITY SCORES
TEXOLVE BOOSTS PITTSBURGH'S MAJOR SPORTS VENUES

■ In the heart of Pittsburgh, Texolve Digital has been quietly transforming the way sports venues communicate. Known for their expertise in systems integration, Texolve has been a trusted partner to local sports teams for nearly a decade.

Pittsburgh's three major sports venues — PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates; PPG Paints Arena, home of the Pittsburgh Penguins; and Acrisure Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers — all had unique communication needs. These large-scale venues shared freelance operators, necessitating a consistent and reliable system that could be easily navigated by all users. The existing systems, while functional, lacked the advanced features and reliability needed for modern sports productions.

Texolve's journey began with a vision to enhance communication infrastructures across these three venues, ensuring seamless operations during high-stakes events. The integrator turned to Riedel, its partner for over a decade, to leverage the company's innovative intercom and communications technology.

Texolve's deployment of Riedel's solutions has proven transformative. The setup included comprehensive upgrades at each venue. PNC Park and PPG Paints Arena received complete intercom system overhauls, featuring 9-10 Bolero antennas, 10-20 Bolero wireless beltpacks, 30-35 Riedel SmartPanels, four-wire interfaces, and an Artist-1024 node, which allowed for extensive port availability. Meanwhile, Acrisure Stadium was equipped with 11 Bolero antennas, eight Bolero beltpacks, 35 SmartPanels, four-wire interfaces, and Riedel's Connect Trio for phone connections.

These upgrades have expanded communication coverage into previously inaccessible areas, such as tunnels and underground spaces, enhancing the ability of broadcasters and production teams to capture diverse content. The feedback from venue operators has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Bolero's ability to navigate our stadium's concrete and steel and still provide a clear signal gives us the confidence to go anywhere to improve our presentation," said Chris Burns, Executive Producer of Live Stadium Events for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"The reliability of Bolero is unquestionable. It's so user-friendly that we've transitioned most of our on-field staff to Bolero beltpacks instead of traditional radios," adds Jon Cofer, Director of Ballpark Productions for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Texolve Digital's partnership with Riedel Communications has set a new standard for communication systems in sports venues. The success of these installations not only enhances the game-day experience for fans but also underscores Texolve's commitment to innovation and excellence.

TRL
LEVERAGE SYNERGIES

TRL IS ON TRACK

RETHINKING RACE TRACK INFRASTRUCTURES FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

■ The motorsport industry stands on the cusp of a significant transformation with the formation of TRL - Leverage Synergies, a venture that promises to revolutionize the very infrastructure that supports the sport. A collaboration between Dr. Carsten Tilke, Thomas Riedel, and Bernd Loidl, this initiative is not merely a business venture; it is a visionary approach towards sustainable, modular, and flexible racetrack constructions that promise efficiency and environmental consciousness.

The inception of TRL addresses a crucial need within motorsports for infrastructures like pit lane buildings and hospitality facilities that are not only functional but also adaptable to different locations and conditions. This flexibility is achieved through the integration of sustainable and eco-friendly materials, emphasizing minimal environmental impact while maintaining the high standards required by top-tier motorsport events.

In a world increasingly aware of the environmental costs of entertainment and sports, TRL's innovative approach is a timely intervention. It reflects a broader shift in global industries towards sustainability and could very well set new standards – not only for motorsports but for other sporting events worldwide.

As we look to the future, the efforts of TRL offer a promising glimpse into how technology and traditional industries can converge to foster sustainability. This venture not only aims to transform the racetrack experience. It also aims to inspire other sectors to reconsider how they can operate more sustainably, making TRL a beacon of innovation and environmental responsibility in the sporting world.

For more information about TRL, please visit **trl-ls.net**

Dr. Carsten Tilke, of Tilke Engineers & Architects, contributes a deep understanding of racetrack design and architecture. With a legacy of excellence in the motorsports sector, he is an architectural master who will guide the structural and aesthetic elements of the project to achieve both functional goals and high visual appeal.

