



Dashboard offers control of Sonifex's openGear systems

Sonifex's openGear system ships

SONIFEX IS shipping its eight output digital audio distribution amplifiers, which have been developed for the openGear rack, which is an open-architecture rack system developed by video technologies producer Ross Video. This system provides a standard rack-based platform on which other companies can develop card-based audio and video products. openGear-based cards allow customers to use Sonifex cards as part of an overall terminal equipment solution.

The openGear frames offer the flexibility of independent rear modules for connectivity to an array of interfaces and control via TCP/IP connectivity using a free application called Dashboard. There are four products in the range of distribution amplifiers, which offer unbalanced or balanced connectivity either with sample rate conversion of the input or not. The OG-DDA8B and OG-DDA8U digital distribution amplifiers are used for distributing balanced and unbalanced digital audio respectively, repeating both the audio data and the status information of the input while re-normalising to standard digital audio levels. The OG-DDA8B has two selectable balanced digital audio inputs, one of which can be distributed to eight balanced digital audio outputs, while the OG-DDA8U has two selectable unbalanced digital audio inputs one of which is distributed to eight unbalanced digital audio outputs. The OG-DDA8BS and OG-DDA8SUS digital distribution amplifiers with sample rate converters are similar to the previous two products but can also convert a digital audio input to a different sample rate and distribute it.

For the sample rate converting versions, the output rate can follow the input or can be derived from an internal master clock, an external digital audio sync input

or from one of two rack-connected reference signals. The reference signal can be a digital audio clock, a blackburst video reference or a tri-level HD video reference. All rates from 32kHz to 192kHz are supported by the SRC and output circuitry and the cards have an option for the sample-rate converter to fall back to the master clock frequency when the sync signal is not present. Applications include distributing audio from a digital mixing desk to multiple digital recorders, or feeding multiple studios with an output from a DAT machine. Each board can accept input sample rates in the range of 30kHz to 192kHz, and bit rates of 16, 20 and 24.

The UK manufacturer has also developed a range of eight Reference Monitor Meters, all of which operate from global mains voltages without adjustment – three are freestanding and five are rack-mounted. The precision meters high-resolution metering of between one and four stereo audio sources, with each stereo source auto-switching between either balanced analogue or digital AES/EBU format and supporting sample rates of up to 192kHz. The level of each stereo source is displayed on a pair of multi-coloured bargraph meters, with a choice of 10 accurately modelled scales/responses to suit different applications and preferences. Each stereo meter pair can have a different scale, set via a DIP switch on the rear panel, and multiple complete sets of meter ballistics overlays are provided so that these can be user settable. Separate LED phase meters indicate channel correlation or phase error conditions, and additional LEDs show digital input lock and audio level alarm status.

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