

Audio Focus provide new sound for the Millennium Stadium

Three Weeks to replace the Millennium Stadium's PA System - Audio Focus delivers on time:

Experiencing an increasing number of problems with their PAVA system the Millennium Stadium was in need of a reliable replacement. The existing PAVA system had many obsolete parts, however all was not lost. A comprehensive survey was undertaken enabling major components to be re-used in the new design - saving time and money.

With six remote PA Racks, two controlling locations, various remote feeds, reducing cost and downtime were a priority - a three-week window was available to do the work.

After surveying the existing site layout, equipment and infrastructure Audio Focus chose to install BSS SoundWeb. The existing fibre infrastructure was retained and used to carry an IP based audio system, providing outstanding 24bit 96KHz quality sound. The IP infrastructure enabled parts of local area PA to be connected to the main PAVA total audio control.

Modern Stadiums are flexible event spaces requiring their PAVA to be just as adaptable. At the

Millennium Stadium zoning was modified allowing the main area of the bowl to only have sound where it was required for a particular event.

Existing problems with the use of the current system were addressed. With 3rd parties connecting to the PAVA issues such as speakers being driven too hard were all too problematic. Audio Focus designed safeguards into the new system with EQ and levels limited in software, preventing the system from being driven too hard and causing costly damage to speakers.

In the event of a power interruption the backup batteries need to be in top condition. To improve availability in the event of power interruption managed power rules were implemented in software. This increased the operational time on reserve power and helps prevent complete drainage of the batteries, which can significantly reduce battery life.

With speakers mounted at various heights within the stands intelligibility may suffer when the sound is arriving from sources with significantly different separation. To improve intelligibility in areas

covered by speakers in this way compensating delays were introduced enabling sound to arrive at the same time from different sources.

With perhaps the largest implementation of a SoundWeb system in the UK to date, the Millennium Stadium now has a reliable and flexible PAVA system. When it's time for a service parts are available off the shelf reducing issues with maintenance.

So how does it sound? We have received feedback from many of workers within the stadium stating that the improvement in intelligibility is significant.

When people think the announcements are coming from somebody within a room and not from the PAVA, the PAVA is really doing its job.

Audio Focus, based in London, provide Professional Audio Services

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