"This collaboration allows us to apply architectural, technological, and event-based expertise in new and innovative ways. Through TRL, we are leveraging our synergies to build not just racetracks, but the future of sustainable sporting events."

Thomas Riedel, CEO and founder of Riedel Group, has a wealth of experience in developing innovative technology solutions, including future-proof media, communications, and IT infrastructures. His expertise will be pivotal in ensuring that TRL stays at the forefront of communications and network technology.

"At Riedel Group, we are always looking to push the boundaries of what is possible with technology. TRL represents an exciting opportunity to work with other creative and innovative thinkers — Bernd and Carsten — to set a new standard for sustainability and efficiency in racetrack infrastructure."

Bernd Loidl, with his extensive background in event management and sustainable structure development, rounds out the trio. His previous role as CEO at Red Bull Air Race and his innovative work in temporary event structures at Loidl LLC will influence the environmental focus of TRL, promoting ecological use and sustainability in every project.

"Our fundamental goal — and the vision that's becoming reality — is to establish flexible, modular, and sustainable structures that meet all requirements of the motorsport industry while offering the unique benefit of being readily adaptable for operations at different sites. This new venture has enormous potential and will be a win-win situation for the sport industry and for the environment."

GAME-TIME REVOLUTION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ATHLETICS UPS THE ANTE WITH
RIEDEL'S INTERCOM & LIVE VIDEO PRODUCTION SOLUTIONS
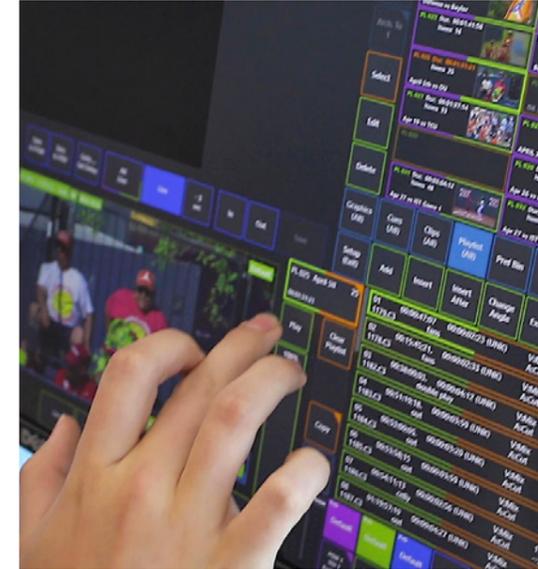
■ **The University of Texas Athletics (UT) has deployed a comprehensive Riedel solution to enable clear communications and streamlined production across its expansive sports facilities. Completed by systems integrator Diversified, the installation includes the Artist and Bolero intercom systems, as well as the Simplylive Production Suite, providing UT with a flexible, campus-wide system that supports high-quality productions and replays with minimal crew.**

"Our ability to bring production in-house and create professional content with Simplylive, Artist, and Bolero is massive for our program," said Daniel Dupoux, Director, Broadcasting and Big Screens at UT. "It's been crazy simple. Our students knew nothing about production coming in. We were able to put this in front of them, and they could take it and run with it. Within two shows, they're the ones teaching us."

UT Athletics' previous communication system struggled to provide adequate coverage in UT's large venues, particularly in the vast Moody Center arena and in the football stadium. UT replaced this system with Riedel's Bolero and Artist systems, which immediately offered seamless, crystal-clear communication throughout the arena. In extending the Bolero system to its football stadium, UT created a athletics facilities-wideintegrated communication network. The resulting Riedel solution allows UT staff and students to move between venues while maintaining connectivity, enabling efficient operations for multiple sports productions.

"We needed a system that could reach everywhere within our venues and across the entire campus. Bolero and Artist provided that scalability and interconnectivity," said Matt Alvarado, Head Broadcast Engineer at UT. "The clarity and ease of use of the Riedel systems have been game-changers for us, especially when working with student crews."

