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Annual EDM Festival Welcomes Top DJs and Big Crowds to Small Airport in Germany

WEEZE, Germany — Every July, Germany's Weeze Airport is transformed into the "City of Dreams" for the Parookaville EDM festival. This year's event welcomed 225,000 fans for performances by 300 DJs on 13 stages. Headliners included Hardwell, Steve Aoki, Armin van Buuren, Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike, and KSHMR.

For the third year, Germany-based POOLgroup supported the main stage's audio needs. This year, POOLgroup deployed a Meyer Sound Panther / 2100-LFC combo. Technical directors Simon Jermer and Jan Flerlage providing system design, planning, and implementation, with project manager Robert Sommer overseeing production design.

POOLgroup's Jermer credited the Panther system for its clarity and scalable flexibility, which helped the audio team cover the 770-by-490-foot dimensions of the 70,000-capacity main stage's audience area.

The main stage setup for 2024 included 188 Panther loudspeakers along with 36 2100-LFC, 69 1100-LFC and 36 Leopard elements and loudspeakers. The system was configured as a three-zone relay system with four towers at the stage, four towers in the first relay, and two towers in the second relay.

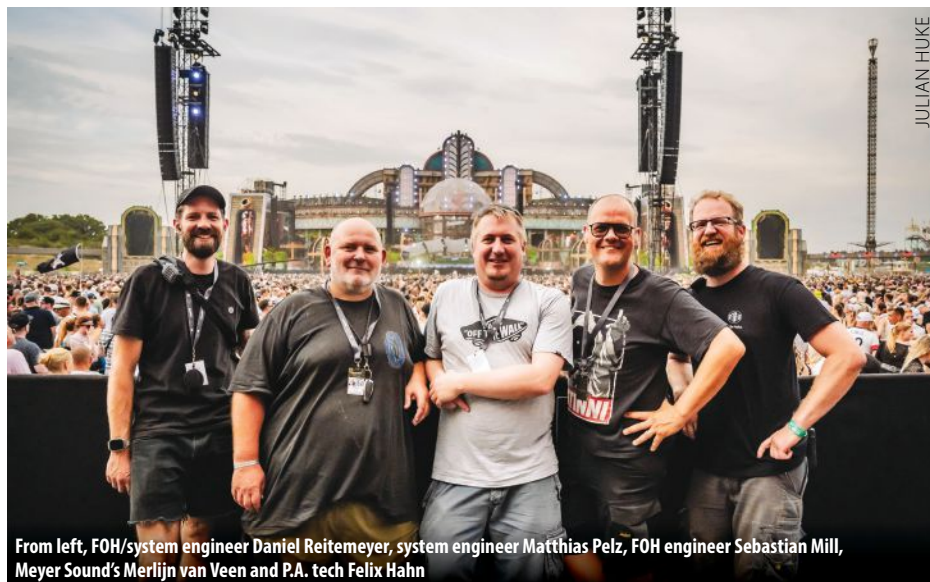
Meyer Sound's Merlijn van Veen described the team's "divide and conquer" strategy. "We compartmentalized the audience into three thirds — main P.A. and first and second relays." With that zone-by-zone focus, the goal was to keep leakage into neighboring zones to a minimum. "We're basically nose-diving all of the sound in each respective zone," he said.

To avoid interference with the festival



POOLgroup raised the bar at the main stage with Meyer Sound Panther and 2100-LFC elements.

JULIAN HUKU



From left, FOH/system engineer Daniel Reitemeyer, system engineer Matthias Pelz, FOH engineer Sebastian Mill, Meyer Sound's Merlijn van Veen and P.A. tech Felix Hahn

JULIAN HUKU

visuals, the FOH control area was located 350 feet from the stage. While beyond the

coverage area of the main P.A. system, the zone-covering design allowed for "an un-

compromised Panther experience, because you have less crosstalk coming off of the stage," van Veen said.

The 2100-LFCs were flown in gradient end-fire arrays, with 1100-LFCs on the ground. "Previously, the festival was deploying horizontal subwoofer arrays, which are the staple in EDM because there are no power alleys and power valleys," van Veen noted. "But horizontal subwoofer arrays are notorious for their reduced efficiency. You're leaving a lot of SPL on the table, and making up for that significantly inflates costs."

