News Release

DYNACORD® PROANNOUNCE™ PAGING SYSTEM AND TELEX® BTR800™ INTERCOM USED AT CIRQUE DU SOLEIL LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas, NV (March 3, 2003): The new Dynacord ProAnnounce™ paging system and the Telex BTR 800 wireless intercom system are working in tandem at the hugely successful Cirque du Soleil production "O" at the Bellagio in Las Vegas. The show continues to wow crowds with its exotic homage to the wonder of theatre, in which 81 performers traverse and submerse themselves inside and over the 1.5 million gallon water tank that acts as the stage. The need for a high-performance, reliable and easy to use communication system is obviously a priority in this environment. Jason Pritchard, who supervised the intercom installation at "O", and talked about how the two systems doubled up to keep the lines of communication open and under control:

"A cutting-edge production demands cutting-edge equipment. We needed a solution that was going to slide right into the existing infrastructure, a system that was easy to program, that wasn't going to crash, and that served the specific needs of a complex, large-scale show like this. Jay Easley (Western USA Telex sales manager) suggested I check out the Dynacord ProAnnounce™ system. It's a very flexible system, and the software is well written and very useful. That, combined with Telex's design and technical support, makes the system truly unrivalled. It's also inexpensive, considering the features. But the biggest selling point for us was the DTI 2000 telephone-paging interface. That really put us over the top, knowing that I wasn't going to have to pull all new wire to 15 different places. For most people the telephone interface is going to work just fine, though we put two of the DPC 4520 paging stations in key locations. We set it up so that the company management can page using a telephone. There's a paging station in the stage management office, so the stage managers can page from their communication system upstairs – the ProAnnounce™ matrix manager accepts the switch closure from the existing intercom system used there, so multi-system integration wasn't a problem in that sense. The Dynacord also accepts the switch closure from the Telex BTR 800 beltpack systems we brought in, so they can page from the wireless beltpacks as well."

Mark Dennis, the Head of Audio at "O", described the most useful aspects of the system: "O" is presently using six Telex BTR800 systems for a total of 24 belt packs. The system's ability to be frequency agile has enabled it to exist in the already crowded UHF spectrum of Las Vegas. The belt packs are used by the show's technical crews and stage managers to interface with each other and/or their respective in-house wired intercom channels, utilizing the dual channel and talk-around features extensively. The ability to program a belt pack's functionality around a user's requirements allows for a highly customizable and versatile system, effectively addressing the diverse needs of the crews. An example of this would be the ability of stage management to key an external paging system for dressing room announcements while maintaining 2 channels of communication, and while giving other departments very different functionality. In addition, the show takes advantage of the system's optional rechargeable batteries, thereby seeing a greatly reduced operation expense and greatly reduced waste.

Pritchard concluded: "The ProAnnounce™ allowed us to create a fully integrated system. I took the old system out and put the new system in in just three days, while the theatre was 'dark.' It went in very easily, and it was immediately easy to use. Quite simply, people said 'It's never been easier.' With the old system we were having trouble with the matrix crashing. Serious problems arise if the dressing room can't be paged! Being as this model was designed for use on cruise ships, where life safety is an issue relative to the product's reliability, it comes with a rock-solid reputation that gives confidence to a production where people are constantly performing potentially life-threatening moves on stage. Ultimately, it's user-friendly: it's not over-the-top complicated, but it can do over-the-top complicated things. "

Cirque du Soleil "O" ProAnnounce™ and Telex RadioCom Equipment List:

DPM 4000 PA paging controller/processor (1)
NRS 90215 dual paging Input Card (1)
NRS 90216 mic/line & dual aux input card (1)
DPP 4004PA 19" rackmount power supply 24VDC @ 4A (1)
DCS 400 19" rackmount card cage for DCS 4xxR cards (1)
DCS 401R controller card (1)
DCS 408R 100V relay card (1)
DCS 409R 24VDC relay card (4)
DPC 4520 20 key paging console with display (2)
DTI 2000 telephone paging interface (1)
MCP2 rackmount kit for DTI 2000 (1)
Telex BTR 800 intercom systems (6)
Telex BTR 800 beltpacks (24)

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The digital ProAnnounce™ Manager DPM 4000 is a modular, processor-controlled multi-channel audio control and signal routing system that is meant for incorporation in a wide range of professional sound applications. The ProAnnounce System™ is perfectly suited for professional sound installations. Featuring a dynamic range >100dB, excellent component and system frequency response, extensive sound shaping facilities, output delays, etc. – ProAnnounce eliminates the contradiction in the expression "Professional Audio Background Music and Paging System".

The Dynacord ProAnnounce™ Paging System has been proven in hundreds of installations in live performance theaters, stadiums, cruise ships, hotels, cinemas and airports worldwide. The Dynacord ProAnnounce™ background music and paging system provides an extremely high level of flexibility and reliability.

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James Edlund
Public Relations Manager
Telex Communications, Inc.
12000 Portland Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55337
Phone: 952-736-3901
Fax: 952-736-4582
E-mail: James.Edlund@telex.com