Additionally, as UT prepares to transition to the Southeastern Conference (SEC), the university is working to elevate its production standards and deliver professional-grade sports coverage, with student crews of varying experience levels. Riedel's Simplylive Production Suite enables just one or two operators to create professional-grade productions without a traditional control room, complete with multiple camera angles and instant replay capabilities. This efficiency was critical for UT, and students are making full use of the system's resources to deliver top-tier sports coverage.

"Creating professional quality shows requires a high-tech setup with multiple camera angles and replays. With Simplylive we are now able to deliver an exceptional production, including replays, without even needing a control room," Alvarado added. "The Simplylive replays look amazing — super professional — and it's a system that's user-friendly and easy for anyone to pick up."

"UT is home to one of the largest and most prominent collegiate athletic programs in the U.S., and UT Athletics' successful deployment of our technology underscores Riedel's ability to provide scalable, user-friendly solutions for any production environment," said Ben Gabrielson, Regional Sales Manager, South Central U.S., at Riedel Communications. "Bolero, Artist, and the Simplylive Production Suite empower UT to create high-quality content efficiently and raise production value. We're thrilled to see the university embrace these technologies and elevate their sports coverage."

YASSOU SNFCC!
UHD5 OB VAN ELEVATES
BROADCASTS AND EVENTS
IN ATHENS' CULTURAL GEM

Nestled in the heart of Athens, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) stands as a beacon of modern architecture and cultural innovation. Since its grand opening in 2016, this multifunctional complex has become a vibrant hub for the arts, education, and recreation in Greece's capital city.

On any given day, the SNFCC buzzes with activity. Music enthusiasts might catch a world-class performance at the Greek National Opera's main hall, while literary lovers peruse the vast collections of the National Library of Greece. Outside, families and fitness fans alike enjoy the lush greenery of the 170,000-square-meter Stavros Niarchos Park, complete with playgrounds, gardens, and even a canal. The complex's sustainable design, which includes a massive solar energy canopy, reflects a forward-thinking approach that extends beyond its architectural elements.

Beneath the surface of these cultural offerings lies a sophisticated technological infrastructure that keeps the SNFCC at the cutting edge of event production and broadcasting. Since its inception, the SNFCC has relied on Riedel's MediorNet system to handle its complex audiovisual needs. This distributed network serves as the backbone for routing video, audio, data, and communications signals throughout the venue's diverse spaces.

Recently, the SNFCC's capabilities have been further enhanced through a collaboration with View Master Events, a leading Athens-based production company. View Master Events, in partnership with Live Productions, has introduced a state-of-the-art UHD5 OB van to the mix, elevating the center's ability to produce and broadcast high-quality content.

The UHD5 van, equipped with Riedel's latest technologies including MicroN UHD, Artist-1024, SmartPanel, and Bolero solutions, integrates seamlessly with the SNFCC's existing infrastructure, allowing for unprecedented flexibility in producing broadcasts, from intimate performances to large-scale multisport events. One of the key advantages of this setup is its ability to handle a wide range of video formats, including 4K/UHD signals. This versatility ensures that whether it's a breathtaking opera performance, an educational conference, or a sporting event in the park, the SNFCC can capture and broadcast it in stunning quality.

As the SNFCC continues to evolve, so too does its technological capabilities. The modular nature of the MediorNet system allows for easy scaling, ensuring that the center can adapt to future production needs. There's even talk of expanding to Riedel's new MediorNet HorizoN system, which would pave the way for IP-based workflows and even greater flexibility.

From its sustainable architecture to its cutting-edge broadcast capabilities, the SNFCC represents the perfect fusion of culture and technology — standing as a shining example of how modern cultural institutions can embrace innovation to enhance the visitor experience and share their offerings with a global audience.