He described an alternate approach. "We said, 'instead of trying to spread all that energy over a square audience region, why don't we turn the same subwoofer complement into two massive end-fire arrays and have them point out in a V-shape where each array covers one audience half, such that you don't get these power alleys and power valleys associated with left-right deployments, except for a small mold mark where they meet in the middle?' That's worked really well."

"The 2100-LFC is playing as tight and dry as a 900-LFC, with the low-frequency range of the 1100-LFC," said Flerlage. "This makes it the perfect flown extension for the Panther system. In combination with the 1100-LFC on the ground it brought more directivity and tightness to the system with the headroom you need for a venue as big as the Parookaville main stage." Directivity, he added, "is one of the most important things when you bring music from the club to 70,000 people on a field. In combination with Panther, 2100-LFC is the ideal extension."



The setup included Gabisom-supplied Outline systems

Rock in Rio's 40th Edition Draws 700,000+ to Rio's Olympic Park

RIO DE JANEIRO — The 40th Rock in Rio festival drew more than 700,000 to Rio's Olympic Park from Sept. 13-22, 2024, with headliners including Ed Sheeran, Mariah Carey and Karol G, among others.

Outline noted that its systems have been deployed at Rock in Rio for nearly 15 years. For this year's festival, São Paulo-based Gabisom Audio Equipment provided Outline GTO, GTO C-12, Superfly and Mantas 28 components along with Outline amps and Newton processors for three stages: New Dance Order, Global Village and Supernova.

In 2020, Gabisom became the world's largest owner of Newton inventory, utilizing these patented FPGA-based processors for their signal management capabilities and

unique WFIR filtering technology.

Gabisom system engineer Danilo Costa, who supported sound reinforcement at the festival's New Dance Order stage, recalls the first time he worked with Outline's GTO and C-12 system. "I was impressed by the headroom and clarity, particularly in the high frequencies, without harshness, and the strong, tight low-end response," he said, adding that those qualities are particularly advantageous for "high-energy concerts like EDM."

Along with four P.A. hangs with 10 GTO boxes each, Costa's stage featured 48 DBS 18-2 sub-bass units with 12 Mantas 28 units for front-fill, all supported by Newton processors and driven by a pair of Yamaha consoles.

Summer Music Festivals in Europe Rely on Compact Speaker Solutions

FLORENCE, Italy — K-array noted that its Firenze and Pinnacle systems were deployed at many festivals this past summer, from intimate gatherings in historic Italian towns to large-scale beachfront festivals in Sweden.

For the Festival of the Sun, a two-day event held in a small town near Siena, Italy that celebrated the summer solstice led by Rick Rubin, performance spaces included a historic church, town square and a nearby castle.

James Blake was heard at the church via a K-array Pinnacle KR402 system with Pinnacle KR102 delays and Kayman KY52 monitors. Gossip performed in the town square with K-array Firenze KH7 speakers and Thunder KS5 subs. More K-array elements supported a "Cineforum" for film screenings and talks from VIPs like Twitter founder Jack Dorsey.

SLS Group's Beachfront Festival in Trelleborg, Sweden, with the Baltic Sea as a backdrop, relied on K-array gear provided by First



Gossip performed in Italy with K-array Firenze KH7 speakers and Thunder KS5 subs.

Audio for the event's main and second stages.

The main stage's system included a five-element L-R Firenze KH7 system paired with ten Firenze KS7 subwoofers. The second stage performers were heard with a three-per- Mugello KH5 system along with seven Thunder KS5 subs.

Another festival, Trevarefest, held in Henningsvær, a remote island in the far north of Norway, got an assist from an Audioliight-supplied system with a three-per-side Firenze KH7 system and eight Firenze KS7 subwoofers.

ISE 2025 Registration is Now Open

BARCELONA — Registration is now open for Integrated Systems Europe (ISE). Returning to the Fira de Barcelona Gran Via from Feb. 4-7, 2025, ISE is promising a dynamic and engaging AV expo, with a host of new initiatives and features, an expanded and more easily accessible content program, as well as the unveiling of Hall 8.1 accessed via the conveniently located North Access point.

"ISE 2025 will be our most ambitious, inspiring and motivating edition to date," said



ISE managing director Mike Blackman. "ISE 2025 will be the place for people wanting to keep pace with and advance the industry of tomorrow," he added, noting a 20 percent expansion in the space allocated to the exhibition show floor.

For more information, go to iseurope.org.