Rise AND SHINE

SHAUNA PURCELL ON EMPOWERING WOMEN IN BROADCAST

■ **Shauna Purcell joined Riedel in 2023, bolstering our growing Oceania sales team as Regional Sales Manager, Australia & New Zealand (ANZ). When we discovered that she is also the ANZ Advisory Board Chair of Rise, an organization dedicated to fostering gender diversity within the broadcast and media technology sector, we knew we wanted to know more about her and what she does.**

Hey Shauna! Please tell us about yourself. How did you end up here?
Hey! My name is Shauna Purcell. I'm based in Sydney, and I've been with Riedel for just over a year now. Before joining Riedel, I spent nearly five years at Avid Technology, most recently serving as the Audio Partner Account Manager & Head of Marketing ANZ. The opportunity to engage with Riedel was simply too good to pass up: Coming from a primarily post-production background, being involved in live production across multiple verticals was an exciting shift towards something broader and more dynamic.

Can you share a bit about your journey? Were there any key moments or mentors that significantly influenced your career path?
Yes, definitely. During my time at Avid, I met Kathy-Anne McManus, who offered to become my mentor, and who has remained a pivotal figure in my professional life, helping me navigate and grow in this industry. Kathy-Anne, or KAM as she's known, has guided me through countless professional experiences, from public speaking to career development discussions with management. I was also incredibly fortunate to have a very supportive team, who undoubtably played an enormous part in my career success.

How and when did you first learn about Rise? And how did you become Chairwoman at Rise ANZ?
I first learned about Rise through a colleague at Avid. My manager on the marketing side, who was on the board of the UK Rise program, approached me about helping them support the APAC region. We initiated the first mentor-mentee pairing in Australia, and that experience opened my eyes to the program's immense potential. I pitched the idea of starting our own ANZ chapter to the UK board, and we ended up with about five mentees and five mentors in our first year. From there, we managed to form a solid alliance of key individuals who were very supportive of Rise's mission. Eventually, I was asked to chair the board, and now I have an incredible advisory board behind me that is ever-growing and ever-engaging.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your work?
With both Riedel and Rise, it all comes down to the people. With Riedel, the most rewarding part is engaging with our customers. I thrive on meeting new people and learning about their organizations and their exciting projects, whether for film, broadcast, TV, or live sports productions. I truly enjoy building relationships to the point where we don't really need to pitch our products anymore, because we've established trust and relevance by listening to their goals and being a reliable partner.

As for Rise, the most rewarding part is giving others similar opportunities to those I had. I personally benefit greatly from my mentor, who continually inspires and motivates me. Therefore, facilitating similar connections through Rise, where mentees meet mentors who can guide and encourage them, is incredibly fulfilling. This ability to foster meaningful mentorships in the industry – not just for immediate benefits but for long-term professional and personal growth – is what I find most rewarding.

Mentorship is a core component of Rise's work. How does the mentorship program operate, and what impact have you seen it have on participants?
The program is a global, six-month mentorship initiative aimed at women within the broadcast and media technology sectors. It begins with a meticulous application process to ensure we match mentees with mentors who can best address their specific goals. Beyond bi-weekly mentoring sessions, we also organize monthly workshops on topics like optimizing your LinkedIn for networking and building your "shopfront". These workshops are led by experts like Sallee Poinsette-Nash & Adam Tilbury, who provide valuable insights into personal branding and professional development. We also have the help and support of our phenomenal Global Mentoring Manager, Carla Maroussas, and Sam Yee leading the ANZ mentoring program.

The impact of the Rise program on its participants is profound. It cultivates a newfound confidence and helps them develop a robust personal brand. Interestingly, they often form groups and socialize outside the program, which is great! They are building their network around them, growing their careers together... Many people forget about the importance of peer networking. I certainly did – until my mentor emphasized the significance of expanding my network laterally as well as vertically. It's crucial to form connections not just with those above us but also with those alongside us. These relationships can provide different perspectives, support, and opportunities that may be just as valuable as those gained from higher up the ladder.

If you could go back and give advice to your younger self, just starting out in our industry, what would it be?
I would tell my younger self to take a breath and not rush too much. I've always been someone who wanted to move faster than necessary, maybe that's driven by seeing all those amazing, successful people around me and knowing what I want to achieve. But it's important to enjoy what you're doing in the moment, to savor the process as much as the outcomes. Career-wise, the best advice would be about the value of connections and mentorship. I was lucky to connect with a mentor just three months into my career, which profoundly shaped my path. If I hadn't had that mentorship so early, I'm not sure where I'd be today.

How can industry leaders and companies better support organizations like Rise?
While financial support is obviously valuable, there are many other impactful ways companies can support organizations like Rise. For one, through promoting the program within their own networks; a manager sending out an email encouraging their team to apply for Rise or nominate someone for the Rise awards can make a huge difference. Not only does it bring visibility to our programs, but it sends a message that the company supports these initiatives, which can be crucial for employees who may be hesitant to apply. They can also help spread the word about Rise and its programs and events through social media platforms. This helps to increase the program's visibility and also shows the company's active involvement in supporting diversity and mentorship. Furthermore, companies can collaborate with Rise from a consulting perspective, which can be extremely eye opening at the senior leadership level.

Looking forward, what personal or professional goals do you still want to achieve?
My next professional goal is to deepen my connections with colleagues globally, learn from the projects they're working on, and bring that knowledge back to our operations in Australia. There's a lot to learn from our Managed Technology teams that rock the world's largest productions and deploy solutions beyond my current scope. For Rise, the goal is continued growth and expansion. We had just one mentor-mentee pair when I started with the APAC program. Now, we've seen applications skyrocket to 36 this year, which is an incredible growth. Looking ahead, I want to secure more local sponsors and broaden the scope of our activities. This includes focusing on topics like neurodivergence, women's health, and educational initiatives through the Rise Up Academy. Each of these areas holds potential for significant impact, and I'm excited to see where we can take it next!

KONNICHIWA RESTAR!

GETTING BIGGER IN JAPAN

RIEDEL SETS ITS SIGHTS ON EXPANSIVE GROWTH IN JAPAN WITH NEW AND STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS

■ **In a strategic move to enhance its market footprint in Japan, Riedel Communications has recently joined forces with Restar Corporation. With Restar joining the ranks of Riedel partners like Otaritec Corporation and Hibino Intersound Corporation, Riedel Japan is now better equipped than ever to service all its core verticals in Japan.**

Restar Corporation, renowned for its comprehensive solutions in video, audio, and information communication, will play a pivotal role in Riedel's expansion strategy. Masaki Tomiyama, Operating Officer at Restar Corporation's System Solution Business, highlighted the partnership's potential: "Joining forces with Riedel Communications allows us to not only continue providing cutting-edge video solutions to our broadcast customers, but also to expand our offerings to meet and exceed market expectations with a comprehensive, one-stop-shop approach."

As part of their expansive partnership & distribution program, Riedel also solidified its relationships with other key players in the region, namely Otaritec Corporation and Hibino Intersound Corporation. Otaritec, a veteran in the industry having partnered with Riedel since 2004, continues to dominate the broadcast sector while making significant inroads into other verticals. On the other hand, Hibino Intersound, which joined forces with Riedel in April 2024, has carved out a niche in non-broadcast sectors like proAV and theater.

These strategic alliances will allow Riedel to leverage local expertise and relationships to bolster its presence and influence across Japan, thereby making their cutting-edge solutions available to a wider range of customers, while enhancing its service and support network.

"We are delighted to have Restar Corporation on board with us. With our three very strong partners, we have positioned ourselves optimally to fully address the needs of the Japanese market," said Vincent Lambert, Riedel Communications, Sales Director Key Accounts Asia. Between our state-of-the-art solutions and the combined wealth of experience of our partners, I am confident that we will quickly reach corners of the market previously untouched and provide our customers with a world-class experience."

TRANSFORMING DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS AT BALUARTE

RIEDEL ENHANCES COMMUNICATION ACROSS SPAIN'S ICONIC VENUE

■ **In the heart of Pamplona, Spain, the Baluarte Conference Center and Auditorium of Navarra stands as a testament to architectural brilliance and cultural significance. Since its inception in 2003, this avant-garde venue, designed by the renowned architect Patxi Mangado, has been hosting a diverse array of events, from grand concerts to intimate exhibitions. However, the complexity of managing communication across its expansive 64,000-square-meter space, with its solid gray-quartzite construction, posed significant challenges—until revently.**

Baluarte's recent integration of Riedel Communications' cutting-edge technology marks a pivotal moment in the venue's journey toward becoming one of Spain's most technologically advanced cultural facilities. The implementation of Riedel's Artist intercom ecosystem, Bolero wireless intercom, and IP-based SmartPanels has not only addressed the physical communication hurdles but has also transformed the operational efficiency of the venue.

"Riedel's intercom solutions have transformed our day-to-day operations," said Eduardo Nanclares, Technical and Operations Director at Baluarte. "Significantly improving coordination among our technical, audiovisual, and staging teams, Riedel's Bolero wireless intercom system and SmartPanels have allowed us to elevate the efficiency of our technical and operational teams and, in turn, enhance the overall quality of concerts, meetings, receptions, exhibitions, and other events."

The core of Baluarte's modernization lies in the seamless integration of Riedel's Artist ecosystem. This setup includes the Bolero wireless intercom, supported by six strategically placed antennas and 20 beltpacks, along with seven SmartPanels connected over IP with AES67. This configuration ensures uninterrupted communication not only among technicians but also across room security and service personnel, fostering a cohesive operational environment. The SmartPanels, with their innovative hybrid lever keys, full-color multi-touchscreen displays,

and app-driven functionalities, offer unprecedented workflow flexibility and connectivity.

"The Baluarte Conference Center and Auditorium of Navarra is an iconic venue that presents a variety of communications challenges," said Maribel Román, Regional Sales Manager at Riedel Communications. "Deployed in combination, our Bolero and SmartPanels provide comprehensive coverage with the flexibility essential to ensuring clear communications across multiple teams and spaces at Baluarte."

Beyond the technological advancements, Riedel's commitment to customer support has been instrumental in this transformation. The Riedel team provided initial training to Baluarte's staff and continues to offer ongoing technical support, ensuring that the venue can maximize the potential of its new communication systems.

As Baluarte steps into a new era of technical sophistication, it is poised to further solidify its reputation as a premier destination for high-profile events in Spain. The collaboration with Riedel not only showcases the importance of cutting-edge technology in enhancing operational efficiency but also highlights how such innovations can elevate the overall experience for both event organizers and attendees alike.

SMOOTH STROKES
RIEDEL'S INTERCOM EVOLUTION AT THE U.S. SWIM TRIALS

In the fast-paced world of event production, seamless communication is key to delivering a flawless experience to both live audiences and remote viewers. At the U.S. Swim Trials in Indianapolis, this imperative was met with cutting-edge technology provided by Riedel Communications' upgraded Artist intercom ecosystem, implemented by Dodd Technologies. This event not only marked a significant athletic competition but also showcased the impressive capabilities of an evolved intercom system that keeps setting new standards in the industry.
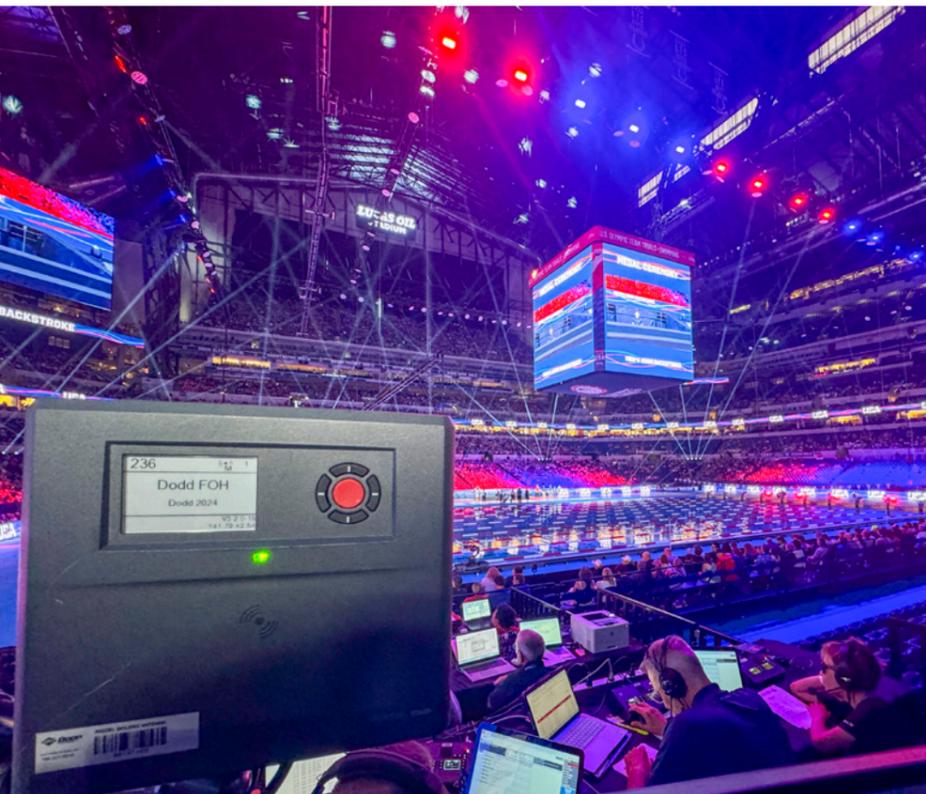
The Artist-1024 system is a leap forward from the previous Artist-32 units, boasting increased scalability, flexibility, and integration capabilities. This upgrade was pivotal for Dodd Technologies, which managed the communications setup at the Lucas Oil Stadium, now the world's largest aquatic arena. The transition to the new system underscores the ongoing evolution of Riedel's technology, which has become integral to orchestrating large-scale events like the U.S. Swim Trials.

"Given our experience at past trials, we've become accustomed to the flexibility and the speed at which we can deploy Artist and Bolero — and how we can alter the Riedel intercom system to the specific needs of the event as they arise," said Caleb Cassler, audio engineer at Dodd Technologies. "Integrating the Artist system with the giant system already in place took a matter of minutes, and because we didn't have to spend time solving technical issues, we could focus on refining the comms system to operate exactly as needed."

Cassler's team was able to connect their Artist-1024 to both the in-house Artist/Bolero system and the broadcaster's OB truck with ease. With the Artist-1024 serving as the backbone of all communications, Dodd Technologies effectively increased the scale and functionality of its intercom system in a smaller footprint. Scale proved essential due to the sheer size of the stadium and the number of people needed on comms across that space to support the event – attended by a record 20,689 fans and watched by over 285,000 viewers. In addition to providing clear audio despite the densely crowded airspace, Bolero offered the benefit of water resistance, a useful factor for team members working around wet humans all day.

"The RF spectrum in downtown Indy, where the trials were held, is extremely challenging," added Cassler. "With all the productions, including outside concerts, there are tons of channels — and we were in a stadium! But with Bolero, I didn't have to worry about my wireless comms at all. It was delightful."

"It was exciting to participate in the U.S. Swim Trials once more alongside our excellent partner, Dodd Technologies," said James Skupien, Regional Sales Manager, North Central U.S., at Riedel Communications. "Upgrading their system to an Artist-1024, they gained the scalability and flexibility to integrate seamlessly both in-house and external systems into a single, accessible system. Just as important, they are able to take on larger and more complex solutions, achieving the same high-quality audio clarity and reliability with increased efficiency."

As Riedel Communications continues to refine its products, the Artist-1024 stands out as a prime example of how continuous technological advancement can enhance the capabilities of event production companies like Dodd Technologies. These developments not only support the operational needs of large events but also enhance the overall viewer experience, proving that
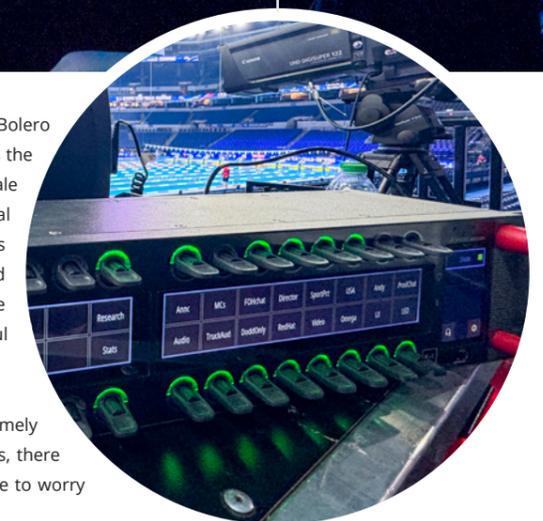
in the world of event production, technological evolution is not just about upgrading—it's about transforming capabilities and setting new industry standards.

GO FOR GOLD

THOMAS IN PARIS

■ **This summer, Paris was not only the city of love, but also the city of sport, of celebration, of cohesion. The Summer Games offered a grand experience against stunning backdrops and packed stadiums, a showcase of sustainability, inclusivity, gender equality, and urbanity, proving the power of sport time and time again..**

Do you remember the women's beach volleyball final? When a misunderstanding led to a loud argument among the athletes, and the stadium DJ simply played 'Imagine' – the John Lennon classic about a peaceful and united world? The Canadian and Brazilian athletes suddenly started laughing, the fans sang along, and unity prevailed in the stadium at the Eiffel Tower.

Or how about the spectacular opening of the Parasport Games at the Place de la Concorde in a sold-out arena? More than 4.000 athletes with disabilities from over 180 countries and from the Refugee Team were the center of attention and inspired people all over the world with impressive performances and sportsmanship. And the parasport competitions that followed were just as colorful, just as emotional and just as profound. Having played a part in this celebration of diversity and resilience fills me with immense pride.

This summer's Games really were a production of superlatives – a truly epic sporting event unmatched in scale. The opening ceremony was probably the largest show ever produced on this planet, with 10.000 (!) people working on it, and millions watching it live in Paris and on TV around the world. And of course, we were right in the middle of it! That night saw the deployment of almost 400 Bolero beltpacks in a network with 70+ antennas. This alone is a new record.

And that's not all: This year's Games are the biggest project we have ever done. I still remember going to Barcelona in 1992 with just a few radios. Today, 32 years later, we have around 300 people working for the Games – not only in Paris, but also in cities like Marseille and Lille – supporting competitions, ceremonies, broadcast productions, nation- and top sponsor houses. Working alongside them are products across our entire portfolio, from Artist and Bolero to MediorNet and SimplyLive. The sheer numbers are mind-blowing: We transported 400 MediorNet nodes, 10,000 radios, and 26,000 individual cables with a total length of 300 km from Wuppertal to Paris in 30 trucks. I am convinced that no one else could pull off something like this.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in this project for their hard work and passion – in Paris, Wuppertal and everywhere else. I know, these past months have been very tough. And I have been blown away by the spirit, by the resolve, and by the determination of our teams. Keep in mind, this is the biggest event on earth, setting lots of records. A project like this can't be easy and we should all be proud to be part of it.

I for one am more than happy that I could be there in person and soak up the atmosphere. I got deep insights into the challenges of our customers and our teams, and I am still learning a lot. During my stay in Paris, I also met lots of people from my network, such as OMR founder Philipp Westermeyer, and got to know new ones like Hendrik Wüst, Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia. These encounters also contribute to our business, as the Riedel brand is becoming a household name far beyond our core industry.

As we were able to experience once again in Paris, the power of sport is truly remarkable. And I hope we can carry this spirit into our society – not just in Germany, but across the world.

And now? Our team is already working on the Winter Games 2026 to be held in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo and the Summer Games 2028 in Los Angeles.

See you there,
Thomas

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